

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>

26 Sunday	27 Monday	28 Tuesday	29 Wednesday	30 Thurs	1 Friday	22 Saturday
Thomas Sunday 9:00 Divine Liturgy						9am May Memorial 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, April 19, 2020 - Attendance 5 - Weekly Offering, \$815 - Building Fund, \$80 - Palm Sunday Offering, \$15 - Holy Thursday, Friday and Saturday Offerings, \$140 - Easter Offering, \$797 - Easter Candle Envelopes, \$20 - Membership Dues, \$194 - Patriarchal Pence, \$15 - Needy Envelopes, \$62 - Easter Flowers, \$7 - Vigil Candles, \$297 - Vigil Candles paid in advance, \$87 Vigils lit, due 5/3 (36) - Total \$2509**

**IT WILL BE IMPORTANT-** for us to keep our weekly donations to St. John's going while we all practice social distancing and follow the rules set forth by our Metropolitan Gregory and local government officials to limit direct participation in the Divine services to only essential persons. Please mail your offerings to the church address. You can also call the rectory with your Vigil intentions or mail in your requests.

*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 3:10-26	John 2:1-11	St Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome
Tuesday	Acts 4:1-10	John 3:16-21	St Mstislav, Prince of Kiev
Wednesday	Acts 4:13-22	John 5:17-24	Martyr Irene of Greece
Thursday	Acts 4:23-31	John 5:24-30	St Ephraim the Great of Matskveri Monastery
Friday	Acts 5:1-11	John 5:30-6:2	Ven. Euthymius the Enlightener of Karelia
Saturday	Acts 5:21-33	John 6:14-27	St. Matrona the Blind of Moscow
Sunday	Acts 6:1-7	Mark 15:43-16:8	Myrrh-Bearing Women, Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus

**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, 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.

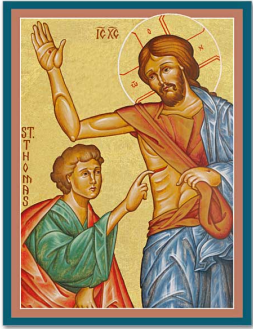
Please keep Father Joseph informed on changes to anyone's health status so he can minister to them.

**April Birthdays** - Garrett Skidmore 4/27 Mary Lou Begey 4/28 DeBorah Hutnyan 4/30 Cindy Sterchak 4/30

**April Memorial – Newly departed:** Paul Haruilesko and Paul David Zolak

**Perpetual:** John & Anna Sabo, Harry & Mary Tucker, Julia Wazso, Michael & Mary Sivack, John Kalita, John, Mary & George Sabol, Magdalena Sadvary Sabol, George & Helen Kusik, Thomas Planiczki, Michael Yakubik, Pauline Sabo

John Zura, Anna Chokla, John Hrenko, Sr., Michael Billi, Michael Kostik, Julia Waszo, Maria Muchaj, George Oleksuk, Anna Rela, Michael Suvak, Mary Regrut, Michael Tabak, John Zebra, William Floder, Xenia Marchak, Mary Harajda, John Uram, Marie Ziatyk, Nicholas Kosarich, Helen Kravec, John Geras, George Pervuznik, Nicholas Muchkaj, William Weidenhof, Magdalena Sabol, William Geezer, Florence Skuby, John K Horsak, Stanley Majawski, Helen Evansky-Gabor, Henry Michael Beben, Andrew Kuzemka, Rose Fester and for all victims of the COVID-19 virus



Today we are keeping the day of St Thomas the Apostle. Too often we remember him only as a doubter; indeed he is the one who questioned the message which the other Apostles brought to him when they said: Christ is risen! We have seen Him alive!

But he is not one who doubted throughout his life or who remained unfaithful to the fullness of the divine revelation of Christ. We must remember that when the Apostles and the Lord heard of the illness of Lazarus, Christ said to them: Let us return to Jerusalem. To which the others said: But the Jews wanted to kill you there. Why should we return? Only Thomas the Apostle answered: Let us go with Him and die with Him. He was prepared not only to be His disciple in words, not only to follow Him as one follows a teacher, but to die with Him as one dies with a friend and, if necessary, for a friend. So, let us remember his greatness, his faithfulness, his wholeness.

But what happened then when after the Resurrection of Christ, the Apostles said to the one who had not seen Christ risen, that they had actually seen the risen Christ? Why did he not accept their message? Why did he doubt? Why did he say that he must have proofs, material proofs? Because when he looked at them, he saw them rejoicing in what they had seen, rejoicing that Christ was not dead, rejoicing that Christ was alive, rejoicing that victory had been won. Yet, when he looked at them he saw no difference in them. These were the same men, only full of joy instead of fear. And Thomas said: Unless I see, unless I probe the Resurrection, I cannot believe you.

Is it not the same thing that anyone can say to us who meets us?

We proclaimed the Resurrection of Christ, passionately, sincerely, truthfully, a few

days ago. We believe in it with all our being; and yet, when people meet us in our homes, in the street, in our place of work, anywhere, do they look at us and say: Who are these people? What has happened to them?

The Apostles had seen Christ risen, but the Resurrection had not become part of their own experience. They had not come out of death into eternal life. So, it is also with us; except with the saints, when they see them, they know that their message is true.

What is it in our message that is not heard? Because we speak but are not heard. We should be so different from people who have no experience of the living Christ, risen, who has shared His life with us, who sent the Holy Spirit to us as, in the words of C.S. Lewis, a living person is different from a statue. A statue may be beautiful, magnificent, glorious, but it is stone. A human being can be much less moving in his outer presence, yet he is alive, he is a testimony of life.

So, let us examine ourselves. Let us ask ourselves where we are. Why is it that people who meet us never notice that we are limbs of the risen Christ, temples of the Holy Spirit? Why?

Each of us has got to give his own reply to this question. Let us, each of us, examine ourselves and be ready to answer before our own conscience and do what is necessary to change our lives in such away that people meeting us may look at us and say: Such people we have never seen. There is something about them that we have never seen in anyone. What is it? And we could answer: It is the life of Christ abroad in us. We are His limbs. This is the life of the Spirit in us. We are His temple. Amen.

**Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh**  
**ST THOMAS SUNDAY - April 30, 1995**

**WE HAVE RESUMED**-the celebration of Great Vespers on Saturdays at 5pm. They will be broadcasted live on FB.

**THIS WEEK**-on Saturday, May 2, at 9am we will offer the May Memorial Liturgy. Names of the May departed will be shared later this week.

**MANY THANKS** – to Bob Hoskens for his excellent work leading our CCE classes during Great Lent. And thanks to all who participated in the classes.

**IDEAS**-for upcoming CCE classes are now being accepted by Fr Joseph. We will have our next CCE classes via the Internet. Times and dates to be determined.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**- to Cindy Sterchak and Michael on their 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. MANY YEARS!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAYS** – this week to Garrett Skidmore 4/27 Mary Lou Begey 4/28 DeBorah Hutnyan 4/30 Cindy Sterchak 4/30. MANY YEARS!

**PLEASE**-continue to observe all of the necessary health and safety guidelines that are enforce by State and Federal agencies. Masks must be worn if we venture out to the store. Some grocery stores will not allow you to enter unless you are wearing a mask. Be sure to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if you are out. Practice social distancing and don't go the wrong direction in the one-way aisles at Giant Eagle. I got the "*stink eye*" the other day when I went the wrong way! 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.

## **FROM THE HOLY FATHER ON PATIENCE**

And so, let us be glad and bear with patience everything the world throws at us, secure in the knowledge that it is then that we are most in the mind of God. - St. Basil the Great

He who is patient and gentle and mild is an imitator of God the Father. - St. Cyprian

Persevere with patience in your prayer, and repulse the cares and doubts that arise within you. - St. Evagrius the Solitary, Philokalia

Patient endurance is the fruit of love, for 'love patiently endures all things' (I Cor. 13:7), and teaches us to achieve such endurance by forcing ourselves so that through patience we may attain love... - St. Gregory Palamas

The Holy Fathers say, "Pride goeth before a fall, and humility before grace." Whereas faintheartedness is the mother of impatience. - St. Joseph the Hesychast, Monastic Wisdom

It took Noah a hundred years to build his ark; log upon log he dragged to the construction. Do as he did; drag log upon log to your construction, patiently, in silence, day after day, and do not inquire about your surroundings. Remember that Noah was the only one in the whole world who 'walked with God' (Gen. 6:9), that is, in prayer. Imagine the crowding, the darkness, the stench, that he had to live in until he could step out into the pure air and build an altar to the Lord. The air and the altar you will find within you, explains St. John Chrysostom, but only after you have willingly gone through the same narrow gate as Noah. - Tito Colliander, Way of the Ascetics

If during these days of confinement we can learn and practice patience, this time will be of great spiritual benefit and growth for the rest of our lives.

## April 26 Candle Intentions

### Health

Bires, Alice - Benjamin  
Bires, Alice - Fr Will & Pani Ileana Bennett  
Bires, Alice - Scott & Sharon  
Bires, Alice - Wally  
Bires, Alice - Ron Raible  
Bires, Alice - Helen, David, & Joseph  
Deklever, Darlene - Health of Family  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Benjamin, Luke & Alexis, Irene & Basil  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Janet  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Deborah  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Burkett Family  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Metropolitan Gregory  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Fr Jonathan, Pani Marsha & Family  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Rose Harvey & Family  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Karen Stephens & Family  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Barbara Smith  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Cookie Peltz  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Cathy & Bob Pervuznik, Jr.  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Alice Bires  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Allyce  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Wally Perkins  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Dennis & Adrienne Harms  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Madison O'Leary  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Josie Sofelkanik  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Bob & Miryam Knutson  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Mitzi Conroy  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Wally Perkins  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - John E. Stagon  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Anthony Macchiaroli  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - V. Rev. Protopresbyter Joseph and Pani Kathy & Family  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Fr. John & Loukia Dixon  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Family, Loved Ones, and Parishioners of St. John's  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims, Healthcare and Grocery Workers  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - The Forgotten  
Kocan, Nicki - Health of Family  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Mom  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Emily, Rebecca, Tanner, Tyler  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Pervuznik, Skidmore, Durmis & Poach Families  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - John E Stagon  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Marti Baran  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Danielle  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - All St. John Parishioners  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Wally Perkins  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Happy Birthday, Garrett  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Easter Blessings To All My Godchildren  
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, George- Barbara  
Stagon, George & Barbara- All Virus victims  
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  
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  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Protopresbyter Michael Rosco  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Protodeacon John  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Reader Douglas  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Reader Andrew  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Bishop John Martin  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - V. Rev Dean Fr John Hutnyan  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Annie & Unk  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - John & Millie Reiland  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Mr. & Mrs. Rosco  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Tony Cutezo  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Uncle Michael & Aunt Yvonne  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Stephanie Read  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Dean & Rosemary Hough  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Katherine Sabo  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Dennis Durmis  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Helen & Margie Bires  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Mrs Beatrice Stagon  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Edward Chuprinko  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Dr. Richard Fondrk  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Aunt Evelyn  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Ron Babich  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Jeff Abraham  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Don Pollock  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Red Matthews  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Sue Semancik  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Family, Loved Ones, Parishioners of St. John's  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Christians Everywhere  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Dad  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Godparents  
Pervuznik, Jr. Robert - Michelle  
Stagon, George & Barbara - Mom and Dad  
Stagon, John Jr. - Wife Anna  
Stagon, John Jr. - Father, Mother, Brothers  
Stakel, Peggy - Parents of Nick and Betty Babich