

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: @stjohneastpitt
 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>

| 28 Sunday -Group 2 | 29 Monday | 30 Tuesday | 1 Wednesday | 2 Thursday | 3 Friday | 4 Saturday |
|---|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|
| New Martyrs Under the Turkish Yoke 9:00 Divine Liturgy | | 7pm Parish Council Meeting | 7pm CCE Class on the Divine Liturgy | | 5pm Wedding Rehearsal | 9am June Memorial Liturgy 3pm Grysiak/Dixon Wedding 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, June 21, 2020 - Attendance 28 - Weekly Offering, \$961 - Building Fund, \$115 - Needy Fund, \$60 - Easter \$25 - Vigil Candles, \$297 - Membership Dues, \$50 - Total \$1484

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.

WEDDING BANS- Irene Grysiak will be united the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony to Basil Dixon on Saturday, July 4th at 3pm at St. John's. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the wedding will be streamed but only those invited guest can be accommodated in the church.

THIS WEDNESDAY- our CCE class continues with the video presentations of Sister Vassa Larin on the Divine Liturgy. We will meet ONLINE. If you would like to join the class online, please give Fr. Joseph your email address and he will forward you the link to the class. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE

INTERNET and would like to participate, you may join the class in person. Please wear a mask. The class will originate in the church office not the hall. Please let Fr. Joseph know if you are coming in person. Again, this is for parishioners who don't have Internet, otherwise, see you online.

FRANK BETZ- our Diane Betz's husband underwent a quintuple bypass heart surgery on Tuesday at Shadyside Hospital. Everything went well. Please continue to keep Frank and Diane in your prayers.

MARTI BARAN- underwent successful hand surgery on Wednesday. She is up and about walking and it is hoped that she will be able to return home soon. Please keep her in your prayers

THE PARISH COUNCIL- will meet this Tuesday at 7pm

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 | Romans 9:18-33 | Matthew 11:2-15 | St Kaikhosro the Georgian |
| Tuesday | Romans 10:11-11:2 | Matthew 11:16-20 | Martyr Shalva of Akhaltsikhe |
| Wednesday | Romans 11:20:12 | Matthew 11:20-26 | St Marina the Virgin of Bithynia |
| Thursday | Romans 11:13-24 | Matthew 11:27-30 | Holy Apostle Jude, Lord' Brother |
| Friday | Romans 11:25-36 | Matthew 12:1-8 | St Nicholas (Cabasilas) |
| Saturday | Romans 6:11-17 | Matthew 8:14-23 | St John of San Francisco & Shanghai |
| Sunday | Romans 6:18-23 | Matthew 8:5-13 | St Alban, Protomartyr of Britain |

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

NEXT SATURDAY – at 9am we will celebrate the July Memoria Liturgy.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries- Mitchell Leopold Kalaluhi 6/28, Gina Marie Gasper 6/29. Happy Anniversary to Justin and Amanda Rosco 6/27 and Chris and Lisa Bebin on 6/23. Sorry I didn't catch this one earlier.

June Memorials - Newly Departed: Fr. Michael Psenechunk, Matushka Nadine Eskoff-Brown, Protopresbyter George Hutnyan, Archimandrite Elias (Bitar), Pani Patsy Joseph, Departed Fathers, Grandfathers, and Godfathers.

Perpetual: Michael & Pauline Sabo, Andrew & Susan Himchak, Elizabeth Babich, John & Helen Sabol Katherine Totin, Peter Regrut, Tekla Orange, Catherine Wilson, Mary Kattalia, Anna Wukich, Nicholas Chernega, John Kasenohak, Martha Sisak, Carol Sisco, Robert Dugan, Irene Holowaty-Mancak, Edward Chuprinko, and for all victims of the COVID-19 virus.

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.

STARTING LAST WEEKEND- only the Sunday Divine Liturgy will be live streamed on the Internet. Since all other services are open to everyone.



NEW MARTYRS UNDER THE TURKISH YOKE

May 29, 1453 was a dark day for Orthodox Christians living in the great Byzantine empire. Muslim troops attacked and conquered the great city of Constantinople, killing the Orthodox emperor Constantine XI and pillaging the city. Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, a Christian empire that flourished for 1,000 years, now became the Ottoman Empire, ruled by a people who were enemies of Christ and Christianity. Crosses were torn from the domes of churches and icons

painted over as churches were converted to mosques, most notably the famed Hagia Sophia Cathedral. While the new Ottoman rulers proclaimed their "tolerance" of Orthodox Christianity, they soon embarked on a program of both active and passive persecution designed to hinder and slowly strangle the Christian Faith.

The Sultan considered himself as the "protector" of the Orthodox Christians, but in reality, he and his successors held a firm control over the Orthodox Church preventing it from fulfilling its mission and ministry. Orthodox Christians were required to pay a special tax and had no

rights of citizenship. They could not marry Muslims and it was a crime, punishable by death, to convert a Muslim to Christianity. The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople could not be elected without the permission of the Sultan and was required to pay a heavy tax before he could begin his ministry. With this source of revenue for their government, the Sultan often forced the re-election of the Patriarch on a regular basis.

Christian boys, ages 6-14, were kidnapped from their families and given to Turkish Muslim families for forced conversion to Islam and indoctrination into the Turkish social system. These boys formed the basis of an elite military unit known as the Janissaries. With time, many Orthodox families willingly surrendered their sons to become Janissaries because of the social advancement and success that it promised. These Christian parents ignored the words of the Lord:

“What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?” (Mark 8:36)

Along with this slow strangulation of the Orthodox Faith, the new Muslim lords frequently resorted to violence and death to “encourage” Christians to adopt Islam and to destroy the Christian Faith. It has been estimated that the Turks were responsible for the deaths of 11 Orthodox Patriarchs, 100 bishops and thousands of priests and faithful Orthodox Christians throughout the Ottoman Empire. These “New Martyrs” can be grouped into four categories:

- *Christians who converted to Islam but eventually repented and returned to Christianity. Apostasy of Islam was a crime punishable by death under Islamic law.*
- *Muslims who converted to Christianity.*
- *Christians who denounced Mohammed or Islam*
- *Christian who refused to convert to Islam*

These New Martyrs came from all walks of life, all ages, and all professions. Some were clergy and monastics, others were lay men and women. Some were faithful Christians, others had denied Christ but returned to Him, and still others had converted to Orthodoxy from Islam and proceeded to suffer for Christ. Many of the most-beloved Orthodox Saints help comprise this glorious band of Neomartyrs (e.g. St. Kosmas Aitolos, Sts. Raphael, Nicholas and Irene, St. Ephraim of Nea Makri, St. George of Ioannina, St. Constantine of Hydra, St. Polydoros, St. Theodore the Byzantine, Sts. Euthemios, Akakios and Ignatios, St. Gregory V, Patriarch of Constantinople, St. Philothei of Athens, St. Seraphim Archbishop of Phanarion, St. Chryse the New of Meglin, St. Argyre, and many, many more).

Thousands of Orthodox Christians willingly accepted death rather than deny their Lord Jesus. They took to heart His promise:

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28)

June 21- Candle Intentions

Health

Bires, Alice - Scott & Sharon
Bires, Alice - Benjamin
Bires, Alice - Fr Will and Pani Ilena
Bires, Alice - Helen, David, and Joseph
Bires, Alice -Wally
Bires, Alice - Azaria, God's Blessings
Bires, Alice - Marti Baran
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 - Bob Carlisle
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Kevin Henry
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - George Paul Stagon,
Belated Birthday
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims
Kocan, Nicki - Family
Perevuznik, Bob Jr.- Mom
Perevuznik, Bob Jr.- Emily, Rebecca, Tanner,
Tyler
Perevuznik, Bob Jr.- Kelly, Lauren, Michael
Perevuznik, Bob Jr.- Perevuznik, Skidmore,
Durmis & Proch families
Perevuznik, Bob Jr.- John E Stagon
Perevuznik, Bob Jr.- Marti Baran
Perevuznik, Bob Jr.- All My Godchildren
Perevuznik, Bob Jr.- All Covid-19 Victims
Perevuznik, Bob Jr.- All Fathers on Father's Day
Sabeh, Nancy - George on Father's Day
Sabeh, Nancy - Ron on Father's Day
Sabeh, Nancy - Justin and Amanda 10th Anniv.
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 Stagon Jr.
Stagon, John Jr. - John E Stagon
Stagon, John Jr. - David M. Stagon
Stagon, John Jr. - David M. Stagon II
Stagon, John Jr. - George P Stagon
Stagon, John Jr. - John & Jessica
Sterchak, Cindy & Dave - Dad Mike
Weiland, Ann - Family
Yeagers, Ashley - Family

Special Intentions

Alice Bires

Memory

Babich, Sandy - Ron Babich
Bires, Alice - Parents
Bires, Alice- Brother-in-law
Bires, Alice- Helen
Bires, Alice-Margie
Bires, Alice - Grandfathers
Dekiever, Darlene - Dad, Nicholas Kocan
Dekiever, Darlene - Brother Andrew Kocan
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 - Eleanor Dussling
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Darlene Makazene
Kudravy, Beth - Father George Stagon
Kudravy, Beth - Grandfather
Perevuznik, Bob Jr - Dad
Perevuznik, Bob Jr - Grandfathers
Perevuznik, Bob Jr - Godfather Dennis Durmis
Perevuznik, Cathy - Bob
Perevuznik, Rebecca - Michelle Clayton
Sabeh, Nancy -Fr. Michael on Father's Day
Sabeh, Nancy - Departed Fathers
Sabeh, Nancy - Departed Grandfathers
Stagon, George & Barbara -Dad George Stagon
Stagon, George & Barbara- Grandfathers John &
George
Stagon, George & Barbara - Godfather Edward
Stagon, John Jr. - Dad, John Stagon, Sr.
Stagon, John Jr. - Brother Edward Stagon
Stagon, John Jr. - Brother George Stagon
Stagon, John Jr. - Grandfather Stephen Stagon
Stagon, John Jr. - Godfather Peter Perevuznik
Stagon, John Jr. - George Kuzma
Stagon, John Jr. - Godfather George Sentipal
Stakel, Peggy - Parents Nick & Betty Babich
Sterchak, Cindy & Dave - Father, Duke
Sterchak, Michael - Father George
Weiland, Ann - Louise & Harry
Weiland, Ann - Tom, Husband
Weiland, Ann - Fathers John and In-Law Harry

Worship Groups During Pandemic Under GREEN Stage

GROUP 1

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
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 Pervuznik
Bob Pervuznik, Jr.
Dolores Popovich and Ann Weiland
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, 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 6.5.20

July 5 - Group 2
July 12 - Group 1
July 19 - Group 2
July 26 - Group 1

St. Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain, the author of the New Martyrologion (the primary Greek anthology of the lives of Orthodox New Martyrs who suffered for Christ under the Turkish yoke), composed a service in praise of all Neomartyrs to be commemorated on the Third Sunday following Pentecost. The following is quote from a sermon of St. Nikodemos in praise of the Neomartyrs

“How can one not feel the need to thank God, seeing that under their heavy yoke and slavery were kept so many champions? To preserve the freedom and the people of our Christian faith, they refused riches, glory, pleasures and every bodily repose, and delivered themselves first of all to death. How is it not worthy to glorify God, seeing the fear of the coming judgment compel so many brave Martyrs? The desire for the good things of heaven to conquer them? The faith to strengthen their souls so greatly? Hope to captivate their minds? And the fire of divine love to be lit within their hearts so greatly? How did these blessed ones run towards martyrdom, as sheep to the slaughter? And how they counted their tortures as a phantasy, and their prisons as palaces, and their bonds as golden adornments, and their indignities as precious, their turmoils as rest, the flame of fire as dew and repose, swords as toys, and ultimately, the most difficult death through life eternal...”
