



BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 11-24, 2024

*SUN 8/11/2024
9:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 6
Divine Liturgy
Second Blessing of Fruit and Distribution of Grapes

Perpetual Commemorations for August 11-17, 2024:

PACINDA, Joseph
GELETY, Andrew & Anna
JAEGER, Joseph

MON 8/12/2024
5:15 PM

Moleben to the Mother of God
With Prayers for the Living

6:00 PM

August Board Meeting

TUES 8/13/2024
9:00 AM

Leave-Taking of the Transfiguration of Christ
Divine Liturgy

With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations

*AND Special Intention of Fr. David's Family, Friends & All Parishioners
on the 13th Anniversary of His Ordination to the Priesthood*

WED 8/14/2024
6:00 PM

Vespers for the Holyday of the Dormition
With Prayers for the Living

and "Burial Procession" of the Mother of God

THURS 8/15/2024 DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD (HOLIDAY)
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

*SUN 8/18/2024 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 7
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Blessing of All Students

Perpetual Commemorations for August 18-24, 2024:

*HROMYAK, John Sr., Mary, John Jr., Irene & Linda, Helen, Michael,
Andrew, Mary Jane Sernik, George, Helen, John Kolbrich
BLANAR, Steve, Anna, Peter
RISTVEY Family: Michael, Anna, John, Stephanie, Steve, Ann, Stevie,
Joseph, Nicholas, George, Mary, Susan, Ann, John, Susan &
Kanishak Family: Andrew, Evelyn, Dorothy*

TUES 8/20/2024 **Post-Feast: Dormition of the Mother of God**
St. Stephen, King of Hungary
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations

*SUN 8/25/2024 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 8
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Panachida: +Tom Doyle, by David & Donna (Doyle) Sotak

Perpetual Commemorations for August 25-31, 2024:
HOUK, Braden & Cameron



The Dormition Fast continues through August 14

As we approach the last few days of this holy season, please observe them as a time of prayer and preparation for the Dormition. Please be especially cognizant of fasting on Wednesday, August 14th. In addition to giving up meat that day, Fr. David is inviting all those who are able to keep a “strict fast” from meat *and* dairy on this final day of the fast.

Services for the Dormition of the Mother of God on August 14 and 15

Great Vespers will be on Wednesday, August 14 at 6:00 PM, and will include the Burial Procession with the icon of Our Lady in repose. Divine Liturgy will be on Thursday, August 15 at 9:00 AM, with the traditional blessing of flowers and herbs. Please bring some for this blessing and let them adorn your icons at home!

“Why should I care about the Dormition?”

We Orthodox honor the Mother of God on many days throughout the year, but August 15th is her primary holyday. In many majority Orthodox and Roman Catholic countries, August 15th is a national holiday, and people flock to churches and monasteries. Countless people travel to go on pilgrimages for this feast. We can make a special sacrifice of our time to honor the Ever-Virgin Mary on this day. Come and celebrate the Mother of God at her Dormition and Assumption at one or both services, and continue the feast in your home!

“Why do we bless flowers and herbs on Dormition?”

According to the church’s tradition, when the Mother of God died, she was buried in the Garden of Gethsemane. All the apostles were present, except for Thomas. Thomas arrived three days later and went to pay his respects to the ever-Virgin at her tomb. When the tomb was opened, it was empty – the Mother of God had been assumed into heaven. Within the tomb, there was a strong and beautiful aroma of flowers. To remember this, flowers and sweet-smelling herbs are blessed on this holyday. Historically, many of the herbs and flowers brought for this blessing were used in medicine, and thus the prayers ask that these plants be efficacious for the healing of body and soul.



ALL STUDENTS (preschool, elementary school, high school, college, grad school, trade school, etc.) are invited to receive a blessing at the start of the 2024-2025 academic year on **Sunday, August 18, 2023 at the End of Liturgy.**

Thoughts on Stewardship

by Dan Hromyak

"Get up and eat or the journey will be too much for you!" - 1 Kings 19:7

God knows that committing to a stewardship lifestyle is difficult. However, we are not designed to do it on our own, we need God's help. Fortunately, God gave us the greatest gift of all, His son, Jesus. Through the gift of the Eucharist, we unite our sacrifice with Jesus' sacrifice to do the will of God, Our Father. We receive the strength and courage to be His missionary disciples.

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." - John 6:56

This line from Scripture is what ultimately separates the Orthodox from our Protestant brothers and sisters. Jesus is really present in the bread and wine that are consecrated at Divine Liturgy. It is His actual body and blood that we consume. This is the greatest gift that we can receive. The Eucharist shows us how great of love that Jesus has for each of us.

GOLF SCRAMBLE NOTES

Don't Forget! The 2024 Golf Scramble will be held on **Saturday, August 17th at Avalon at Buhl Park**. Shotgun Start will be at 8:30 AM.

The post-golfing meal will again be held at our church hall, and will feature our *signature* all-you-can-eat buffet with spit roast lamb, chicken, sausage and peppers, side dishes, desserts and beverages. Dinner will begin to be served at 2:30 PM. We will also hold the a Basket and Gift Card Raffle at this dinner.

Dinner-only tickets are available for \$25 per person. See Francine Fabian to get your ticket!

THANK YOU to everyone that has donated towards the golf tournament to date! We are still in need of the following:

- ⇒ Team Commitments
- ⇒ Proximity Prizes - \$100 (Four \$25 gift certificates to Avalon Buhl)
- ⇒ Major sponsorships for \$100.00
- ⇒ Hole sponsorships for \$40.00
- ⇒ Patron Ad Listings for \$10.00
- ⇒ Gift Cards for the Raffle - see list in the fellowship hall
- ⇒ Big Ticket Raffle - gift card or basket with a value of \$100
- ⇒ General monetary donations to the event

Copies of the registration form/flyer and the sponsorship form are still available in the church hall for your use.

To register your team or for any additional information, see Ed or Francine Fabian.

(From time to time, I like to include some educational material in the bulletin about “BEST PRACTICES” for us as Orthodox Christians. Below are a few items. – Fr. David)

- ***Kissing Icons***

It is Orthodox Christian Tradition (with a big “T”) to venerate icons by making the sign of the Cross, bowing, and kissing the icon. In our parish, we have an icon on the tetrapod (table) at the front of the church for this purpose, as well as icons in the vestibule by the candle stands. Some churches have additional icons at the front of the church. (In this vein, Fr. David placed an icon of the Mother of God at the front of the church for the Dormition Fast.) We should venerate these icons before the start of services.

Please note: **we do not kiss icons immediately after receiving Holy Communion.** There is a twofold reason for this. When we receive the Eucharist, we partake of the Body and Blood of Christ. It is a most sacred moment in our lives as Orthodox Christians when we become living tabernacles of the presence of Christ. After Communion, our focus is on the Eucharist rather than on other devotional practices like venerating icons and relics. Also, on a practical level, if we happen to have any moisture from the Eucharist still on our lips, we do not want to get that on the icons. Once Liturgy is concluded, we can venerate the Cross and icons as usual.

- ***Stand During the Censing Before Liturgy***

It is a wonderful, pious custom to come early to church and spend some time in private prayer before the Divine Liturgy. However, it is important to remember that our *private* prayers and devotions stop when the *public* service begins. As soon as the “Great Censing” of the whole church begins before the Divine Liturgy – which, in our Diocese, marks the start of public worship-- everyone should STAND. (*Of course, those who are infirm and physically unable to stand can remain seated as needed!*) No one should be kneeling during the pre-service censing. Also, if you come into the church after a service has started, just pick up from that point in the service – you should not offer private prayers at that time.

- ***Coming Up for Communion***

When there is one chalice for the distribution of Communion, please form two lines up the middle and take turns. From now on, do this for Sunday *and* weekday liturgies in the church, even if there are only a few people present. We do not need to crisscross sides of the tetrapod. Come up the middle aisle from your side of the tetrapod and return to your pew from the same side aisle.

Also, when receiving Communion, please remember to come close to the chalice, tilt your head back, and open your mouth wide.

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Clergy:

*Rev. Father David Mastroberte
Rev. Deacon John Anderson*

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

Sacramental and Membership Information

Sick Calls can be made at any time. Please phone the rectory (724-346-4457) when a family member is admitted to the hospital, or to request a home visit. Hospitals do *not* call to alert the parish when someone is admitted.

Marriages are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. Circumstances may require a dispensation from the diocesan bishop. Consult the pastor at least six months in advance and before any plans have been made for the wedding reception. Marriages cannot be celebrated during the fasting seasons of the church, or on Fridays.

Baptisms are usually scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays. Consult the pastor. Two godparents (godfather and godmother) are required, at least one of whom must be a practicing Orthodox Christian in good standing at an Orthodox parish, and the other (at least) a practicing, baptized Christian.

Church Funerals are, under ordinary circumstances, provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and material obligations to the parish; otherwise, the funeral service is conducted at the funeral home. **The Church does not permit cremation.**

Parishioners in “good standing” are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John’s Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular church attendance, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these sacraments no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and financially support the parish (especially through an annual “pledge”).

Prospective members and returning members are asked to fill out an application form, copies of which are available in the church office.

Our Church’s Website:	stjohnacroc.org
Our YouTube Live Stream:	youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon
Our Facebook Page:	facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA
Our Diocesan Website:	acrod.org

For Online Giving Options, please visit our website: stjohnacroc.org

Happy Birthday!

Rebecca Schultheis August 13
Michael Holmes August 15
Melinda Kroko August 17

Happy Anniversary!

Holmes, Michael & Lisa August 12
Tofani, Gino & Mary Ann August 18
Riddle, Courtney & Scott August 20

*"God Grant You Many,
Blessed Years!"*



■ Our Sponsors ■

*Eternal Lamp for the Week of August 11, 2024
For All Parishioners*

*Bulletin Sponsor for the Week of August 18, 2024
In Loving Memory of Frank Raiti on His Birthday, by Dorothy Pacinda*

*Candelabrum on August 18, 2024
In Loving Memory of Husband Joseph Blasko, by Mary Blasko*

*Eternal Lamp for the Week of August 18, 2024
John Doyle, by the Family*

Schedule of Men to Hold Candles During the Gospel

August 11
Milan Shumkaroff
Gino Tofani
Donald Yasnowsky
Kevin Yasnowsky
Gary Yonchak

August 18
Bob Amos
Jason Baker
Dave Beight
Dennis Burprich
Jerry Chupak

August 25
Ed Fabian
Matt Fabian
Chad Fette
Jim Hynes
Steven Lukac