

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church



100th Anniversary

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 Protopresbyter Joseph Fester Rectory: 412-824-0246
 Mobile: 412-607-7039 Email: protopresbyterjoseph@gmail.com Website: www.sjbeastpitt.org -
 Facebook: @stjohneastpit
 Subdeacon Gary Grysiak, Cantor; Reader Justin Rosco, Choir Director;
 Robert Pervuznik, Jr., Parish Council President

ALL SERVICES STREAMED LIVE ON FB <https://www.facebook.com/joseph.fester>

2 Sunday -Group 2	3 Monday	4 Tuesday	5 Wednesday	6 Thursday	7 Friday	18 Saturday
8th Sunday of Pentecost HOLY PROPHET ELIJAH 9:00 Divine Liturgy Blessing of Cars		10am Deanery Meeting here	10am Funeral George Nedelkov-St Nicholas, Homestead 7pm CCE CLASS			NO VESPERS

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, July 26, 2020 - Attendance 27 - Weekly Offering, \$996 - Building Fund, \$70 - Needy Fund, \$165 - Monastery Outreach, \$105 -- Vigil Candles, \$144 - (Adv. Vigil payment, \$9) Lenten Food, \$24 - Total \$1495

TODAY-After Liturgy, weather permitting, you are invited to have a cup of coffee outside at the Sycamore Street door. Please follow all safe distancing protocols.

WEDNESDAY- our CCE class will continue its study of the Divine Liturgy. If you would like to join us online, let Fr Joseph know and he can give you sign-in information.

MANY THANKS-to everyone keeping up with their weekly support of St. John's God bless you.

THE SEMI-ANNUAL-statements are available for you to pick up at the card table outside. Get yours TODAY!!!

WE ARE OFFICIALLY- announcing *Phase III of our Icon Project today.* This Phase will include the painting of the icon of the Communion of the Apostles on the back wall or High Place of the Altar. We only need to raise an addition \$5800 to reach our goal. Work will begin in September and take about 5 months. Please keep our iconographer, Michal Kapeluck in your prayers.

WE HAVE BEEN TASKED-with a charity project to benefit the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg, PA. by Metropolitan Gregory. Our Pittsburgh Deanery parishes will be collecting paper products for the Monastery during July and August. Because of the Coronavirus, we will be accepting financial donations so that we can go and buy the products at one time, thus reducing our exposure to the virus. USE YOUR BLUE ENVELOPE (For Any Purpose) in your box of envelopes .If you have any questions, please see Fr. Joseph Last week we collected \$105. Many Thanks.

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 and Your all-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS - <http://holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/index.htm>

Monday	I Cor. 11:31-12:6	Matthew 18:1-11	Prophet Ezekiel
Tuesday	I Cor. 12:12-26	Matt. 18:18-22;19:1-2;13-15	Holy Myrrh-Bearer Mary Madalen
Wednesday	I Cor. 13:4-14:5	Matthew 20:1-16	Pochaev Icon of the Theotokos
Thursday	I Cor. 14:6-19	Matthew 20:17-28	Holy Martyr Christina of Tyre
Friday	Gal. 4:22-31	Luke 8:16-21	Dormition of Anna, Mother of Mary
Saturday	Romans 14:6-9	Matthew 15:32-39	Ven. Moses the Hungarian
Sunday	2 Tim. 2:1-10	John 15:17-16:2	Great-Martyr & Healer Panteleimon

WE HAVE PIROHI-for sale. \$8 a dozen. Pick up a dozen or two for a great Friday meal. See Nancy who will help you get yours.

GEORGE NEDELKOV-who painted scores of Churches during his life, including ours several times, fell asleep in the Lord on Friday. His Funeral will be on Wednesday at 10am, Visitation at 9am at St. Nicholas in Homestead. May his memory be eternal.

WE HAVE A- signup sheet to determine how many workers we can count on IF we have a Fall Food Festival. If we have enough help, we will, if not, it will be very difficult for us to host one this year. Look for the Signup Sheet next Sunday. If you have any questions, talk to Nancy

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS –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, Aubrey Welch, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde’s brother), Frank and Diane Betz, all healthcare and frontline workers and for all sick with COVID-19 virus, especially Victor Danielson and Fr Edward Pehanich. Please keep Father Joseph informed on changes to anyone’s health status so he can minister to them.

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES-

8/2 Marti Baran, 8/3 Tom Planiczki, 8/8 Sean Walker, 8/12 Nancy Sabeh, 8/13 Barbara Vasko, 8/16 Michael Sterchak, 8/20 Dennis Harms, 8/23 Wally Perkins, 8/23 Lindsay Skidmore

Kristofer & Caitlin Carlisle 8/6, Wally & Karen Perkins 8/28, Fr Joseph and Kathy Fester 8/31.

AUGUST MEMORIAL LIST

Newly Departed – George Nedelkov

Perpetual William & Hermina Mallick, Mary Michalov, Edward Stagon, Charlie Babich, Charlene Cannon, Gary Sterchak, Susanna Hnat, Spero Gianutsos, Nicholas Babich, Nicholas Seminick, Charles Fedoris, Mary Jane Rubash, John Karman, John & Hazel Hersak, Anna Yakubik, Paul Marchak, Joseph & Barbara Balok

Harold Hosken, Lewis Volk Joseph Henry Brown, Martin Brown, Charles Fedoris, Julia Ann Suvak, Mary Sutek, George Popovich, Anna Popovich, George Motto, John Karman, Vasil Plichta, George Harrison, Helen Molchan, Marie Povanda, Mary Drago, George Panchak, Eli Popovich, Infant Brancho, Nicholas Babich, George Morosini, Mary Rogulin, John Popovich, Linda Karlar, Ann Kocan, Helen Lelekas, Stephen Vukson, Archbishop Dmitri, Archpriest John Matusiak, Mark Kuzemka, Helen Lelekas, Margaret Stemler (1 Year.)

IF ANY OF YOU-have family members or even yourselves, who because of the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown, are in need of some financial assistance, please let Fr. Joseph know, privately. We have a parish Needy Fund and we can help!

SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN’S

1. Only the Sycamore Street door will be used for entry and exit. Please park on Sycamore Street for your convenience.
2. All entrants be given a touchless temperature test. The CDC maximum safe human temperature is 100.4. If your temperature is above 100.4, you will be asked to return home. Please let us know if you have taken any fever reducing medication, like Tylenol in the morning before coming to church.
3. All entrants must wear a mask upon entering and during the church service. (The cantor is not required to wear a mask when singing.) There will be cloth masks available to those who do not have one. We encourage you to bring your own mask.
4. All entrants before entering the church will be asked to use the provided hand sanitizer after their temperature is taken.
5. Other than families that live together, please make every effort to be 6ft apart in the pews.

NXT SATURDAY – there will be NO VESPERs here at St. John’s.

NEXT SUNDAY-at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy we will have a Memorial Service for the 1 Year of repose of Margie Stemler. Memory Eternal!

TODAY-we remember the Prophet Elijah who was taken up to Heaven in a fiery chariot. The traditional blessing of cars will take place after Liturgy. We will also bless cars the following Sunday, August 9 for Group 1 members

July 26- Candle Intentions

Health

Bires, Alice - Scott & Sharon
Bires, Alice - Benjamin
Bires, Alice - Fr Will and Pani Ilena
Bires, Alice -Helen, David, Joseph
Bires, Alice -Wally
Bires, Alice - Cathy
Bires, Alice - John E Stagon
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Neil, Barb, Bren
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Paul Sonya, Pierce, Shelby
Chuprinko, Marilyn- Rebecca & Matthew
Chuprinko, Marilyn- Bob Hosken
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Josie & Marti
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Benjamin
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Luke & Alexis
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Irene & Basil
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Deborah
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Burkett Family
Grysiak, Gary - Janet
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Josie Sofelkanik
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Bob & Miryam Knutson
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Wally Perkins
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - John E. Stagon
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Anthony Macchiaroli
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Kevin Henry
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - George & Barb Stagon,
Blessed Anniversary
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims
Kocan, Nicki - Family
Perkins, Karen - McKenna
Sabeh, Nancy - Family
Sabeh, Nancy - Justin-Safe Band Camp
Sabeh, Nancy - Safe Trip, Kistko Family
Stagon, George & Barbara - Fr. Matthew, Pani
Eleni, Seraphim, Luka, Harikila, Xenia
Stagon, George & Barbara - Jeffery, Nicole, Jillina
Payton
Stagon, George & Barbara - Connie and Tyler
Stagon, John Jr. - John & Jessica
Stagon, John Jr. - David, Linda & Johnny
Stagon, John Jr. - David, II, Christal, Weston

Special Intentions

Alice Bires

Memory

Bires, Alice - Parents
Bires, Alice- Brother-in-law
Bires, Alice- Helen
Bires, Alice-Margie
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Ed
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Mother, Helen
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Father, Charles
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Mother, Irene Barney
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Father, Edward Barney
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Metropolitan Nicholas
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims
Stagon, George & Barbara -Parents, George,
Beatrice & Nicolas

Sterchak, Cindy & Dave - Mother Margaret
Sterchak, Cindy & Dave - Brother Michael
Sterchak, Michael - Son Michael
Yeagers, Ashley - Dad Andrew Kocan

Worship Groups During Pandemic Under GREEN Stage

GROUP 1

Marianne Allen and Bill Welch
Rebecca Barclay
Gloria Blake
Chris, Lisa and DJ Bebin
Diane Betz
Alice Bires
Karen and Wally Perkins
Bill and Eric Brancho
Eileen Buck
Bob and Sandy Carlisle
Marilyn Chuprinko
Jeffery and Nicole Durmis
Theresa, John Finke (and Teagan)
Gina Marie Gaspard
Debbie Grysiak
Janet, Irene, Basil Dixon and Benjamin Grysiak
Shirley Hart
Bob and Cheryl Hosken
David, Elyse, Roman, Mitchell, Zechariah and
Alexis Kalaluhi
Kathy Bechler
Ruthanne Barclay
Ernie Karlar
Connie Kimmel
Ron, Sonya, Alexis, Julianna Kitsko
Nancy Sabeh

GROUP 2

Nicki Kocan
Beth Kudravy
Paula Locante
Alexandra Maskaly
Rosemarie Micholov
Joe and Sharon Monde
Sean Nelis
Richard and Linda Novak
Michael O'Brien
Dina and Michael Panchura
Cathy Perevuznik
Bob Perevuznik, Jr.
Dolores Popovich and Ann Weiland
Sizemore Family
Cheryl Stagon
David Stagon
George Stagon
Mr. Stagon
Jeffery Stagon, Nicole, Jillina and Payton
Cindy Sterchak
Charles and Barbara Vasko
Joshua and Brittany Vasko and family
Sean, Kalina, Mila, and Malachi Walker
Mark Volk
Evonne Vojnovich and Thomas Cunningham
Ashley Yeagers and Family

Worship Groups ONLY APPLY to Sunday Liturgy. For Saturday Vespers, Weekday Feastday Vespers and Weekday Feastal Liturgy, everyone is welcome to attend. Please remember to have a mask, use the Sycamore Street door, have your temperature taken and use the hand sanitizer

Worship Groups Calendar - Updated 7.5.20

August 9 – Group 1

August 16 – Group 2

August 23 – Group 1

August 30 – Group 2

*TBD based on Covid cases

IMPORTANT AUGUST DATES-

AUGUST 9 – CAR BLESSING FOR GROUP 1

AUGUST 14 – START OF DORMITION FAST

AUGUST 18 – GREAT VESPERS FOR TRANSFIGURATION

AUGUST 19 – FESTAL LITURGY & BLESSING OF FRUIT

AUGUST 25 – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 27- GREAT VESPERS FOR DORMITION

AUGUST 28 – FESTAL LITURGY FOR DORMITION & BLESSING OF HERBS AND FLOWERS

AUGUST 5,12,26 – CCE CLASSES (note no CCE on August 19)

CONFESSIONS-are heard after Vespers on Saturday or any Feast Day eve and by appointment at any time. If you haven't been to confession recently, now is a good time.



Word of God.

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the

Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: “When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames.” The name Elijah (the Lord’s strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1). The heavens were closed for

three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying

out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth

. King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah

conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her Baptism Saint Olga (July 11) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elijah in her native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

It seems fitting today to say a few words about the Prophet Elijah and the still small voice of God in our lives.

The Prophet Elijah, whose memory we celebrate today, lived in tumultuous times. The people of Israel had rejected God and turned to idols, and their reigning government violently persecuted the Holy Prophet. Fleeing to the desert to seek refuge, the Lord asked him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah responded: "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." In response, the Lord commanded Elijah to stand on the mountain before Him. After showing the prophet a great wind, a mighty earthquake, and fire, God finally spoke to Elijah in "a still, small voice."

Through this account, the example is given to us of how we, as the Body of Christ, should reveal God to the world through our words. When we perceive that our society has reverted from Christianity to idolatry, and when we sense that some levels of government in our society are treating Christians unfairly, our task as the Church is not to manifest God through tempestuous outrage, earth-quaking tirades, or emotionally-fired speech. Neither, as Elijah was tempted to do, should we give in to self-pitying or defeatism. Rather, as the Church it is our task to manifest God's presence through a still, small voice.

God's still small voice is not condescending, it is not insulting, it does not seek to harm. It is not profane, rude, or violent.

Rather, God's still small voice is still, because it is balanced and considerate. It is small, because it is humble and often rejected.

But it is nevertheless a voice! And indeed, when we have words to say that glorify God and manifest Truth to the world, then indeed, we should open our mouth, and the Spirit will inspire us to be the heralds of God's love.

Engaging with one another by remote and online means more than ever in these months, in the midst of forceful and loud storms in society, let us first allow the Lord to speak to us in a still small voice, through

engaging with Him in prayer, silence, and contemplation. Then, let us allow Him to speak through us, through whatever physical or media means we are using, to be the vehicles of His still small voice. Through the use of kind words, through the use of considerate speech, through the use of reason - logos - rather than emotion, we fulfill our role as Christ's Church to be God's voice.

The Church will always be "small" in the world's eyes; appearing foolish or irrelevant. Yet we know the truth hidden to the world: Our Church's authentic voice is the most rational and true voice in the world. This paradox exists because our wisdom does not belong to the world, as Saint Paul says: "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God" (1 Corinthians 3:18-19). Our wisdom is found in the paradox of Christ on the Cross: His death appeared foolish, it appeared irrelevant, but in reality, it was the most important historical event that has ever happened. It ushered in the new Creation, bringing about the Resurrection of all. His death and resurrection, indeed, are the vivid manifestation of God's still small voice: by appearances small and despised, but in reality, Truth and Life-giving.

So, let us follow the Divine command, and "be still, and know that I Am God" (Psalm 45/46:10). And by our living as still and

small men and women of prayer in the midst of the tumults of the world, our great and mighty Lord will paradoxically be manifested to the world through us.

May the Holy Prophet Elijah intercede for us so that we might all humbly transmit the still small voice of our almighty, all-powerful, and all-loving God so that the world might come to know He Who Is.