

# SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

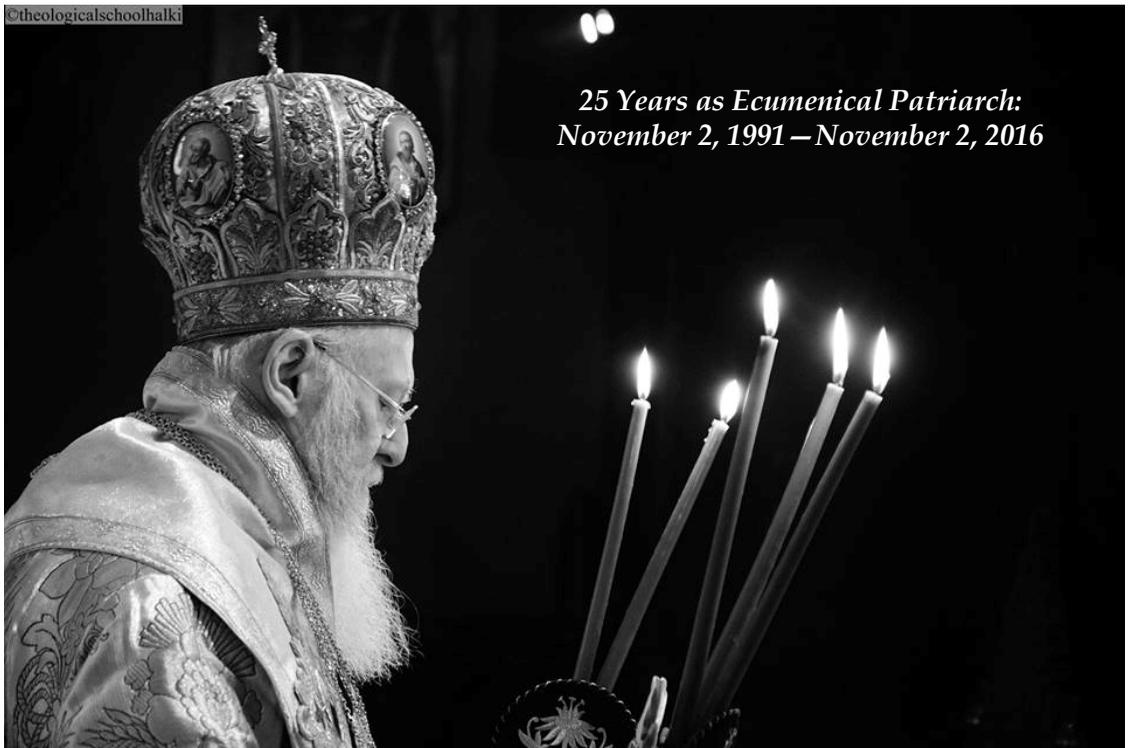
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## *Clergy:*

*Rev. Father David Mastroberte*  
*Very Rev. Protopresbyter Michael Polanichka*  
*Rev. Deacon John Anderson*

*A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese – Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*

## Bulletin for November 6-19, 2016



*25 Years as Ecumenical Patriarch:  
November 2, 1991 – November 2, 2016*

**To His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew: MANY YEARS!**

# CALENDAR OF SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>SUN</b>	<b>11/6/2016</b>	<b>20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy Honoring of Parish Veterans for Veterans Day <i>Panachida: +Martha Totin by Marlene and William Roach</i>
<b>TUES</b>	<b>11/8/2016</b>	<b>SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL THE HOLY ANGELS</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Panachida for: +John &amp; Katherine Polochak (Per.) +Joseph &amp; Margaret O'Shanic (Per.)</i>
<b>WED</b>	<b>11/9/2016</b>	<b>SAINT NEKTARIOS THE WONDER-WORKER</b>
	6:00 PM	Moleben to St. Nektarios <i>with Prayers for the Living/Sick</i>
	6:30 PM	Final Session of Religious Enrichment "Characters of the OT"
<b>SUN</b>	<b>11/13/2016</b>	<b>21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Panachida: +George &amp; +Anna Valent &amp; +Harold Bouslough (Per.)</i>
	6:00 PM	Pan-Orthodox Holy Unction at St. George (GOA) in New Castle
<b>MON</b>	<b>11/14/2016</b>	
	6:00 PM	Board Meeting
<b>WED</b>	<b>11/16/2016</b>	
	5:30 PM	Confessions
	6:00 PM	Moleben for the Nativity Fast
<b>SUN</b>	<b>11/20/2016</b>	<b>22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Panachida for: +Ann Volsko, ++Pacinda Fam. +Peter &amp; +Mary Sobota (Per.)</i> <i>No Sunday School or Coffee Hour</i>
	1:30 PM	Chinese Auction Fundraiser

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

¶ **November 9th is the holyday of St. Nektarios the Wonder-Worker**, a special intercessor for those with cancer and other terminal illnesses. To honor his day, we will celebrate a Moleben (short prayer service) at 6:00 PM on November 9th, with prayers for the living/sick. Following this service...

¶ **Our final session of the Religious Enrichment Study** "Characters of the Old Testament" will be on Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30 PM. Coffee will be provided; feel free to bring a snack to share!

¶ **2017 Offering Envelopes** are in the fellowship hall! Please pick them up and utilize them throughout the new year.

¶ **NEW BOOK "Keeping the Feast at Home"** has been prepared by the Diocesan Apostolate for Youth (DAY). A copy is on display in the hall. This is a great new resource to enrich our experience of the Church's calendar. Every home should have a copy. If you want to purchase a copy, please add your name to the sign-up sheet. We will then order a sufficient amount for those who wish to buy them and to have a few in the Showcase.

¶ **A PAN-ORTHODOX HOLY UNCTION SERVICE** will be hosted by St. George Greek Orthodox Church (315 West Englewood Avenue, New Castle) on Sunday, November 13th, 2016. The Sacrament of Holy Unction Service begins at 6:00 p.m. and there will be food and fellowship to follow. A collection basket will be passed to support Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). Fr. Michael Gavrilos extends his invitation to all of our St. John's parishioners to come and pray with other area Orthodox Christians for healing and strength before we begin the Nativity Fast.

¶ **A Junior ACRY Meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 27 following services. All youth are invited to attend and participate!

¶ **Correction to November Calendar:** Moleben for the Nativity Fast will not be celebrated on November 30th.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, December 4:  
Election of Officers Meeting  
Sunday, December 11:  
St. Nicholas Celebration

#### Stay up-to-date on happenings throughout our Diocese!

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>    Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>    Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>  
You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

Don't forget to "like" our parish on Facebook: [facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA](https://www.facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA)

## **Support our PTO Fall Pie Sale!**

Our Saint John's PTO will be selling pies through November 13th. The funds will be used to provide financial support for the parish youth attending Camp Nazareth and for the annual St. Nicholas Luncheon. Order forms will be available in the parish hall. This year, we have selected the three most popular pies for this sale: **apple-caramel, pumpkin, and cherry**. Thank you for your continued support!

**Our 2016 Chinese Auction** will take place on Sunday, November 20. Doors open at 1:30 PM and the drawing starts promptly at 3:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00 and tickets are \$3.00 per sheet or 4 for \$10.00.

As usual, we are asking our parishioners to donate **prizes** for the auction. This year, we are requesting that prizes be worth at least \$10.00. Your donations can be left on the long tables in the fellowship hall marked "Chinese Auction Donations" (to the left of the stage area). There is a notebook in the hall; please sign your name and the item you bring in.

**We need baskets!** If you have any large handled new or like-new baskets for the Chinese Auction basket raffle, please bring them in!

**If you can donate a cake or baked good**, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the Showcase in the fellowship hall.

***Thank you in advance for your donations and work!***

## **The Nativity Fast begins on November 15.**

During this time, we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ (December 25) and the festive season (the "12 Days of Christmas") that ends with the Baptism of Christ (January 6). Special services will be held to help us prayerfully prepare. Additional times are scheduled for Holy Confession, which we are to approach during this time.

Fasting goes hand-in-hand with our spiritual preparation. The traditional, fuller fast calls for abstention from meat and dairy from November 15 until December 25. At a bare minimum, we are to abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, and observe a strict fast (no meat or dairy) on December 24. (*Dispensation is given for Thanksgiving and the Friday following, as listed in the ACRY Annual.*)

Consider this: in America today, most people *pre-celebrate* Christmas, so that Christmas *ends* on December 25th. The Church wants us to take time and prepare *before* Christmas, and *then* celebrate and feast. We should, of course, be balanced in how we approach this, especially when invited by friends, neighbors and coworkers to holiday gatherings. In our personal and family observance of this pre-Christmas Fast, though, adding an extra day or two (or more!) of fasting and abstention per week can help us focus more intently on preparation, and lessen the temptation to end Christmas on December 25th. *Remember: don't ask "what is the least I have to do?" but "what is the most that I can do for Christ?"*

**The "Kardiotissa" Icon of the Mother of God from Taylor** will be visiting our church on the evening of Friday, December 16th. The tentative schedule is:

5:00 PM (approx.): Arrival of the Icon

Fr. Mark will speak about the icon and its miracles before the service.

6:00 PM: Service to the Mother of God

Veneration of the icon and anointing with myrrh (oil) will continue as long as needed.

As we will have a large number of visitors that evening, we are going to need many parishioners to assist with various tasks, like assisting with parking, being ushers, etc. Stay tuned for more information!

+ + +

## STEWARDSHIP 2016: REPORT UPDATE

Recently, contribution statements were distributed for 2016. While family/individual 2016 Financial Pledges were shown, they printed as 0% fulfilled. Please note that we are working to correct this and a subsequent printing will show how your offerings went towards your pledge. *Our apologies for any confusion!*

### Thoughts on Stewardship by Dan Hromyak

*"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word."  
- 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

There are two important lessons here. First, we are called to be generous with our encouragement and hope. As God shows us mercy, we must be merciful to others. Second, joy is contagious! The joy we receive from doing good works not only strengthens us, it encourages others as well.

*"...Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you might imitate us." - 2 Thessalonians 3:9*

Most people who live a grateful and generous lifestyle don't go around bragging about it. But through their actions and words, others do take notice. They notice because of the joy and peace that results and other people desire this in their own life. Know that the way you live your life may be the only interaction others have with the Orthodox faith.

**2017 Church Wall Calendars** have again been provided to our parish through the generosity of **TOMON FUNERAL SERVICES**. We thank our parish funeral directors Joe Tomon and Jennifer for this annual gift, and ask God to bless them for many, blessed years!

Every home should have a calendar! Please take a calendar home and let it assist you in sanctifying the whole course of the year. Follow the daily commemorations, as the Church remembers the events of our salvation—the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Our Lord—and the lives of the saints. Use the Bible readings as daily spiritual nourishment.

**DECEMBER  
PIROHI SCHEDULE  
(LAST SALE  
BEFORE LENT!)**

*Please add your name to the  
sign-up sheet in the Hall!*

Wed., Nov. 30 at 6:00 PM  
*(Hall setup; Potato prep)*

*(NOTE: No Advent Service  
on November 30th!)*

Thurs., Dec. 1 at 6:00 PM  
*(Filling prep)*

Fri., Dec. 2 at 8:00 AM  
*(Pirohi Making and Sale)*

***Remember: Get your  
orders in by Nov. 27!***

**December 2016 Pirohi Order Form**

*Order Deadline: November 27, 2016*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Potato @ 7.00/dozen \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Butter Only

\_\_\_\_\_ Butter and Onions

Total Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-Up on Friday, December 2, 2016  
12:00 Noon—2:00 PM  
*(Doors Open at Noon)*



**BIRTHDAYS**

- Nov. 9 Christine Cataloni
- 10 Gino Tofani
- 12 John Parimuha
- 13 Irene Gelety
- 15 Amelia Baranowsky
- 18 Francine Fabian  
Gail Scott
- 19 Dorothy Wilson

**MEN TO  
HOLD CANDLES**

**Sunday, November 13th**

- Nick Orras
- Alex Parimuha
- John Parimuha
- Tom Patrick
- Dan Ristvey

**Sunday, November 20th**

- Joel Ristvey
- Matt Ristvey
- Michael Ristvey
- Tom Ristvey
- Peter Roman

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**November 7th**

*Matt & Amy Ristvey*

**November 12th**

*Scott & Michaelene Obermiyer*

