



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: 908 423-9289

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

16 Sunday	17 Mon	18 Tuesday	19 Wed	20 Thurs	21 Friday	22 Saturday
8:30 Ch School 9:00 Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour House Blessings 1pm Kocan	House Blessings 1pm Planiczki 3pm Monde	9am Pirohi Making 7pm Parish Council Mtg.	7pm CCE			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, February 9, 2020 - Attendance 60 - Weekly Offering, \$1554 - Building Fund, \$155 - Membership Dues, \$72 - Donation, \$50 - Needy Fund, \$20 - Pirohi Donation, \$25 - Vigil Candles Cases, \$255 - Total \$2,131

THIS TUESDAY-at 9am we will be pinching Pirohi and then at 7pm the February Parish Council meeting will take place. We need pinchers, please. Thanks.

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>

ANOTHER NEW DIOCESAN- program called SPF50 is being launched on February 23, just in time for Great Lent. This diocesan effort is aimed at encouraging families to pray together. For more information follow this link <https://www.acrod.org/news/2020-press/family-ministry>

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	1 John 2:18-3:10	Mark 11:1-11	Venerable Evagrius of Georgia
Tuesday	1 John 3:11-20	Mark 14:10-42	St Theodosius of Chernigov
Wednesday	1 John 3:21-4:6	Mark 14:43-15:1	St Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople
Thursday	1 John 4:20-5:21	Mark 15:1-15	St Richard of England
Friday	2 John 1:1-13	Mark 15:22-25,33-41	Prophet Zechariah
Saturday	1 Cor. 10:23-28	Luke 22:8-9,25-27,33-36	Uncovering of Relics of St Tikhon of Moscow -1992
Sunday	1 Cor 8:8-9:2	Matt 25:31-46	Meatfare -Last Judgement Sunday

PLANNING AHEAD

Sunday, February 23
Friday, February 28
Sunday, March 1

Vespers and Confessions Every Saturday at 5pm

9am Meatfare Sunday
11-4pm Lenten Food Sale
9am Cheesefare
/Forgiveness Sunday

FIRST WEEK OF LENT (March 2-7)

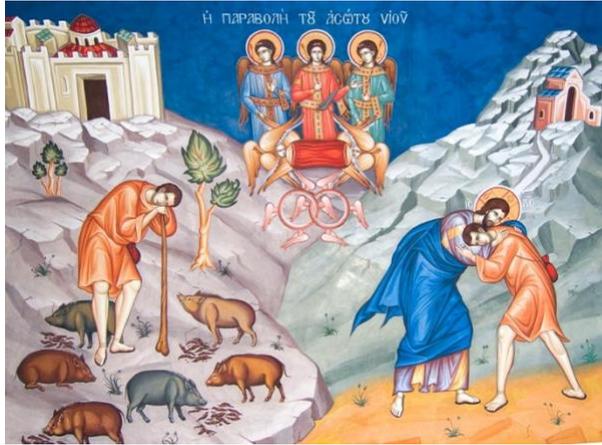
Monday-Thursday 7pm Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Friday 7pm Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday 9am Memorial Liturgy

Sunday, March 9 9am First Sunday of Lent
4pm Orthodoxy Vespers
985 Providence Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA.
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
Presanctified Liturgy Every Wednesday at 7pm and Friday at 9am starting the second week of Lent.

STARTING-this Wednesday our CCE class will be taught by Dr. Robert Hoskens as part of his course of study and project he must complete in the St. Athanasius House of Study program. The course will be on Wednesday evenings at 7pm but will switch to Friday mornings after Presanctified Liturgy after the first week of Lent. The entire course is also online and can be found at:

www.agape-restoration-society.org/athanasius

We will be 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. Now this may sound somewhat esoteric but it still has very important ramifications today because if we don't fully understand who Jesus is, or who He isn't, then our faith in Him can be fractured. Did you know that Arianism is still around today? Jehovah's Witnesses are Arians as well as some Pentecostal sects. EVERYONE is invited to participate. Also, we will continue our discussion of the Divine Liturgy on Wednesdays after Presanctified Liturgy during Lent with the Sister Vassa videos.



Preparing for Great Lent
The Sunday of the Prodigal Son
 Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh
 1984, February 19th

Time and again I have occasion to preach on the Parable of the Prodigal Son, on the story of the Publican and the Pharisee, and every time I notice how easy it is for me - not in fact, not in reality, but in imagination - to identify with the sinner who has found his way to God, with the publican who stood broken-hearted at the gate of the church, unable to walk even into the holy space of God, or with the prodigal son, who in spite of grievous sin, of incredible insensitiveness, of

cruelty, still found his way home.

And how rarely I was touched to the quick by the destiny of the Pharisee, by the destiny of the elder son - yet, God condemned neither of the two. About the publican He said: And this man went home more forgiven, more blessed than the other one. He did not say that the Pharisee went without the love of God accompanying him, that God was forgetting his faithfulness, his sense of dutiful obedience.

And again, today, we find ourselves face-to-face with the elder son. All his life he had lived side-by-side with his father, all his life he had made his father's interests his concern - he had worked hard, faithfully, forgetful of self, without paying attention to tiredness, without claiming any reward just because he felt it was right to do so. There was something indeed lacking in him - a warmth, a tenderness, a joy in his father. But there was one thing which is so impressive in him - his faithfulness; in spite of the fact that his heart was not aglow, he remained faithful. In spite of the fact that he received no visible reward or no visible acknowledgement he remained faithful, he worked, as he says - he slaved.

How hard we are when we think of him as of one who deserves little of our sympathy; but how few of us are capable of being so faithful, so perfectly and steadily obedient to the call of duty as he was when we are not met with recognition, do not hear a word of encouragement, do not receive the slightest reward because, as the father did with regard to the elder son, those who surround us, those whom we serve, for whom we slave perhaps, those whose interest is at the very center of our life, take it for granted. Isn't it natural? Isn't he my son? Isn't he my father? Isn't he my brother? Isn't he my spouse? Isn't he my friend? Doesn't all this imply total, unlimited devotion which is its own reward?

How cruel we are so often to the people who surround us and who are put by us in the position of the elder son - never recognized and always expected to do the right thing unflinchingly and perfectly. Indeed, the prodigal son had warmth, the prodigal son had come back broken-hearted, he was ready to become new, while the other one could only go on, plod on with his stem faithfulness; unless - unless, confronted with the father's compassion, unless he understood what it meant that his younger brother had been truly dead and had come to life, had been truly lost and was found.

Let us think of ourselves. We all of us have someone around us whom we treat with the same coldness with which we think of the elder brother; but also all of us have someone whom we treat as

contemptuously and harshly as the elder brother treated his younger brother whom he had written him off, who was no brother to him; he had been unfaithful to their father, he was unforgivable. And yet, here was the father, the victim of the son's rejection, light-mindedness, cruelty, who forgave wholeheartedly and tenderly.

Let us find our own place in this tragic and beautiful parable because then we may find our way, either out of being the elder son, though perhaps so much less dutiful, so much less honest, so much less devoted to the interests of our father, our friends, our relatives; or else perhaps, can we find in our heart a creative sympathy for the younger son and learn from him first that there is never a situation out of which an honest repentance, a turn-about, cannot bring us and that there is one at least - God - and probably one person, or many, who are ready to receive us, redeem us, restore us and allow us to begin a new life together - father, younger and elder brother. Amen.

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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, Paul Haruilesko, Fr. John Dixon, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde's brother). Please keep Father Joseph informed on changes to anyone's health status so he can minister to them.

February Memorial – Newly Departed, Robert Pervuznik, Sr., Michael Fitzurka, Stelian Popescu, Milos Konjevich. **Perpetual**: Michael Babich, Steve Babich, John Babich Sr, Eleanor Seminick, Dennis Durmis, Serge Rosco, Andrew Hospodor, Louise Nickels, Charles and Mary Rose Schnarrs, John and Julia Majewski, Mary Fedoris, Anastasia Kalita, Linda Edwards. Andrew Kondrich, John Popovich, Julia Zeleznik, Mary Chabala, Anna Matronic, Michael Suvak, Mary Kosak, John Malinich, Michael Bock, Michael Sterchak, Mary Melton, Mary Zura, Kata Cvetnich, Wilburt Weidenhof, William Rosenbayger, Joseph Durick, Mary Sapida, Helen Petrovay, George Yakubik, Nicholas Rosenbayger, Anna Dugan, Susan Gegas, Mary Cvetnich, Lewis Volk, Katherine Sabo, Rose Michalov, Joseph Fester.

MANY YEARS ! - Eric Brancho 2/13 Denise Kocan 2/20 Rebecca Barclay 2/23 Philip Novak 2/24

Each day the Savior speaks to us and instructs us with His own voice. Let us listen to what the Scriptures teach us about the Prodigal who became repentant; in faith let us imitate his praiseworthy conversion. In the humility of our hearts, let us say to our God who sees all our secrets: O Father of mercy, we have sinned against You; we are no longer worthy to be called your children. But because of your great love for all Humanity, receive me, repentant, and make me as one of your hired servants.
(Ikos from Matins of Prodigal Son)

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2020

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 9th	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 16th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 23rd FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 1st FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 8th	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 15th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 22nd	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 29th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 5th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 12th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 17th	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</i> GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 19th NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!