

We Honor Our Veterans...

On Sunday, November 10, 2024, we offer special prayers for all the veterans of our Saint John's parish family. This list below includes those members of our church or their immediate family members who are serving or have served in the armed forces of the United States. *Thank you for your service!*

May God, through the Prayers of the Archangel Michael, Saint George, Saint Demetrius, and all the Saints, grant these men and women, and all veterans who served or now serve our country, His blessings, grace, and mercy!



Robert Amos
Dennis Burpich
Ruth Ristvey Cisneros
John Frejik
Andy Lutz
Paul McMahan
John D. Ristvey

Peter Roman
Edward Slovesko
Joseph Tatusko
Aaron Van Zanten
David Van Zanten
Gary Yonchak

God Bless America!

BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 3-16, 2024

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

- *SUN 11/3/2024** **19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 2**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- Perpetual Commemorations for November 3-9, 2024:*
BERGKESSEL, Joseph & Helen; Robert, Arthur & Joann Sposito
PAVLICK, John Sr & Katherine, John & Margaret, George & Hazel, Andrew,
Joseph & Katherine, Paul, Ruth, Paul Denny, Bob Paolick
SOLOONINKA, Michael & Martha
- TUES 11/5/2024** **Saints of the Day: Martyrs Galacteon & Epistemis**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Chapel)
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations
- FRI 11/8/2024** **HOLYDAY: ARCHANGEL MICHAEL & ALL HOLY ANGELS**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
– AND – *Prayers for the Living/Sick*
in anticipation of the holyday of St. Nektarios (November 9)
- *SUN 11/10/2024** **20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 3**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Veteran Recognition at the Conclusion of Divine Liturgy
- Perpetual Commemorations for November 10-16:*
POLOCHAK, John & Katherine
ADAMS, Estelle (Ledney)
VALENT, George & Anna, Harold Bouslough
O'SHANIC, Joseph & Margaret
- MON 11/11/2024** November Board Meeting
6:00 PM
- TUES 11/12/2024** **Saint of the Day: St. John the Merciful**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Chapel)
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations
- THURS 11/14/2024** **Saint of the Day: Apostle Philip**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Chapel)
+Fr. Thomas Blaschak – 40th Day Remembrance
- SAT 11/16/2024** **Saint of the Day: Apostle & Evangelist Matthew**
6:00 PM Vespers (Chapel)

*SUN 11/17/2024
9:00 AM

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 4
Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for November 17-23:

POLANICHKA, Paňi Eleanor

VOLSKO, Ann

SOBOTA, Peter & Mary



We offer our condolences to Kelly Hellmann and to the entire family at the passing of +WILLIAM ROACH, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 28. May God grant him blessed repose in His heavenly kingdom. Eternal Memory!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

➔ **Praying for Others This November:** On November 8, we celebrate the holyday of St. Michael the Archangel and All Holy Angels. Divine Liturgy will be on Friday, November 8 at 9:00 AM. After this Liturgy, in anticipation of the holyday of St. Nektarios the Wonder-Worker (which is November 9) we will include a special prayer to St. Nektarios asking for his intercessions for the living, especially those who are sick. St. Nektarios is a patron saint for those who suffer from cancer and other serious illnesses. Fr. David still has the lists from August. You can also fill out a new prayer list and give it to Fr. David

➔ **Our 50th Chinese Auction is on Sunday, November 24!** More information is on the following page. *Tell your family and friends!*

Anyone interested in helping in any way is encouraged to volunteer. Starting on November 11th, we need people to **arrange prizes and buckets on tables, number prizes to match buckets, record prizes noting business donations, and use laptop to create list of prizes.** Monetary donations to help purchase prizes and gift cards are still being accepted. *Thank You!*

SHENANGO VALLEY'S **ORIGINAL** SINCE 1974

CHINESE AUCTION

Saint John's Orthodox Church Hall
3180 Morefield Road, Hermitage

Sunday, November 24, 2024

Doors Open at 1:00 PM
Drawing Begins at 3:00 PM

**Want to Get and Place
Your Tickets Early?**
Saturday, November 23, 2024
1:00-3:00 PM

Admission: \$5.00
(Includes 1 Sheet of Tickets, Cake and Coffee)
Extra Sheets: \$3/Sheet or 4/\$10

For More Information: 724-981-0571 stjohnacroc.org

The Nativity Fast (Advent) begins on November 15th

During these six weeks, we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. Here are some ways to observe this holy time:

◆ FAST

Fasting goes hand-in-hand with our spiritual preparation for the Nativity. Traditionally, every day from November 15th until December 25th is kept as a fast day. If we are honest, this poses a challenge for most of us.

Pastorally, Fr. David offers the following general guidance. **The Nativity Fast should represent an increase in the discipline of fasting in our life.** In addition to abstaining from meat on the weekly fast days of Wednesday and Friday, add more days as you are able. (For example: every Monday; all weekdays, etc.) Merge fasting from food with fasting from distractions (like TV or mindless scrolling on social media). Increase quiet time.

As is customary, a dispensation from fasting is given for our wonderful American holiday of Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 28, 2024.

All of us are to observe the strict fast from meat and dairy on Christmas Eve, December 24.

Remember: it's not the *least* that we *have* to do, but the *most* that we *can* do for Our Lord. If you want additional guidance on this topic, speak with Fr. David.

◆ TAKE TIME TO PRAY DAILY

There are many ways to do this, but the key is to be consistent. Use your prayer book, pick up one of the "Basic Daily Prayers for Orthodox Christian" sheets in the vestibule, or spend some quiet time saying the "Jesus Prayer." **Be sure to offer the "Nativity Fast Prayer Challenge" from Metropolitan Gregory.** Set this as a goal for the next six weeks. If you miss a day, just pick it up again the next day.

◆ PRAY FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD LIST

Each time you send a Christmas Card, ask God to bless the recipients. If you want to take it a step further, pray for them weekly or even daily.

◆ READ THE SCRIPTURES

There are limitless ways one can incorporate more Scripture during this time. Try reading one Psalm a day, or one chapter of the Gospels. The "essential" passages from the Gospels to review before Christmas are chapters 1 and 2 of Matthew's Gospel and chapters 1 and 2 of Luke's Gospel.

◆ GO TO CONFESSION

As we sing in a popular carol: "*Let every heart prepare Him room.*" During the Nativity Fast this year, **Confessions will be heard before Sunday and Weekday Liturgies; before evening services; and by special appointment. (Confessions will end 10 minutes before services, so please arrive early.)**

◆ ATTEND DIVINE SERVICES

We have additional services scheduled throughout the next six weeks, including a service on most Wednesdays and Vespers on many Saturdays. Additional weekday Divine Liturgies will be offered. Check the Schedule for details.

◆ BE CHARITABLE

We think of charity as giving money to those in need—and that is certainly an act of charity! But charity comes from the Latin *caritas*, which denotes the kind of Christian love directed towards all people. As God showed His love for us by sending His Son, so we strive to show that same love in our actions and attitudes.

— IMPORTANT DATES —

- November 10: Honoring of Veterans
- November 15: Nativity Fast (Advent) Begins
- November 24: 50th Chinese Auction
- November 28: Thanksgiving
- December 1: Election of Officers Meeting
- December 8: St. Nicholas Celebration
- December 14: Christmas Market

STEWARDSHIP

From Dan Hromyak

"And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices." - Mark 12:33

Of all the gifts that God gives us, the one He wants the most is your heart. He wants us to share out of our love for Him, not out of obligation. Using our talent in parish ministry and contributing money to support our parish mission is important, but it's more important to spend time in prayer with God daily and discern how He is calling us to be generous with "all" of our gifts. Not just the visible ones, but the invisible ones like love, mercy and forgiveness.

"I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put everything she had, her whole living." - Mark 12:43-44

Jesus gets right to the point - we are all called to give money to support the mission of the Church, regardless of our circumstance. No gift is too small or insignificant! Giving money to support the mission of our local parish is a matter of our faith, just like praying and participating in parish ministries. When you make a financial offering, is it from your "first fruits" or from what is "left over"?

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. Father David Mastroberte, Pastor

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!

Joel Ristvey November 5
Gino Tofani November 10
John Parimuha November 12

Happy Anniversary!

Dan & Carol Ristvey November 4
Matt & Amy Ristvey November 7
Steven & Sabrina Lukac November 11

■ Our Sponsors ■

Bulletin Sponsor for the Week of November 3, 2024

Dr. Emil and Christina Maurer in Honor of Their 30th Wedding Anniversary

Eternal Lamp for the Week of November 3, 2024

Dr. Emil and Christina Maurer in Honor of Their 30th Wedding Anniversary

Candelabrum on November 3, 2024

Dr. Emil and Christina Maurer in Honor of Their 30th Wedding Anniversary



Bulletin Sponsor for the Week of November 10, 2024

God's Blessings on Steven & Sabrina Lukac on Their 1st Wedding Anniversary

Eternal Lamp for the Week of November 10, 2024

*In Memory of John Robert Hynes
By Jim, Karen, Katie & Brent Hynes*

Coffee Hour Sponsor on Sunday, November 10, 2024

Susan Van Zanten

Schedule of Men to Hold Candles During the Gospel

November 3

Donald Yasnowsky
Kevin Yasnowsky
Gary Yonchak
Bob Amos
Jason Baker

November 10

Dave Beight
Dennis Burprich
Jerry Chupak
Ed Fabian
Matt Fabian

November 17

Jim Hynes
Steven Lukac
Steve Lukac
John Lenhart
Ken Maceyko