

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

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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>

24 Sunday -Group A	25 Monday	26 Tuesday	27 Wednesday	28 Thursday	29 Friday	30 Saturday
Blind Man 9:00 Divine Liturgy Grave Blessings 12:45 Monongahela 2:15 William Penn	Grave Blessings 12pm Homewood		PASCHA LEAVE-TAKING 9am Paschal Liturgy 6pm Great Vespers w/Litiya	ASCENSION 9am Festal Liturgy		5pm Great Vespers

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE RISEN!

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, May 17, 2020 - Attendance 15 - Weekly Offering, \$1716 - Building Fund, \$140 -- Needy Envelopes, \$38 - Easter Offering, \$30 - Easter Candles, \$5 - Vigil Candles, \$238 - Church Dues, \$50 - Diocesan Dues, \$72 - Total \$2271

TODAY-we our reopening of St. John's under the protocols and guidance of Metropolitan Gregory and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Please see the attachments to today's bulletin and information on which worship group you are assigned to. Many thanks the Parish Council for their insightful and dedicated input that went into our reopening plan. None of this is easy and no plan under the present circumstances is perfect but in all of it, it comes down to not being about me but about keeping the other person safe. Looking out for the "least of the brethren" even being called upon to follow certain measures we don't like but do so out of care for the neighbor. God bless you all.

THIS WEDNESDAY- we will celebrate the Leave-taking (the taking leave) of Pascha with one final Paschal Liturgy for the season. Because so many of you were not able to be in church for Pascha this year, this Liturgy will be as close as we can get to what was done on Pascha. Then on Wednesday evening at 6pm we will celebrate Great Vespers with Litiya for the Feast of Ascension and then on Thursday the Ascension Festal Liturgy at 9am.

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

Monday	Acts 17:1-15	John 11: 47-57	St Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus
Tuesday	Acts 17:19-28	John 12:19-36	Virgin-Martyr Glyceria at Heraclea
Wednesday	Acts 18:22-28	John 12:36-47	Martyr Isidore of Chios
Thursday	Acts 1:1-12	Mark 16:9-20	ASCENSION
Friday	Acts 19:1-8	John 14:1-11	Ven. Brendan the Voyager, Abbot of Clonfert
Saturday	Acts 20:7-12	John 14:10-21	Apostle Andronicus of the Seventy
Sunday	Acts 20:16-18;28-36	John 17:1-13	The Fathers of the 7 th Ecumenical Council

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS –All Veterans, 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, Kalina Walker and the child, Malachi, born of her, Ashley Yeagers and the child Lincoln Carl born of her. Fr. John Dixon, Fr. Jonathan Tobias, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde's brother), Joshua and Natalie Walsh, Nicholas Hollis and all healthcare workers and for all sick with COVID-19 virus. Please keep Father Joseph informed on changes to anyone's health status so he can minister to them.
May Anniversaries –Joshua & Brittany Vasko 5/27/12. MANY YEARS!

May Memorial – Newly departed: Archpriest Paul Lazor, Protopresbyter George Hutnyan, Pani Patsy Joseph, Vera Geeza Hellman, Paul David Zolak, Archimandrite Elias (Bitar), John Lee
Perpetual: All Veterans, Protopresbyter Michael Rosco, Victor Sofelkanik, Sr, Michael Elascat, Mary Wallace, John Lisak, Mary Brancho, Paul Kobasa, Michael Wanczak, Stephen Povanda, Sr Wasil Popovich, Nicholas Kosarich, Thomas Chalca, Eva Chernega, Randolph Mallick, Michael Lisak, John Lamacz, Joseph Tucker, Mary Begey, John Kolesar, Mary Brown, Nicholas Yonkovich, Helen Dedo, William Gezzer, Sr. John Petrovay, Anna Cheremeta, Steve Evashavik, Rose Tucker, and for all victims of the COVID-19 virus.

MANY YEARS-to Archpriest Michael Hatrak on the 50th Anniversary of his graduation from St. Tikhon's Seminary in So. Caanan, PA. Many Years!

SPEAKING OF GRADUATIONS-

Congratulations to Emily Pervuznik who completed her graduate work, Lexie Kalaluhi who graduated from High School and Garrett Skidmore who is graduating from High School. If Father Joseph missed anyone, please let him know so we can recognize all our graduates on a Sunday in the near future.

GRAVE BLESSINGS-today at 12:45

Monongahela and 2:15 at Wm. Penn. Tomorrow, 12pm at Homewood. If you would like the grave of a loved one blessed, please contact Fr. Joseph to arrange a day and time. Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

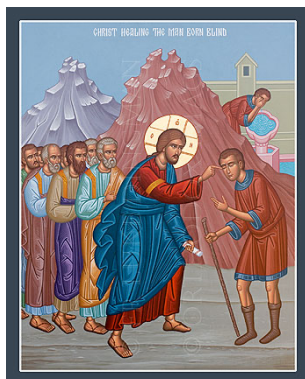
JUST A REMINDER- that Fr. Joseph has a new cell-phone number. **412-607-7039**. Please update your records.

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!

OUR CCE-classes will resume on Wednesday, June at 7pm. We will continue our study of the Divine Liturgy, paused due to the pandemic, with video presentations from Sister Vassa Larin. We will meet in person in the church hall while spreading out to observe proper social distancing. Masks will be required for all in attendance.

PLEASE-continue to observe all of the necessary health and safety guidelines that are enforced by State and Federal agencies. Be safe. Be patient and be careful. It's going to be this way for a good while longer and things won't get back to normal until there is more testing, better treatment and a vaccine.

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THE SUNDAY OF THE BLINDMAN –

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

We heard today the story of the man born blind. We do not know from experience what physical blindness is, but we can imagine how this man was walled in himself,

how all the world around him existed only as a distant sound, something he could not picture, imagine. He was a prisoner within his own body. He could live by imaginations, he could invent a world around himself, he could by touch and by hearing approximate what really was around him; but the total, full reality could only escape him.

We are not physically blind, but how many of us are locked in themselves! Who of us can say that he is so open that he can perceive all the world in its width, but also in its depth? We meet people, and we see them with our eyes; but seldom it happens that beyond the outer shape, features, clothes, - how often does it happen that we see something of the depth of the person? How seldom it is that we look into a person's eyes and go deep in understanding! We are surrounded by people and every person is unique to God, but are people unique to us? Are not people that surround us just 'people', who have names, surnames, nicknames, whom we can recognize by their outer looks but whom we do not know at any depth?

This is our condition: we are blind, we are deaf, we are insensitive to the outer world, and yet, we are called to read meanings. When we meet a person, we should approach this person as a mystery, that is as something which we can discover only by a deep communion, by entering into a relationship, perhaps silent, perhaps in words, but so deep that we can know one another not quite as God knows us, but in the light of God that enlightens all and each of us.

And more than this: we can do, each within his own power, within his own gifts, what Christ did: He opened the eyes of this man. What did this man see? The first thing he saw was the face of the Incarnate Son of God, in other words, he saw love incarnate. When his eyes met the eyes of Christ, he met God's compassion, God's tenderness, God's earnest concern and understanding. In the same way could so many people begin to see, if by meeting us they meet people in whose eyes, on whose face they could see the shining of earnest, sober love, of a love that is not sentimental but is seeing, a love that can see and understand. And then, how much could we be to people around us a revelation of all the meanings that this world holds and contains through art, through beauty, through science, through all the means by which beauty is perceived and proclaimed among human beings.

But are we doing this? Is our concern to convey the width, and the depth, the beauty and the meaning of things to every person whom we meet? Are we not rather concerned with receiving than with giving? And yet, Saint Paul who knew what it meant to receive and to give, said, 'It is a more blessed thing to give than to receive'. And yet how much had he received! He had received the knowledge of God in

his own experience; he had received teaching, and knowledge, and experience within the Old Testament, and then Christ revealed Himself to him: what did he not receive! And yet, he exulted more in giving than in receiving, because he did not want to be the owner of all the richness that had come his way; he wanted to share it, to give it, to set aglow and afire other lives than his own.

Let us reflect on how rich, how richly endowed we are, how much it was given us to see, and to hear. And let us realise at the same time how tragically walled we are within ourselves unless we break this wall in order to give, as generously, as richly, as abundantly as we were given. And then indeed, our joy will be fulfilled according to Christ's promise. And no one, nothing will ever be able to take it away from us. Amen! (Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh - 4 June 1989)



Ascension

Jesus did not live with His disciples after His resurrection as He had before His death. Filled with the glory of His divinity, He appeared at different times and places to His people, assuring them that it was He, truly alive in

His risen and glorified body.

To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the Kingdom of God (Acts 1.3)

It should be noted that the time span of forty days is used many times in the Bible and signifies a temporal period of completeness and sufficiency (Gen 7.17; Ex 16.35, 24.18; Judg 3.11; 1 Sam 17.16; 1 Kg 19.8; Jon 3.4; Mt 4.2).

On the fortieth day after His passover, Jesus ascended into heaven to be glorified on the right hand of God (Acts 1.9–11; Mk 16.19; Lk 24.51). The ascension of Christ is His final physical departure from this world after the resurrection. It is the formal completion of His mission in this world as the Messianic Saviour. It is His glorious return to the Father Who had sent Him into the world to accomplish the work that He had given him to do (Jn 17.4–5).

... and lifting His hands He blessed them. While blessing them, He parted from them and was carried

up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy (Lk 24.51–52).

The Church's celebration of the ascension, as all such festal celebrations, is not merely the remembrance of an event in Christ's life. Indeed, the ascension itself is not to be understood as though it were simply the supernatural event of a man floating up and away into the skies. The holy scripture stresses Christ's physical departure and His glorification with God the Father, together with the great joy which His disciples had as they received the promise of the Holy Spirit Who was to come to assure the Lord's presence with them, enabling them to be His witnesses to the ends of earth (Lk 24.48–53; Acts 1.8–11; Mt 28.20; Mk 16.16–14).

In the Church the believers in Christ celebrate these very same realities with the conviction that it is for them and for all men that Christ's departure from this world has taken place. The Lord leaves in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with himself. He goes in order to "prepare a place" for and to take us also into the blessedness of God's presence. He goes to open the way for all flesh into the "heavenly sanctuary . . . the Holy Place not made by hands" (see Hebrews 8–10). He goes in order to send the Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father to bear witness to Him and His gospel in the world, making Him powerfully present in the lives of disciples.

The liturgical hymns of the feast of the Ascension sing of all of these things. The antiphonal verses of the Divine Liturgy are taken from Psalms 47, 48, and 49. The troparion of the feast which is sung at the small entrance is also used as the post-communion hymn.

(Taken of The Orthodox Faith, Vol. II)

*You ascended in glory O Christ our God;
You delighted the Disciples with the
promise of the Holy Spirit. Through this
blessing they were assured that You are
the Son of God the Redeemer of the World.
(Tropar)*

*When You fulfilled the plan of salvation for
us and unted all things on wearth to those
in heaven, O Christ our God You ascended
in glory, never leaving us, but remaining
ever-present. For You proclaimed to those
who love You: "I am with you and no one
else has power over you." (Kontak)*

May 23 Candle Intentions

Health

Bires, Alice - Benjamin
Bires, Alice - Fr Will & Pani Ileana
Bires, Alice - Scott & Sharon
Bires, Alice - Wally
Bires, Alice - Bob
Bires, Alice - Bonnie & Ron Raible
Bires, Alice - Helen, David, & Joseph
Bires, Alice - Happy 30th Birthday, Alex
Brancho, Eric - Gina Marie Gaspard
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Paul, Sonya, Pierce, Shelby
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Rebecca & Matthew
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Neil, Barb, Bren
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Healthcare & Grocery Workers
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Virus Victims
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Benjamin
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Luke & Alexis
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Irene & Basil
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Janet
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Deborah
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Burkett Family
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 - Fr. John Dixon
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Kevin Henry
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Marti Baran
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Healthcare and Grocery Workers
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Hutnyan Family
Kocan, Nicki - Michael Derkever, Successful Surgery
Kocan, Nicki - Family
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Mom
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Emily, Rebecca, Tanner, Tyler
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Kelly, Lauren, Michael
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - John E Stagon
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Marti Baran
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Fr Jonathan Tobias
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Sean Nelis
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - All St. John Parishioners
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - All Frontline Workers
Sabeh, Nancy - 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
Stagon, John Jr- Linda Stagon, Mother's Day
Stagon, John Jr - Chrystal Stagon, Mother's Day

Special Intentions

Alice Bires

Memory

Bires, Alice - Parents
Bires, Alice- Brother-in-law
Bires, Alice- Helen
Bires, Alice-Margie

Bires, Alice - Baba Baran
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Ed
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Mary & Joe Tesack
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, Janey & Gary - Protospresbyter George Hutnyan
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Dad
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Aunt Rosie & Uncle Denny
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Grandparents
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Uncle George
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - All Veterans
Sabeh, Nancy - Brother, Fr. Michael
Stagon, George & Barbara - Mom and Dad
Stagon, John Jr. - Wife Anna
Stagon, John Jr. - Father, Mother, Brothers
Stakel, Peggy - Parents Nick & Betty

From St. John of Kronstadt:

The candles burning on the altar represent the non-created Light of the Trinity, for the Lord dwells in an unapproachable light. They also represent the fire of Divinity which destroys our ungodliness and sins.

The candles lit before the icons of:

- **the Savior** signify that He is the True Light which enlighteth every man that cometh into the world (John 1:9); at the same time, He is a Fire which engulfs and revives our souls and bodies.
- **the Theotokos** are a symbol of the fact that She is the Mother of the Unapproachable Light, and also of Her most pure and burning love for God and Her love for mankind.
- **the saints** reflect their ardent love for God for Whose sake they gave up everything that man prizes in life, including their very lives, as did the holy apostles, martyrs and others. These candles also mean that these saints are lamps burning for us and providing light for us by their own saintly living, their virtues and their ardent intercession for us before God through their constant prayers by day and night.

The burning candles also stand for our ardent zeal and the sincere sacrifice we make out of reverence and gratitude to them for their solicitude on our behalf before God.

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. Every other pew will be closed and marked off. Only open pews will contain two persons, sitting at least 6 feet apart. The 6-foot requirement does not apply to a family with children sitting together.

6. There will be no coffee hour until further notice.

All servers in the altar will wear protective masks. The serving clergy will wear a mask when distributing the Eucharist. Starting on Sunday, March 24, Worship Groups will be in effect. Please see the attached Group lists and calendar. NO make-ups. NO trading of places. By group attendance only applies to Sunday Liturgy. Saturday Vespers, Feast Day Vespers and Feast Day Liturgies on weekdays are open to everyone up to the 25-person limit following all other safety protocols listed above. The alphabetical list has been modified to take into consideration those who travel together to church and extended families.

Parishioners who are homebound or have informed Fr. Joseph, that due to pre-existing medical or other concerns that they are NOT ready to return to church, will not be listed in the alphabetical groups. These parishioners may change their status at any time by informing Fr. Joseph before returning to church services. Father Joseph will resume home visitations with the approval of the homebound.

Is this plan perfect? No, but it is the best we can do to protect everyone in the parish as we come in more

contact with each other. The plan will be reviewed and modified to improve it as we gain more experience using it. I am sure that all of us will continue to be patient and understanding, forgiving and loving of each other as we proceed in these uncharted and unprecedented times.

Please know that, along with the parish council, in consultation with His Eminence, we have made every effort to reopen St. John's in a safe and fair way, knowing that all of you are looking forward to returning and re-establishing parish life – not only as it was – but even better and more cherished than it was.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Joseph.

With love in the Risen Lord, I remain,

Yours in Christ,
Fr Joseph

Worship Groups During Pandemic Under Yellow Stage - of 25 or less

GROUP A

Marianne Allen and Bill Welch
Rebecca Barclay
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

GROUP B

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 C

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

GROUP D

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 children

Worship Groups ONLY APPLY to Sunday Liturgy. For Saturday Vespers, Feastday Vespers and Feastday 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

Group Church Attending Calendar

May 24 - Group A
May 31 - Group B
June 7 - Group C
June 14 - Group D
June 21 - Group A
June 28 - Group B
July 5 - Group C
July 12 - Group D
July 19 - Group A
July 26 - Group B
August 2 - Group C
August 9 - Group D
August 16 - Group A
August 23 - Group B
August 30 - Group C
September 6 - Group D
September 13 - Group A
September 20 - Group B
September 27 - Group C
October 4 - Group D
October 11 - Group A
October 18 - Group B
October 25 - Group C
November 1 - Group D
November 8 - Group A
November 15 - Group B
November 22 - Group C
November 29 - Group D
December 6 - Group A
December 13 - Group B
December 20 - Group C
December 27 - Group D

(Updated 5.21.20)