

*St. John the Baptist Orthodox Chu*



*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

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Subdeacon Gary Grysiak, Cantor; Reader Justin Rosco, Choir Director;

Robert Pervuznik, Jr., Parish Council President



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

31 Sunday -Group B	1 Monday	2 Tuesday	3 Wednesday	4 Thursday	5 Friday	6 Saturday
1st Ec. Council Fathers 9:00 Divine Liturgy			7pm CCE Class on the Divine Liturgy			9am June Memorial Liturgy 5pm Great 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, May 24, 2020 - Attendance 20 - Weekly Offering, \$1675 - Building Fund, \$160 - Needy Envelopes, \$50 - Vigil Candles, \$192 - Vigils paid in advance, (\$18) - Total \$1942**

**TODAY-** we continue 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. **THESE HAVE CHANGED STARTING NEXT SUNDAY.** Again, 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.

**STARTING NEXT SUNDAY-** Worship Groups C and D will be combined and on June 14, Groups A and B will be combined. This change reflects our county moving the GREEN PHASE. All other existing safety protocols will be in force.

**THIS WEDNESDAY-** we resume our CCE will resume on Wednesday as we continue the video presentations of Sister Vassa Larin on the Divine Liturgy. 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.

*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	Acts 21:8-14	John 14:27-15:7	Entrance of St. Nino to Georgia
Tuesday	Acts 21:26-32	John 16:2-13	Uncovering of the relics of St Alexis of Moscow
Wednesday	Acts 23:1-11	John 16:15-23	Sts Constantine and Helen
Thursday	Acts 25:13-19	John 16:23-33	Martyr Sophia the Healer
Friday	Acts 27:1-44	John 17: 18-26	Ven. Euphrosyne, Princess of Polotsk
Saturday	Acts 28:1-31	John 21:15-25	St Xenia of Petersburg, fool-for-Christ
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Acts 2:1-11</b>	<b>John 7:37-52;8-12</b>	<b>Feast of Pentecost – Trinity Sunday</b>

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** –Thomas Planiczki, Josephine Sofelkanik, Michael Sterchak, John Edward Stagon, Kathryn Rogulin, Cathy Perevuznik, 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 Memorial – Newly departed:** Archpriest Paul Lazor, Protospresbyter George Hutnyan, Pani Patsy Joseph, Vera Geeza Hellman, Archimandrite Elias (Bitar), John Lee – Nina Zaitsoff, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Repose (Mother of Mat. Val Hatrak)

**Perpetual:** Protospresbyter Michael Rosco, Victor Sofelkanik, Sr, Michael Elaschat, 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.

**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!

**PLEASE**-continue to observe all of the necessary health and safety guidelines that are enforce 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.

#### **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.**
- 6. There will be no coffee hour until further notice.**

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.



## **The Sunday After Ascension**

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

During the Last Supper our Lord Jesus Christ told His disciples that separation was near, that He was to ascend to His God and to His Father as He would repeat again to the women who came to the grave. And when their hearts were filled with sorrow at the thought that they will not see Him again, He said, “Your hearts are full with sorrow and yet, you should rejoice for Me that I am returning to My Father. But I will not,” he added, “leave you orphan, I will send you the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, whom I will send to you and who will teach you all things.” And so do we here now while we are still in the light of the Ascension.

St. Paul grieved about the necessity of living in the world and in the flesh. He said, “To me life is Christ and death would be a gain, a blessing, because as long as we are in the flesh, we are separated from Christ.” And yet, this separation is not total, we are not separated irremediably, we are not separated desperately from Christ if we only long for Him, if we only love Him, if as St. Paul longed to die to be inseparably forever with Him because according to the promise the Holy Spirit has come on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit whom we call the Comforter by word, which in ancient languages has a much wider meaning. It means the one who consoles, the one who gives strength, the one who brings joy. His presence indeed can console us from our separation from Christ because the Holy Spirit if we only live according to the Gospel, if we become not only in word or in imagination but in all truth, in action and in thought, in our heart and in our being disciples of Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. We become His temples and He speaks to us either in unutterable groaning or with that wonderful clarity that allows us to call ‘Father’ the God of Heaven because in Christ and by the power of the Spirit we have become the children of the Living God.

So the separation from Christ is a separation in space, it is the loss of that moving, wonderful contact of humanity as we know it on earth but it is the beginning of a new discovery of Christ, the Christ not only risen but ascended, the Christ who according to today’s Gospel is resplendent with the glory, the shining that belonged to Him before all ages, the shining, the resplendence, the splendour of Divinity. And it is this Christ whom we meet in prayer, whom we discover through and in the Holy Sacraments, to whom we can get united only by a faithfulness in life, it is this Christ of whom Paul speaks when he says, “We no longer know Christ according to the flesh”, we do not touch Him as Thomas did, we do not hear and see Him as Apostles and the women, and all crowds of people did, but we know the Christ of the Spirit, the risen and ascended Christ, who is everywhere where two or three are gathered together, who is everywhere when a lonely soul cries for Him, when a life is being dedicated to Him.

And so we are confronted with this mystery of a separation, which is a victory, a separation, which leads us to a new knowledge, to a new discovery of Christ. His Divinity is no longer veiled for us by His human presence, He is revealed to us as God resplendent not only in His Godhead but also in His humanity. And so it happens also all the time when people meet on a human level and then discover one another in the Holy Spirit, a discovery that makes humanity resplendent with eternity.

Let us rejoice in the Ascension but also let us remember that in a week’s time we will stand here remembering the day of Pentecost, not only remember it as an event of the past but bringing it back by presenting ourselves to the descent of the Holy Spirit as the Apostles offered themselves to Him in the Upper Room nearly 2,000 years ago. But to do this we must be disciples of Christ, we must be His own, we must be faithful to the word of His preaching, we must follow the example which He gave us, we must truly be in the world in which we live an incarnate presence of Christ and the temple of Spirit, a vanguard of the Kingdom.

Let us devote the coming week to preparing ourselves by searching our lives, by rejecting at least in intention and determination all that is unworthy of our calling. Let us prepare ourselves to come open, empty to be filled with the Spirit, so that we truly may be also in an ever-increasing way become the temples of His presence. Amen.

*(Met. Anthony of Sourozh 22 May 1988)*

## May 23 Candle Intentions

### Health

Bires, Alice - Benjamin  
Bires, Alice - Fr Will & Pani Ileana  
Bires, Alice - Scott & Sharon  
Bires, Alice - Safe trip Wally and Karen  
Bires, Alice - Happy Anniversary Dustin & Caitlin  
Bires, Alice - Happy Birthday Michelle  
Bires, Alice - Bob Carlisle  
Bires, Alice - Bonnie & Ron Raible  
Bires, Alice - Helen, David, & Joseph  
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  
Harms, Denny & Adrienne - Cp. Zackery Schwenning  
USMC (Grandson)  
Harms, Denny & Adrienne - Cameron & Noah 2020  
Graduates (Grandsons)  
Harms, Denny & Adrienne - Nolan (Greatgrandson)  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Benjamin  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Luke & Alexis - Many Years!  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Irene & Basil  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Janet  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Deborah  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Burkett Family -Happy 50th  
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 - Justin 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 Cathy - Children and Grandchildren  
Perkins Wally & Karen - Safe travel  
Sabeh, Nancy - Mia Gupton  
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, George & Barbara - Niece Charolette newborn  
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 - Sister Mary Bezuska  
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Baba & Dzeo Graber

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 - All Armed Forces members  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims  
Perevuznik, Cathy - Husband Bob  
Stagon, George & Barbara - Mom and Dad  
Stagon, John Jr. - Wife Anna  
Stagon, John Jr. - Father, Mother, Brothers  
Stakel, Peggy - Parents Nick & Betty Babich

## Worship Groups During Pandemic Under GREEN Stage -starting June 14

### 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 Perevuznik  
Bob Perevuznik, 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

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**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 5.30.20

June 14 - Group 2

June 21 - Group 1

June 28 - Group 2

July 5 - Group 1

July 12 - Group 2

July 19 - Group 1

July 26 - Group 2