
“ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING, AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE. GIVE THANKS TO HIM; BLESS HIS NAME.”

PSALM 100:4

happy thanksgiving
# Calendar of Services & Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>11/20/2016</td>
<td><strong>22nd Sunday After Pentecost</strong></td>
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<td>9:00 AM Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><em>Panachida for:</em> +Ann Volsko, ++Pacinda Fam. (Perpetual) +Peter &amp; +Mary Sobota (Perpetual)*</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1:30 PM Chinese Auction Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>11/21/2016</td>
<td><strong>Presentation of the Mother of God into the Temple</strong></td>
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<td>9:00 AM Divine Liturgy for the Holyday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11/23/2016</td>
<td><strong>Eve of Thanksgiving Holiday</strong></td>
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<td>6:00 PM Prayer Service (Moleben) of Thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>11/27/2016</td>
<td><strong>23rd Sunday After Pentecost</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>9:00 AM Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><em>Panachida for:</em> +Joseph Lukac (Perpetual)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11/30/2016</td>
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<td>6:00 PM Pirohi Potato Prep</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>12/1/2016</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>6:00 PM Pirohi Filling Prep</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>12/2/2016</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>8:00 AM Pirohi Making and Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>12/4/2016</td>
<td><strong>25th Sunday After Pentecost</strong></td>
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<td>St. Barbara St. John of Damascus</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><em>Election of Officers Meeting following Liturgy</em></td>
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

¶ Thanksgiving Service: This year, to mark the national holiday of Thanksgiving, we will celebrate a Prayer Service (Moleben) of Thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Eve, November 23, at 6:00 PM. (As this is not a Divine Liturgy, Holy Communion is not distributed at this service.) Come and “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!” (Ps. 117)

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

¶ 2017 Treasure Chest Tickets are available for a $20 donation, as well as to sell to your family and friends. Please help with this annual fundraiser for our parish!

¶ 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.

¶ Election of Officers Meeting is on Sunday, December 4th, following Divine Liturgy. All parishioners who fulfill their spiritual and material obligations to the parish are encouraged to participate!

¶ Our annual St. Nicholas Celebration (sponsored by the PTO), as well as the Visit from “St. Nicholas,” will take place on Sunday, December 11 following services. RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the hall. Our church school students will make their presentation on that day as well.

¶ Christmas Gift Wrapping at the Shenango Valley Mall begins on December 9! The schedule is available in the church hall. Taking even just one shift is a great help! Please consider giving of your time and talent for this annual event, since the proceeds go to support many worthwhile ministries and charities.

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
The Myrrh-Flowing “Kardiotissa” Icon of the Mother of God from Taylor will be visiting our church on the evening of Friday, December 16th. The schedule is:

- 5:00 PM (approx.): Arrival of the Icon and Remarks by Fr. Mark Leasure.
- 6:00 PM: Akathist Service to the Mother of God
- Veneration of the icon and anointing with myrrh (oil) will follow the service, and continue as long as needed.

All are welcome at the service! Feel free to invite family, friends, and neighbors. We have made arrangements for additional parking, but as we are expecting a large number of visitors, please consider carpooling with others.

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**2017 Mission Team Opportunities - Albania (Youth) and Guatemala (Healthcare)**

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center has just released 2017 short-term mission team opportunities!

There is a team heading to Albania March 10 – 20 which will work with Albanian Orthodox youth leaders, including OCMC Missionary Dn. Stephanos Ritsi, to host a youth and young adult conference. The conference will focus on strengthening the faith of young Orthodox Christians throughout Albania. It will also seek to raise awareness of youth ministries available through the Albanian Orthodox Church. If you have a passion for youth ministry or desire to contribute to the awareness of Orthodoxy around the world, please prayerfully consider applying!

There will be a healthcare team going to Guatemala March 17 – 26 which will provide medical services to patients at the Fr. Andres Giron Clinic in Aguacate. This is a fantastic way to use your skills as a healthcare professional for the Orthodox Church. Not only will you provide medical care, but you will also help educate the community about healthcare. Pediatricians, dentists, midwives, nurses, and other medical technicians are needed. Healthcare professionals can give the gift of hope and healing by volunteering; please consider this opportunity!

Visit ocmc.org for more information!
The Nativity Fast began 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). Services will be held to help us prayerfully prepare. Additional times are scheduled for 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?”
Mealtime Prayers for Thanksgiving

Before sitting down for your Thanksgiving feast, do not neglect to thank God in prayer! Feel free to use the following prayers:

In the name of the + Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

We, Your thankful and unworthy servants, praise and glorify You, O Lord, for the many blessings we have received from You. We bless You, we thank You, we sing to You and we rejoice in Your great mercy. In humility and love, we praise You: O Benefactor and Savior, glory to You.

AMEN!

Thoughts on Stewardship by Dan Hromyak

"...giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light." - Colossians 1:12

God wants us to be happy! Instead of looking at the Ten Commandments as being restrictive and telling us what we can't do, look at them as guides for living a joy filled and peaceful life. Most of our problems arise when we put our own needs first or spend most of our time to acquire "things". Try putting God first in all things instead.

"For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." - Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given.
Psalm 100
A Song of Praise for the Lord’s Faithfulness to His People
A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.
Know that the Lord, He is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
For the Lord is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.

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)

December 2016 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!
**Candelabrum ~ Sunday, November 20th**
In Loving Memory of Brother/Uncle, George Balzic From Joan & Stephen Chuba & Family

**Eternal Lamp ~ Sunday, November 20th**
In Loving Memory of Richard Hartley’s Birthday From Katie Hartley & Family

**Candelabrum ~ Sunday, November 27th**
The Komisin Family In Loving Memory of John & Pauline Komisin

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**BIRTHDAYS**

Nov. 20 Lauren Holmes  
Mary Ann Tofani

23 Sean Miller

24 Karen Bich

26 Dylan Figiel

27 Emily Anderson  
Andrew Chuba  
Robert Miller

28 Kevin Yasnowsky

29 Robert Miklos  
David Ristvey, Jr.

Dec. 2 Chuck Kretchek

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**MEN TO HOLD CANDLES**

**Sunday, November 27th**

Steve Saluga  
Milan Shumkaroff  
Ed Slovesko  
Gino Tofani  
Dr. Henry VanZanten

**Sunday, December 4th**

Michael Waryanka  
Donald Yasnowsky  
Kevin Yasnowsky  
Gary Yonchak  
Bob Amos