

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>

5 Sunday -Group 2	6 Monday	7 Tuesday	8 Wednesday	9 Thursday	10 Friday	11 Saturday
4 th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 Divine Liturgy	6pm Great Vespers/Litiya	Nativity of St John the Baptist 9am Divine Liturgy	NO CCE CLASS			10am Walker Baptism (livestreamed) 5pm Great Vespers/Confessions

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!

<p>Sunday, June 28, 2020 - Attendance 21 - Weekly Offering, \$1020 - Building Fund, \$118 - Needy Fund, \$50 - Easter \$50 - Vigil Candles, \$159 - (Adv. Vigil payment, \$18) - Total \$1484</p>
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CONGRATULATIONS- and Many Years to Irene and Basil Dixon and being united in the Sacrament of Marriage yesterday, here at St. John's. May God bless you both.

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.

THIS MONDAY AND TUESDAY-we will celebrate our parish feastday, the Nativity of St John the Baptist with Great Vespers with Litiya at 6pm Monday and Divine Liturgy on Tuesday at 9am.

FATHER JOSEPH-and Kathy will be visiting family in Hershey after Liturgy on Tuesday and returning on Thursday. Father can be reached by phone. Also no CCE on Wednesday.

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. As you may recall, at our last Annual Meeting, we set aside a tithe (\$10,000) of the legacy gift of Mary Alice Cole to our parish. The parish council meeting last Tuesday set aside \$3,000 of the recent legacy gift of Don Pollock for the Icon Project. Thus, we have only to raise \$7,000 to complete the fundraising for this long-awaited beautification of St. John's. If you would like to contribute, please talk to Fr. Joseph. Our Iconographer, Michael Kapeluck will begin work on the project in mid-August.

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. The exact list of needs will be sent to Father Joseph this coming week, so be on the alert and ready to offer your paper product donations. More information is forthcoming. Other deaneries in our diocese are doing similar projects.

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

Monday	Romans 12:4-5,15-21	Matthew 12:9-13	Martyr Agrippina of Rome
Tuesday	Romans 13:11-14-14:4	Luke:1-15,57-68,76,80	Nativity of St John the Baptist
Wednesday	Romans 15:7-16	Matthew 12:38-45	Virgin-martyr Febronia of Nisibis
Thursday	Romans 15:17-29	Matthew 12:46-13:3	Ven. David of Thessalonica
Friday	Romans 16:1-16	Matthew 13:4-9	Venerable Sampson the Hospitable
Saturday	Romans 8:14-21	Matthew 9:9-13	Sts Sergius & Herman of Valaam
Sunday	Romans 10:1-10	Matthew 8:28-9:1	5 th Sunday of Pentecost
	2 Cor 11:21-12:9	Matthew 16:13-19	Sts Peter and Paul

THIS SATURDAY-we will Baptize Malachi Walker into Christ. Due to the corona virus pandemic, participation will be limited to family, but the service will be livestreamed.

WITH THE INCREASE-in COVID cases in Allegheny County, we will be watching how this will impact our size of gatherings after this weekend. It looks like we may be pushed back to a maximum crowd size of 25. If we have to go back to 4 worship groups, I will notify you all this week but have listed our 4 Worship Groups in today's bulletin for your convenience.

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, 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.

July Birthdays - Emily Perevuznik 7/1 Sean Nelis 7/3 Pani Stacey Carlisle Mihaly 7/5 Janet Grysiak 7/15 Paula Locante 7/15 Marylyn Chuprinko 7/17 Kalina Walker

Anniversaries – Basil & Irene Dixon 7/4, Richard & Tu Sofelkanik 7/11 George & Barbara Stagon 7/23

AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY-which I missed, to Mark Volk. Many Years!

Newly Departed – Gordon Danielson, Jr. Infant Novak, Matushka Nadine Eskoff-Brown

Perpetual -Harry Gezzer, George Makara, Anna Stagon, Elizabeth Sentipal, Betty Danielson, George Sentipal , Peter Babich , Margaret Suvak , John & Helen Petrovay

Protodeacon Gregory Hatrak, Mildred Lisak, John Regrut, John DiBattista, Joseph Sentipal, John Galanis, Frank Slaby, John Chernega, Anna Kupchak, Martha Durick, Hazel Hersak, Sophie Homoney, Mary Kranik, Anna Motto, John Popovich, Anna Sofelkanik, Mary Cvetnich, Paul Weidenhof, George Chernega, Andrew Kocan, Mary Mamrosa, Mildred Karman, Ronald Babich, Daria Petrykowski, Gertrude Kuzemka, Gloria, Kuzemka

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.**

A Simple Truth (taken from Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation)

During World War II, Jesuit priest Walter Ciszek (1904–1984) was accused of being a “Vatican spy.” After spending five years in a Moscow prison, he was sentenced to fifteen years of hard labor in Siberian prison camps. He is an example of someone whose life has been pared down to the “one thing necessary.”

Through the long years of isolation and suffering, God had led me to an understanding of life and [God's] love that only those who have experienced it can fathom. God had stripped away from me many of the external consolations, physical and religious, that people rely on and had left me with a core of seemingly simple truths to guide me. And yet what a profound difference

they had made in my life, what strength they gave me, what courage to go on! I wanted to tell others about them. . . .

The simple soul who each day makes a morning offering of “all the prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day”—and who then acts upon it by accepting unquestioningly and responding lovingly to all the situations of the day as truly sent by God [*I prefer to say “allowed” although it helps many people to see all situations as “sent by God.” And who really knows?*]—has perceived with an almost childlike faith the profound truth about the will of God. . . . God’s will for us is clearly revealed in every situation of every day, if only we could learn to view all things as God sees them. . . .

The challenge lies in learning to accept this truth and act upon it, every moment of every day. The trouble is that like all great truths, it seems too simple. It is there before our noses all the time, while we look elsewhere for more subtle answers. It bears the hallmark of all divine truths, simplicity, and yet it is precisely because it seems so simple that we are prone to overlook it or ignore it in our daily lives. . . .

The fullest freedom I had ever known, the greatest sense of security, came from abandoning my will to do only the will of God. . . .

For what can ultimately trouble the soul that accepts every moment of every day as a gift from the hands of God and strives always to do God’s will? “If God is for us, who can stand against us?” [Romans 8:31]. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from God. . . . Is this too simple, or are we just afraid really to believe it, to accept it fully and in every detail of our lives, to yield ourselves up to it in total commitment? This is the ultimate question of faith, and each one of us must answer it for ourselves in the quiet of our heart and the depths of our soul. But to answer it in the affirmative is to know a peace, to discover a meaning to life, that surpasses all understanding.



Saint Sampson (Σαμψών) was born in Rome, the son of wealthy, but devout and virtuous parents. He received an excellent education, studying philosophy and medicine, among other subjects. From his earliest childhood, he lived an exemplary Christian life. After the death of his parents he transformed the family estate into a clinic for the sick. Word of his healing skills spread, and so many people came to him that he had to hire a staff to care for the increasing numbers of people who sought his help. When he had an adequate staff, he donated all of his wealth to the clinic, and was content to live in poverty (Luke 12:33-34).

Saint Sampson went to Constantinople, where he hoped to spend the rest of his life in asceticism. He found, however, that there was just as much need for his skill in Constantinople as there had been in Rome. He bought a modest home and began to treat the sick. God blessed Saint Sampson's work and gave him the grace of working miracles. He healed the sick not only by his medical skill, but also as one filled with the grace of God. News of Saint Sampson spread rapidly throughout the Queen of Cities.

His piety and love for his neighbor brought him to the attention of Patriarch Menas of Constantinople (August 25), who ordained him to the holy priesthood. When Emperor Justinian became ill, and his physicians were unable to provide any relief for him, Patriarch Menas suggested that he send for Sampson, who healed the Emperor. Justinian offered him gold and silver to show his gratitude, but the saint refused, saying that he had already given all his wealth away. Instead, he asked Justinian to build a hospice for travelers.

His Life was written by St. Symeon Metaphrastes. The historian Procopius, however, implies that Sampson lived before the sixth century, and that the hospice had existed before his own time (Buildings, I, 2, 14). When Sampson's hospice (xenon) was burnt and destroyed in 532, Justinian rebuilt it and endowed it with a generous annual income. It was intended for the destitute, and those who suffered from serious illnesses, as well as those who had lost their property or their health.

Saint Sampson reposed quietly, following a brief illness, in the year 530 at a ripe old age. He was buried in the church of Saint Mokios (Μώκιος), which was built by Saint Constantine the Great. Many miracles of healing took place at the tomb of Saint Sampson.

Even after his death, the Saint continued to watch over his hospice. Twice he appeared to a lazy worker and chastised him for his negligence. Later, the hospice became a church, and a new building for the homeless was constructed beside it. A terrible fire once raged in Constantinople but did not damage the church or the new building. Through the prayers of Saint Sampson, a heavy rain extinguished the flames.

Through the prayers of Saint Sampson, may we also find the treasure which does not fail, in Heaven.

June 28- 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 - Happy Birthday, Mark

Bires, Alice - Marti Baran

Bires, Alice - Irene & Basil. God's Blessings

Chuprinko, Marilyn - Marti

Chuprinko, Marilyn - Irene & Basil

Chuprinko, Marilyn - Luke & Alexis

Chuprinko, Marilyn - Shelby

Chuprinko, Marilyn - Paul & Family

Chuprinko, Marilyn - Rebecca & Matthew

Chuprinko, Marilyn - Neil & Family

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

Gary - George Paul Stagon, Belated Birthday

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims

Sabeh, Nancy - Safe Trip Kitsko Family

Sabeh, Nancy - Basil & Irene, God's Blessings

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. - 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

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Eleanor Dussling

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Darlene Makazene

Stagon, George & Barbara - Mom and

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 Pervuznik

Stagon, John Jr. - George Kuzma

Stagon, John Jr. - Godfather George Sentipal

Stakel, Peggy - Parents Nick & Betty Babich

Worship Groups During Pandemic Under Yellow Order 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) Gloria Barclay, Gina Marie Gaspard

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 Pervuznik Bob
Pervuznik, Jr. Dolores Popovich and Ann
Weiland Evonne Vojnovich and Thomas
Cunningham, Sizemore Family

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 Ashley Yeagers and children

**Worship Groups During Pandemic Under
GREEN Stage**

GROUP 1

Marianne Allen and Bill Welch
Rebecca Barclay
Gloria 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
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 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 7.5.20

July 12 - Group 1 Or Group A*
July 19 - Group 2 or Group B*
July 26 - Group 1 or Group C*
August 2 - Group 1 or Group D*
*TBD based on Covid cases