



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

23 Sunday	24 Mon	25 Tuesday	26 Wed	27 Thurs	28 Friday	29 Saturday
8:30 Ch School 9:00 Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour			7pm CCE		11-4 Lenten Food Sale	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 16, 2020 – Attendance 51 – Weekly Offering, \$1624 – Building Fund, \$100 – Iconography Donation, \$100 – Needy Fund, \$50 – Vigil Candles – \$231- Total \$2,131

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 TODAY, 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> Please see the handouts for this important family ministry at the council table.

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.

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	3 John 1:-14	Luke 19:29-40;22:7-39	Hieromartyr Blase of Sebaste
Tuesday	Jude 1:1-10	Luke 22:39-42;45-23:1	St Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow
Wednesday	Joel 2:12-26	Joel 3:12-21	Venerable Symeon the Myrrh-gusher of Serbia
Thursday	Jude 1:11-25	Luke 23:1-34,44-56	St Cyril, Equal to the Apostles, Teacher of the Slavs
Friday	Zechariah 8:7-17	Zechariah 8:19-23	Apostle Onesimus of the Seventy
Saturday	Romans 14:19-23,16:25-27	Matthew 6:1-13	New Hieromartyr Paul, priest (1938)
Sunday	Romans 13:11-14:4	Matthew 6:14-21	Cheese-fare/Forgiveness Sunday

PLANNING AHEAD

Vespers and Confessions Every Saturday at 5pm
 Friday, February 28 11-4pm Lenten Food Sale
 Sunday, March 1 9am Cheesefare /Forgiveness Sunday

FIRST WEEK OF LENT (March 2-7)

Monday-Wed. 7pm Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
 Thursday 5pm Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
 Friday 7pm Presanctified Liturgy
 Saturday 9am Memorial Liturgy
 Presanctified Liturgy Every Wednesday at 7pm and Friday at 9am starting the second week of Lent.

Sunday, March 8 9am First Sunday of Lent
 4pm Orthodoxy Vespers
 985 Providence Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA.
 March 13-15 ACROD Youth Retreat- Camp Naz.
 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

WE HAVE STARTED A NEW- CCE class taught by Dr. Robert Hoskens. The course is 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 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. 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.

NEXT SUNDAY-will be the 40th Day of repose for Mr. Bob Pervuznik, Sr. It is also Forgiveness Sunday, so we will sing Forgiveness Vespers and then our Monthly Pot-luck Fellowship Hour. NO meat dishes but daily will be ok!



Preparing for Great Lent
SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT
13th February 1972 - Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

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

Today, on our preparation journey towards Lent, we have come to an ultimate stage: we are confronted with judgement. If we pay attention to it, next week our spiritual destiny will be in our own hands, because next week is the day of Forgiveness.

The link between these two days is too obvious. If we only could become aware that all and each of us stand before the judgement of God and the judgement of men, if we could remember and realise with depth, wholeheartedly, in earnest that we are, all of us, indebted to each other, all responsible to each other for some of the pain and the heaviness of life, then we would find it easy, when we are asked to forgive, not only to forgive, but, in response to this request, to ask for forgiveness ourselves.

It is not only by what we do, not only in a way by what we leave undone, it is by this extraordinary lack of awareness, of our responsibility, of all we could be to others, and to do to others, that we do not fulfil our human vocation. We could, and we should, on all levels and for all men, and beyond men for the whole world which is ours, be a blessing and a revelation of things great, of things so great, so deep that people, we first of all, could realise that we are on the scale of God Himself, that our vocation is not only to be morally good, but to be as great as God. A mystic of Germany said in one of his poems 'I am as great as God, God is as small as I.'

If we only could remember this, and this is why the judgement is not only a moment when we are confronted with a danger of condemnation; there is in the very notion of judgement something great and inspiring. We are not going to be judged according to human standards of behaviour of decency. We are going to be judged according to standards which are beyond human ordinary life. We are going to be judged on the scale of God, and the scale of God is love: not love felt, not an emotional love, but love lived and accomplished. The fact that we are going to be judged, that indeed we are being judged all the time, above our means, beyond all our smallness must, should reveal to us our potential greatness. And the parable which we have read today can be seen in those very terms: men are judged by Christ, in His parable, on humanity. Have these men been human or not? Have they known how to love in their hearts first, but also in action, in their very deeds because, as Saint John puts it, one who says that he loves God and does not love his neighbour actively, creatively is a liar. There is no love of God if it is not expressed in every detail of our relationship with men, with people and with each person.

And so, let us this week prepare ourselves for the final stage of our journey by asking ourselves in the face of this divine judgement, 'Am I human? Am I human within myself, in my behaviour - not my general attitude, but my ways: are they human? Is my life an expression of a fine, a thoughtful, a perceptive, a creative, and at times a generous and a sacrificial love?' As the object of love is the test of this love, it must be my neighbour; to love God who asks for nothing is too easy.

And if in the course of this week we find where we belong, we find both our shortcomings and the greatness of our vocation; if we make our peace with those to whom we are indebted, then, when the time comes to forgive, when someone else will have made the same discovery, we will be able with joy to give peace and forgiveness out of a sense of responsibility and of the creative joy of repentance. Amen

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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, Fr. John Dixon, Fr. Jonathan Tobias, 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, , 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 Matrunic, 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 ! - Rebecca Barclay 2/23 Philip Novak 2/24

We are not a church that fasts to feel bad about life. We are not a church that fasts to simply give up things we enjoy like chocolate and toys. Fasting is a direct attempt to simplify our lives for a time of increased attention and effort in being God's Children. We run around serving the world and worldly cares while our bodies and souls THRIST for a time to be quiet, to pray, to be with God. The Church offers this time, especially during fasting seasons.

Why Fast from Meat and Dairy? If you are physically able, it helps our bodies and minds slow down so we can focus our prayers. Simple meals - so we have more time to attend services where Holy Communion is offered more. Make a plan. Stick to it. Not too easy and not too unrealistic.

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Let us present a good fast, well-pleasing to the Lord! A true fast is alienation from the evil one; The holding of one's tongue, the laying aside of all anger, the removal of all sensuality, of accusation, falsehood and sins of swearing. The weakening of these will make the fast true and well-pleasing.

First week of Lent Tuesday Matins