SAINT JOHN’S ORTHODOX CHURCH

3180 Morefield Road • Hermitage, PA 16148
Office: 724-981-0571 • Rectory: 724-346-4457
Fax: 724-308-6615 • Website: www.stjohnacroc.org

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
**Schedule of Services for Holy Week and Pascha: April 12-19, 2020**

*Services will continue to be served without the congregation in attendance.*

*Unless otherwise noted, services will be livestreamed to our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon/live*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>4/12/2020</th>
<th>Palm Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy — Blessing of Palms and Willows</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>4/13/2020</th>
<th>Holy Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Matins “of the Bridegroom” (No Livestream)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>4/14/2020</th>
<th>Holy Tuesday</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Matins “of the Bridegroom” (No Livestream)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>4/15/2020</th>
<th>Holy Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Sacrament of Holy Unction (Prayers for Healing)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Thurs</th>
<th>4/16/2020</th>
<th>Holy Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Vesperal-Liturgy of St. Basil — Commemoration of the Last Supper</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Matins with the Twelve Passion Gospels</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>4/17/2020</th>
<th>Holy/Good Friday (Strict Fast)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Royal Hours (No Livestream)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Vespers and Placing of the Holy Shroud in the Tomb</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sat</th>
<th>4/18/2020</th>
<th>Holy Saturday (Strict Fast)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Vesperal-Liturgy of St. Basil</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Resurrection Matins</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>4/19/2020</th>
<th>Pascha — The Great Day of the Resurrection (No Fasting!!!)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
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**NOTE:** Whenever we are not livestreaming a service, you are invited to participate in the livestream from Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Johnstown at acrod.org.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Week and Pascha directives from our shepherd and father in Christ, Metropolitan Gregory, were e-mailed earlier this week. You may also read them on acrod.org. If you have yet to read them, please do so.

Palms and Willows which were blessed today on Palm Sunday will be kept at the church, and will be distributed on the first Sunday we resume holding “public” services.

Holy Oil from the Sacrament of Holy Unction which will be celebrated on Holy Wednesday will be reserved at the church and used to anoint everyone “for the healing of soul and body” once we return to the church.

If you are in need of Confession and/or Spiritual Counsel while we are under the “stay at home” order, Metropolitan Gregory has given a blessing for the priests of the Diocese to hear confessions over the phone. (The final prayer of Absolution will be offered later, in person.) Additionally, once we resume public worship at church, Fr. David will make sure that there are several periods of time blocked out for in-person Confession.

Holy Week Fasting Reminders: Holy Week, as the most solemn week on the Church’s calendar, is observed as a week of fasting. A minimum fast from meat and meat products is to be observed on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday and Holy Thursday. (If you are able, you can do more and keep a strict fast all week.) All are enjoined to strict fast from meat and dairy products on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, ending after Liturgy on Pascha/Easter Sunday. Yes, this still applies during a “stay at home” order. If you have any questions, please speak with Fr. David.

How to Find Us Online:
stjohnacroc.org
facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA
instagram.com/saintjohnhermitagepa
youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon/
Some Simple Ways to Keep Holy Week Holy While Stuck at Home This Year

This isn’t the Holy Week and Pascha we wanted. Nevertheless, even in spite of our current restrictions, we are still able to walk the Way of the Passion and Cross with Our Lord, and see His Empty Tomb.

There are a number of resources that have been prepared for your use this week. One was e-mailed to our parishioners earlier and is available on acrod.org.

Here are a few basic tips from Fr. David:

**Pray.** Spend time in prayer each day. Use the morning and/or evening prayers from your prayer book. (You can also use the “Basic Prayers for Orthodox Christians” on our website.) Even if you plan on praying along with our livestreamed service on YouTube, be sure to say your prayers daily. If you do not have access to the Internet, then offer prayers at the same time we have services in church.

**Read the Bible.** There are a number of readings appointed for each day of Holy Week. In order to stay “in sync” with the daily themes, take time to read from the Gospels every day. *(This list is taken from the Wall Calendar.)*

- **Holy Monday:** Matthew 24:3-35
- **Holy Tuesday:** Matthew 24:36-26:2
- **Holy Wednesday:** Matthew 26:6-16
- **Holy Thursday:** Matthew 26:2-27:2
- **Holy Friday:** Matthew 27:1-61
- **Holy Saturday:** Matthew 28:1-20

**Keep a Fast.** In order to feast, we have to fast. A fasting guide is found earlier in this bulletin.

**Keep It Quiet.** Silence can be hard to come by. Try and incorporate a period of time each day without TV, music, technology, etc. The more, the better!

**Join our YouTube Livestream Services.** I know—a livestream isn’t the same as being in church. You are 100% right. However, under these circumstances, a livestreamed service can help us enter into the spirit of this holy time, if we use it correctly.

**When you view a livestreamed service:** Please treat it as if you are in church. Don’t lounge around in your PJs. Have an icon nearby. Light a candle. If you have church-
style incense and charcoal (not sticks/cones) you can burn that as well. Sit and stand as you ordinarily would during the service. Follow along in your prayer book or Liturgy book. Sing along and pray along.

**The Light of Christ Shines for All!** When you tune in for Resurrection Matins at 8 PM on Holy Saturday, keep the lights in your house either dimmed or off. Have a candle (or candles) nearby. When the “Paschal Light” is shared in the church, light your candle(s). Don’t turn the lights on until you see the lights come on at church.

**Prepare the Feast!** While we will not be blessing baskets at church this year, we STILL need to feast in celebration of the Resurrection. If you are able to prepare your traditional Easter foods, do so. If you have to cut back this year, it is perfectly fine to adapt. Make something festive. Bread, eggs, cheese, butter, meat—we need to make our celebration of the Resurrection as much of a joyful feast as we can. When you are ready to break your fast after streaming Divine Liturgy on Pascha morning, sing “Christ is Risen…”, thank God for your food with prayer, and enjoy! You may also sprinkle the food with Holy Water, if you have any at home.

**Greet Others With the Feast!** On Easter, call up your family, friends, and fellow parishioners to say “Christ is risen” and wish them well.

**Finally...**

**Solidarity.** You can’t physically be in church this week. All of us are displeased with this situation. Whenever you feel down or depressed because you can’t go to services, think about all those who, even under ordinary conditions, cannot get to church. Remember those who are homebound or in nursing homes due to age or health; those who live far from any church and rarely get to go; and those who are persecuted or “secret” Christians who have to meet quietly, if at all. Remember them this Holy Week and Pascha!

*Having Suffered the Passion for Us,*  
*Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have Mercy on Us!*

* + *

*We Worship Your Passion, O Christ!*  
*Show us also Your Holy Resurrection!*
Stewardship
By Dan Hromyak

"As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross." - Matthew 27:32

The Lord calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him "carry his cross". These opportunities aren't usually big events, they are usually ordinary occurrences like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for them. The key is putting the other person's needs before our own and not expecting anything in return.

Thank You For Your Gifts!

Over the past few weeks, many parishioners have—without prompting—sent in their regular offerings to the church. We are incredibly grateful for everyone who has done so, especially during the economic uncertainties of the present time.

If you are able to do so, you may send your offerings directly to the church office:

Saint John’s Orthodox Church
3180 Morefield Road
Hermitage, PA 16148

Thank you for your generosity!

Patriarchal Pence

During the Lenten season, our Diocesan parishes take a collection for the benefit of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Donations for this purpose may be sent to the church office as well. Please mark them clearly for thus purpose.
2020
Calendar Raffle Winners $100

January
1st  Shiel Woryk, New Castle, PA 454
3rd  Shelley Fleischer, Sharon, PA 597
11th Gary Tatomirovich, Mercer, PA 167
17th Gino Tofani, Transfer, PA 590
18th Ken Maceyko, Hermitage, PA 541
24th Jimmy Hynes, Shaker Heights, OH 441
25th Corey Kupensky, Sharon, PA 572
31st  Lorie Tingler, Bristolville, OH 487

February
1st  Nicole Sayers, Sharpsville, PA 540
8th  Lillian Momchilovich, Pittsburgh, PA 437
14th Randy Martin, New Castle, PA 970
15th Leeann Chuba, Sharpsville, PA 332
22nd Jacob Carney, Brecksville, OH 676
28th Lantz Ristvey, Hermitage, PA 849
29th  John Safin, Hermitage, PA 992

March
6th  Joyce Frangakis, Hermitage, PA 845
7th  Joe Sankey, New Castle, PA 510
14th Barbara Johnson, Hermitage, PA 713
21st  Joe/Shiel Woryk, New Castle, PA 454
27th Frank Swetlech, West Middlesex, PA 546
28th  David Maurer, Georgetown, PA 398
Happy Birthday

Sawyer Fabian—April 10
(Belated Birthday Greetings!)

Mary Anne Stigliano - April 12
Patton Gilliland - April 13
Michael Obermiyer - April 14
Steven Lukac - April 17

Eternal Lamp Sponsor

April 12
In loving memory of Mother
Catherine Pavlick
on the 16th Anniversary of her repose
By: Debbie & Greg Cross