



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

8 Sunday	9 Mon	10 Tuesday	11 Wed	12 Thurs	13 Friday	14 Saturday
8:30 Ch School 9:00 Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 4pm Orthodox Vespers- Holy Trinity GOC.		9am Pirohi Making and Nut Grinding	6pm Confession 7pm Presanctified Liturgy Fellowship Meal Follows		9am Presanctified Liturgy CCE Follows	5:00 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!

Sunday, March 1, 2020 - Attendance 60 - Weekly Offering, \$1503 - Building Fund, \$150 - Membership Dues, \$123 - Needy Fund, \$40 - Lenten Food Sales, \$848 - Return of Lenten Food Advance, \$48 - Vigil Candles - \$243- Mission Vespers Food Advance. (\$40) - Total \$2754

TODAY- at 4pm the Pittsburgh area Orthodox parishes will gather at Holy Trinity GOC for the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers.

TUESDAY- at 9am we will be making Pirohi and grinding nuts for our upcoming Lenten and Easter sales. Can you spare a couple of hours to help?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS- for the ACROD Young Adult Retreat, March 13-15 at Camp Nazareth. Registration and more information can be found <https://www.acrod.org/%20https://tinyurl.com/spring2020youngadults>

AS WE DID- last year, we will be collecting food as a parish Lenten effort to benefit this year the Rankin Food Shelter. Please bring non-perishable foods and sundry items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc. We will set aside a table in the hall for your donations. If you have any questions, please see Irene Grysiak.

WE HAVE STARTED A NEW- CCE class taught by Dr. Robert Hoskens. The course is on Friday mornings after Presanctified Liturgy The entire course is also online and can be found at: www.agape-restoration-society.org/athanasius

We are studying "The Incarnation" using the very important text of St. Athanasius of Alexandria who stood up against Arius who preached the heresy that Christ was a created being and not the Immortal Son of God. The next class is Friday, March 6 after the Presanctified Liturgy.

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	Isaiah 4:2-5-7	Genesis 3:21-4:7	Proverbs 3:34-4:2	St Ethelbert of Kent
Tuesday	Isaiah 5:7-16	Genesis 4:8-15	Proverbs 5:1-15	St Porphyrius of Gaza
Wednesday	Isaiah 5:16-25	Genesis 4:16-26	Proverbs 5:15-6:4	Venerable Procopius of Decapolis
Thursday	Isaiah 6:1-12	Genesis 5:1-24	Proverbs 6:3-20	Hieromartyr Nestor of Magydos
Friday	Isaiah 7:1-15	Genesis 5:32-6:8	Proverbs 6:20-7:1	Venerable John Cassian
Saturday	Hebrews 3:12-16		Mark 1:35-44	St Eudocia of Heliopolis
Sunday	Hebrews 1:10-2:3		Mark 2:1-12	St Gregory of Palamas

PLANNING AHEAD

Sunday, March 8

Vespers and Confessions Every Saturday at 5pm

9am First Sunday of Lent
4pm Orthodoxy Vespers – Holy Trinity GOC

985 Providence Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA.

March 13-15

ACROD Youth Retreat- Camp Nazareth

Sunday March 15

3pm Mission Vespers-Ambridge

Sunday, March 22

3pm Mission Vespers-East Pittsburgh

Saturday, March 28

9am Lenten Retreat-Homestead

Sunday, March 29

9am Mission Vespers-Northside

Sunday, April 5

3pm Mission Vespers-Rankin

AFTER THE PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY- this coming Wednesday, we will have a communal Lenten meal of soup and bread. If we have volunteers to make their favorite Lenten soup, we will continue this Lenten meal after each Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgy. A sign-up sheet is at the council table.

MANY THANKS- to Gary Grysiak and Bob Carlisle installing our new BIG HD TV. We will be using it for church school and CCE classes and to share upcoming events.

PLEASE KEEP- Paul Haurilesko in your prayers. He was at home under hospice care. He is drawing closer to the Lord's Kingdom. John Edward Stagon has been transferred to Concordia Healthcare in Monroeville for physical therapy. Marti Baran is still at LGAR in Turtle Creek and Wally Perkins is improving after a heart procedure. Cards and phone calls are always welcome. If you need any contact information, please contact Fr. Joseph.

Sundays of Great Lent

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



We are keeping today, as every year at the end of the first week of Lent, the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. And every year we must give thought to what is meant, not only as a historical event, but also in our personal lives. First of all we must remember that the Triumph of Orthodoxy is not the Triumph of the Orthodox over other people. It is the Triumph of the Truth Divine in the hearts of those who belong to the Orthodox Church and who proclaim the Truth revealed by God in its integrity and directness.

Today we must thank God with all our hearts that He has revealed Himself to us, that He has dispelled darkness in the minds and hearts of thousands and thousands of people, that He who is the Truth has shared the knowledge of the perfect Truth Divine with us.

The occasion of this feast was the recognition of the legitimacy of venerating icons. By doing this we proclaim that God - invisible, ineffable, the God whom we cannot comprehend, has truly become man, that God has taken flesh, that He has lived in our midst full of humility, of simplicity, but of glory also. And proclaiming this we venerate the icons not as idols, but as a declaration of the Truth of the Incarnation.

By doing this we must not forget that it is not the icons of wood and of paint, but God who reveals Himself in the world. Each of us, all men, were created in the image of God. We are all living icons, and this lays upon us a great responsibility because an icon may be defaced, an icon may be turned into a caricature and into a blasphemy. And we must think of ourselves and ask ourselves: are we worthy, are we capable of being called "icons", images of God? A western writer has said that meeting a Christian, those who surround him should see him as a vision, a revelation of something they have never perceived before, that the difference between a non-Christian and a Christian is as great, as radical, as striking, as the difference there is between a statue and a living person. A statue may be beautiful, but it is made of stone or of wood, and it is dead. A human being may not at first appear as possessed of such a beauty, but those who meet him should be able, as those who venerate an icon - blessed, consecrated by the Church - should see in him the shining of the presence of the Holy Spirit, see God revealing Himself in the humble form of a human being.

As long as we are not capable of being such a vision to those who surround us, we fail in our duty, we do not proclaim the Triumph of Orthodoxy through our life, we give a lie to what we proclaim. And therefore each of us, and all of us collectively, bear every responsibility for the fact that the world meeting Christians by the million is not converted by the vision of God's presence in their midst, carried indeed in earthen vessels, but glorious, saintly, transfiguring the world.

What is true about us, simply, personally, is as true about our churches. Our churches were called by Christ as a family, a community of Christians to be a body of people who are united with one another by total love, by sacrificial love, a love that is God's love to us. The Church was called, and is still called, to be a body of people whose characteristic is to be the incarnate love of God. Alas, in all our churches what we see is not the miracle of love divine.

From the very beginning, alas, the Church was built according to the images of the State - hierarchical, strict, formal. In this we have failed - to be truly what the early, first community of Christians were. Tertullian writing in defence of the Christians said to the Emperor of Rome: "When people meet us they are arrested and say: 'How these people love one another!'" We are not collectively a body of people about whom one could say this. And we must learn to recreate what God has willed for us, what has once existed: to recreate communities, churches, parishes, dioceses, patriarchates, the whole church, in such a way that the whole of life, the reality of life should be that of love. Alas, we have not learned this yet.

And so, when we keep the feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy we must remember that God has conquered, that we are proclaiming the truth, God's own Truth, Himself incarnate and revealed, and there is a great responsibility for all of us collectively and singly in this world, that we must not give the lie to what we proclaim by the way in which we live. A western theologian has said that we may proclaim the whole truth of Orthodoxy and at the same time deface it, give it the lie by the way in which we live, showing with our life that all these were words, but not reality. We must repent of this, we must change, we must become such that people meeting us should see God's truth, God's light, God's love in us individually and collectively. As long as we have not done this we have not taken part in the Triumph of Orthodoxy. God has triumphed, but He has put us in charge of making his triumph the triumph of life for the whole world.

Therefore, let us learn to live according to the Gospel which is the Truth and the Life, not only individually but collectively, and build societies of Christians that are a revelation of it, so that the world looking at us may say: "Let us re-shape our institutions, re-shape our relationships, renew all that has gone or remains old and become a new society in which the Law of God, the Life of God can prosper and triumph. Amen.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh - SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY 16 March 1997

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS – Adrienne Harms, 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, Paul Haruilesko, Aubrey Welch, Kalina Walker and the child to be born of her. Pani Stacey Milhaly and the child Azariah Noah, Fr. John Dixon, Fr. Jonathan Tobias, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde's brother), Michelle Clayton. Please keep Father Joseph informed on changes to anyone's health status so he can minister to them.

March Memorial – Newly Departed, Michael Fitzurka, Milos Konjevich. **Perpetual:** Metropolitan Nicholas, John Suvak, Rosella Lapato, Helen Marchak, Pauline and Michael Sabo, Darrel Weiss, Julia and Frank Kranik, Michael Sabo, George Wazso, Anna Bergel, Michael Seredich. Pauline Dyakon, Helen Bloom, John Lillicotch, Andrew Kasenchak, Anna Gaydos, John Kokojko, Anna Lopovich, Michael Stripay, George Rela, Anna Suvak, Peter Danchik, Veronica Sterchak, Mary Zwisdak, Michael Orange, Helen Kosarich, Margaret Papinchak, Anna Ressatar, Paul Kobasa, Sr., Rose Plichta, Anna Rosenbayger, George Golofsky, Mary Gezzer, Joseph Papinchak, William Varhula, Mary Uram, Gregory Papinchak, Emma Evashavik, Eugene Brancho, John Begey.

MANY YEARS ! – and Happy Birthday to Charles Vasko 3/1 Roman Kalaluhi 3/4 Anna Weiland 3/8 Sandra Babich 3/17 Cheryl Stagon 3/19 Sharon Monde 3/23 David Kalaluhi 3/24 Eileen Buck 3/25 Alexandra Maskaly 3/25 William Brancho 3/28 Happy Anniversary Tyler & Connie Kimmel 3/5