



THE FORERUNNER

St John the Baptist Orthodox Church

211 Cable Avenue – East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN GREGORY OF NYSSA

American Carpatho-Russian Diocese-Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

The Very Reverend Protospesbyter Joseph Fester

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Subdeacon Gary Grysiak, Cantor; Reader Justin Rosco, Choir

Director; Robert Pervuznik, Jr., Parish Council President

1 Sunday	2 Mon	3 Tuesday	4 Wed	5 Thurs	6 Friday	7 Saturday
8:30 Ch School 9:00 Divine Liturgy 40th Day Memorial Forgiveness Vespers Potluck Fellowship Hour	7pm Canon of St Andrew	7pm Canon of St Andrew	7pm Canon of St Andrew	5pm Canon of St Andrew (NOTE TIME CHANGE)	7pm Presanctified Liturgy	9am March Memorial Liturgy 5:00 Great Vespers Confessions

WE SAY- to all who are with us today at St. John's for the first time, *you are welcome here!* We pray that you will consider making St. John's your spiritual home. Please join us after Liturgy downstairs for fellowship.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD- Sometimes we miss a Sunday and the opportunity to offer our financial gift to the Lord. If we do, please catch up with your gifts. Whether we are here or not, our parish bills continue. Thanks, and God bless!

Sunday, February 23, 2020 - Attendance 57 - Weekly Offering, \$1734 - Building Fund, \$265 - Membership Dues, \$122 - Needy Fund, \$272 - Vigil Candles - \$293- Christmas Donations, \$50 - Total \$2,736

TODAY-will be the 40th Day of repose for Mr. Bob Pervuznik, Sr. It is also Forgiveness Sunday, so we will sing Forgiveness Vespers and then our Monthly Pot-luck Fellowship Hour.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS-for the ACROD Young Adult Retreat, March 13-15 at Camp Nazareth. Registration and more information can be found <https://www.acrod.org/%20https://tinyurl.com/spring2020youngadults>

ANOTHER NEW DIOCESAN- program called SPF50 is underway, just in time for Great Lent. This diocesan effort is aimed at encouraging families to pray together. For more information follow this link <https://www.acrod.org/news/2020-press/family-ministry> Please see the handouts for this important family ministry at the council table.

AS WE DID-last year, we will be collecting food as a parish Lenten effort to benefit this year the Rankin Food Shelter. Please bring non-perishable foods and sundry items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc. We will set aside a table in the hall for your donations. If you have any questions, please see Irene Grysiak.

O Master Who loves mankind, illuminate our hearts with the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our mind to understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, that we may overcome all carnal desires, entering upon a spiritual life and understanding and acting in all things according to Your holy will. For You are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, O Christ God, and to You we give glory together with Your eternal Father an Your all-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday	Isaiah 1:1-20	Genesis 1:1-3	Proverbs 1:1-20	St Leo the Great, pope of Rome
Tuesday	Isaiah 1:19-2:3	Genesis 1:14-23	Proverbs 1:20-33	Venerable Conon of Palestine
Wednesday	Isaiah 2:3-11	Genesis 1:24-2:3	Proverbs 2:1-22	Venerable Leo, bishop of Catania
Thursday	Isaiah 2:11-21	Genesis 2:4-19	Proverbs 3:1-18	St Zachariah, patriarch of Jerusalem
Friday	Isaiah 3:1-14	Genesis 2:20-3:20	Proverbs 3:19-34	St Blaise the bishop
Saturday	Hebrews 1:1-12	Mark 2:223-3:5		Great Martyr Theodore of Tyro
Sunday	Hebrews 11:24-26, 11:32-12:2		John 1:43-51	Triumph of Orthodoxy Sunday

PLANNING AHEAD

Sunday, March 8

Vespers and Confessions Every Saturday at 5pm

9am First Sunday of Lent
4pm Orthodoxy Vespers – Holy Trinity GOC
985 Providence Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA.

March 13-15		ACROD Youth Retreat- Camp Nazareth
Sunday March 15	3pm	Mission Vespers-Ambridge
Sunday, March 22	3pm	Mission Vespers-East Pittsburgh
Saturday, March 28	9am	Lenten Retreat-Homestead
Sunday, March 29	9am	Mission Vespers-Northside
Sunday, April 5	3pm	Mission Vespers-Rankin

WE HAVE STARTED A NEW- CCE class taught by Dr. Robert Hoskens. The course is on Friday mornings after Presanctified Liturgy The entire course is also online and can be found at:

www.agape-restoration-society.org/athanasius

We are studying “The Incarnation” using the very important text of St. Athanasius of Alexandria who stood up against Arius who preached the heresy that Christ was a created being and not the Immortal Son of God. The next class is Friday, March 6 after the Presanctified Liturgy.

AFTER THE PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY-this coming Friday, we will have a communal Lenten meal of soup and bread. Fr Joseph will make the soup and bring the bread for this first Lenten evening meal. If we have volunteers to make their favorite Lenten soup, we will continue this Lenten meal after each Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgy. A sign-up sheet is at the council table.

MANY THANKS-to the parish council and Gary Grysiak for authorizing and picking up, our new BIG HD TV. We will be installing it in the next week or so for use by our CCE and Sunday school classes.

Preparing for Great Lent



SUNDAY OF THE EXPULSION OF ADAM AND EVE FROM PARADISE – Met. Anthony of Sourozh- 12 March 1989

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

After these weeks of preparation during which we have examined our soul, our lives, all our relationship before the eyes and the judgement of God, we enter today into the joy of Lent; the *joy* of Lent. The word 'lent' means the spring; it is a beginning, and a beginning of life, a beginning of newness, a new time. It is a time when we will no longer be reminded of our own sins, no longer be confronted with images in parables of fall and repentance, but

faced with the names of Saints who have started their lives as we start them: the frail, weak, vacillating, but who by the grace of God, by the power of God have become what they are: men, women, children whom we can venerate, in whom we can rejoice, who can be set as examples to us, to whom we can turn for their prayers unto salvation.

Tonight we will start on this journey; on the journey that leads us from our sinful condition, recognised, repentant unto a new time, unto the Resurrection of Christ which is the beginning for us of our own eternal life. We will start on this journey tonight as the people of Israel started from the land of Egypt for the Promised Land: *still* frail, still burdened, still incompletely free. But it is not by looking back at ourselves, but by looking towards the Living God Who is Life and salvation, and to the example of those who have been victorious by the power of God that we will find courage, inspiration to come to the final victory, to the newness of life which is our calling and God's promise. We will have to journey together, and we must not be in any delusion: we will be difficult for one another as companions on the journey; but we will depend on one another if we want to achieve to come to an end, — in the same way in which the Israelites were in the desert: not always obedient to God, not always loyal to one another, and yet, *needing* each other in order to reach the promised goal.

So, let us start now; let us think of the feast which we keep next Sunday: Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is not the triumph of the Orthodox over anyone else; it is the triumph of *God* over people. The triumph of His truth, the triumph of God in the lives of people. And then, let us look at one saint after the other, and listen to what he has got to say to us: Gregory Palamas, John of the Ladder, Mary of Egypt and all those who have followed in the footsteps of Christ. And we will then reach the point at which we must forget everyone and everything, and remember nothing, *no one* but the Lord Jesus Christ: what He *is*, what He has *done* for us, what He is *doing* for us. Let us learn to forget ourselves in the course of those weeks, joyfully, gratefully, that we can now turn away from ourselves and look *only* Godwards. And when the time of Passion week comes, *again*, in a new way, with a new determination, with a new renunciation to ourselves, turn and look at God Who has

become man that we may be saved, and be grateful, forget ourselves, remember only Him and He will remember us unto salvation. Amen.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS – Adrienne Harms, Thomas Planiczki, Josephine Sofelkanik, Michael Sterchak, John Edward Stagon, Kathryn Rogulin, Cathy Pervuznik, Fr. Michael and Matushka Susanne Senyo, Wally Perkins, Fr Lawrence Barriger, Gina Marie Gaspard, Dannette Wargo, Pani Marie Brancho, Rose Hollis, Marti and Cathilynn Baran, Paul Haruilesko, Aubrey Welch, Kalina Walker and the child to be born of her. Pani Stacey Milhaly and the child Azariah Noah, Fr. John Dixon, Fr. Jonathan Tobias, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde's brother). Please keep Father Joseph informed on changes to anyone's health status so he can minister to them.

March Memorial – Newly Departed, Robert Pervuznik, Sr., Michael Fitzurka, Milos Konjevich. **Perpetual:** Metropolitan Nicholas, John Suvak, Rosella Lapato, Helen Marchak, Pauline and Michael Sabo, Darrel Weiss, Julia and Frank Kranik, Michael Sabo, George Wazso, Anna Bergel, Michael Seredich.

Pauline Dyakon, Helen Bloom, John Lillicotch, Andrew Kasenchak, Anna Gaydos, John Kokojko, Anna Lopovich, Michael Stripay, George Rela, Anna Suvak, Peter Danchik, Veronica Sterchak, Mary Zwisdak, Michael Orange, Helen Kosarich, Margaret Papinchak, Anna Ressatar, Paul Kobasa, Sr., Rose Plichta, Anna Rosenbayger, George Golofsky, Mary Gezzer, Joseph Papinchak, William Varhula, Mary Uram, Gregory Papinchak, Emma Evashavik, Eugene Brancho, John Begey.

MANY YEARS ! – and Happy Birthday to Charles Vasko 3/1 Roman Kalaluhi 3/4 Anna Weiland 3/8 Sandra Babich 3/17 Cheryl Stagon 3/19 Sharon Monde 3/23 David Kalaluhi 3/24 Eileen Buck 3/25 Alexandra Maskaly 3/25 William Brancho 3/28 Happy Anniversary Tyler & Connie Kimmel 3/5

PLEASE KEEP-Paul Haurilesko in your prayers. He was discharged from UPMC-East and is now under Hospice care at home. Also, John Edward Stagon and Wally Perkins, both in hospital this week.

WHY IS THE-Presanctified Liturgy so important?

- Receiving the Eucharist multiple times in a week gives us spiritual nourishment and strength needed for the increased intensity of Lent. Lent can be a time of spiritual attack as the Evil One seeks to cause us to sin or cease repentance.
- The Presanctified Liturgy reflects the penitential and somber mood of Lent. If we only attend the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, we miss out on this important reminder of Lent's purpose.
- The meditative and quiet atmosphere of the Presanctified Liturgy gives refreshment in the midst of a chaotic world.
- Meeting together with our fellow Lenten travelers encourages us in our Lenten journey.
- Confessions are heard before each Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings.
- And finally, fasting for the reception of the Eucharist, especially on Wednesday, is a stark physical reminder in the midst of our daily work, that we are preparing to meet the Lord and receive His Body and Blood. That there is something at the end of the day which will change to entire course of that day. It will challenge us to make that day different.

Let us begin this Fast in joy, shining with the commandments of Christ our God, with the light of charity and the brightness of prayer, with purity of heart and the energy of the strong, so that we might nobly hasten to the third day Resurrection, which sheds its immortal light over all the world.

(From Matins of the First Monday of Lent)