

BULLETIN *for* FEBRUARY 16th TO MARCH 1st, 2025 UPDATED!!!

We thank the **Christmas Market** for today's breakfast, which is in gratitude to all parishioners for supporting the 2024 Christmas Market! *Enjoy!*

Our first Soul Saturday Service will now be after the start of Lent. Please continue to submit envelopes for "*hramoty*" (lists of the departed).

CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSIONS: MARCH 1 & 2

Can you believe that it has been over a decade since our last parish directory? To prepare for a new directory, Susan Laskowitz will be taking photos on Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2. Sign up sheets are in the hall. Each session will take 5-10 minutes. There is **NO COST** to get your photo taken. We want everyone to participate! (*You are able to order a hard-copy photo if you would like, but this is not required.*)

Feast Before the Fast!

PRE-LENTEN BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025 AFTER DIVINE LITURGY



VESPERS FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT FAST
WILL BE SERVED AFTER BREAKFAST AT 11:30 AM

UPDATED SCHEDULE WITH NOTES!

SUN 2/16/2025 SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for the Week of February 16-22, 2025
GULA, Helen & Peter
STROKE, Frederick & Julia
HOLLIDAY, Mike & Mary, Helen Marie

NO SERVICES ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18; THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20; OR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

There will be a service on Sunday, February 23!
If there is any change to the start time, it will be shared by e-mail and on Facebook.

SUN 2/23/2025 MEATFARE SUNDAY – LAST JUDGMENT
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for the Week of February 23-March 1, 2025
GULA, Metro, Paraska, Peter & Steve
POLANSKY, George & Anna
ANDRAS, John Sr. & Helen
SENAY, John & Mary, Anna & Kermit, Michael, Betty, Dennis

An announcement will be made on Sunday, February 23
regarding the services scheduled for Tuesday, February 25 and Thursday, February 27.

SUN 3/2/2025 CHEESEFARE SUNDAY
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for the Week of March 2-8, 2025
FREJIK, Mike & Ruth; Mary Hajduk
CHUBA Tom, George, Susan, Michael, John, Mary, Anna, George & Sue,
Anne, Andrew, Ann, Heather, Steven, Helen
REPASKY, Stephen, Mildred, John & Helen
HOLMES, Charles (2003)

Pre-Lenten Breakfast – All Welcome!
~11:30 AM Vespers for Beginning of the Great Fast
After Breakfast

Protocol No. 2/2025

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Fathers and Faithful:

All of us have seen and heard about the tremendous devastation the wildfires in California have caused. At least 29 people have died from the fires. Thousands have been forced to leave their homes. Thousands of structures and livelihoods have been destroyed. Whole communities have been displaced. While many of the fires in California have been fully contained, the devastation remains.

Long-term efforts are now underway to help this region of our country and its residents recover. This will take a long time and a tremendous amount of resources.

I am asking our Diocesan parishes and faithful to continue to pray for those affected, and if you have not already, please take up a collection for them and forward the monies to International Orthodox Christian Charities, the international humanitarian aid and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. Immediate aid is still needed for the residents of California as are long-term resources. Monies should be forward to:

International Orthodox Christian Charities
110 West Road, Suite 360
Baltimore, Maryland 21204

Be sure to mark checks with "California Wildfire Relief" in the memo line. Alternatively, you can visit the IOCC website California Wildfire donation page at [IOCC Wildfire Relief](#) to make a donation.

Praying for those affected by these wildfires, I remain sincerely

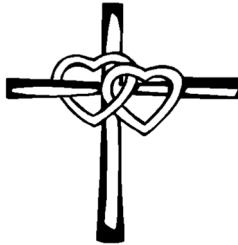
Working in His Vineyard,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "+ Metropolitan Gregory".

+ Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa
Diocesan Bishop

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your donation for these relief efforts. All donations will be matched from our Church Tithe Account. Thank you for your generosity!

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S
to the Newlyweds Beth Anne
and Nicholas Marriotti who were
united in the Sacrament of Holy
Matrimony on February 8!
*May God grant them many, blessed
years of health and happiness!*



Upcoming Church School Classes

February 23

March 9

March 23

April 6

April 27

STEWARDSHIP

From Dan Hromyak

"Blessed are you when people hate you...exclude and insult you, and denounce your name...on account of the Son of Man." - Luke 6:22

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Orthodox faith. How do you respond? Do you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time; the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back" - Luke 6:35

Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Praying for our enemies doesn't change them, it changes us. Mercy and compassion will keep us on the path to holiness.

Lent Begins on March 3rd – “What about fasting?”

Fasting is **essential** to Lent. In the Orthodox Church, we call this time of year the “Great Fast” (*in Slavonic, “Velikij Post”*), as it has historically been the most rigorous fast every year. Fasting is a great spiritual tool for us to learn to say “no”: by saying “no” to one appetite, we learn to say “no” to our sins and passions.

The full, traditional fast according to the ancient discipline of the Orthodox Church includes abstaining from meat and dairy every day of Lent and Holy Week, ending after the Pascha Divine Liturgy. In the past, our Diocese has also pastorally offered a reduced fasting regimen, to allow everyone to participate in the Lenten efforts. (Many in our community are familiar with and still observe Lent in this manner.)

All of us are called to share in the Lenten season in some way. On one hand, we are mercifully permitted to lessen the intensity of the Lenten fast. At the same time, we are heartily encouraged to do more, as much we are able. There is no “one size fits all” fast, but the minimum does not need to be the maximum. **Prayerfully consider your personal or family observance of Lent this year and START PLANNING NOW!**

If you have only ever given up meat on Lenten Wednesdays and Fridays, consider some possibilities to increase your fasting this year to have a fuller observance of the holy season:

- *Can I abstain from meat every Monday, Wednesday and Friday?*
- *Can I abstain from meat on all weekdays of Lent?*
- *Can I abstain from meat for the entire season?*
- *Can I “strict fast” on more days (like every Friday, all of Holy Week, or more)?*

Remember: Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God, and without judgment. ***Accept the challenge! Don’t ask “What is the least I have to do?” but “What is the most I can do for Christ?”***

For more information about Lent and ideas on how to incorporate fasting into your spiritual life, check out Fr. David’s online video “Making the Most Out of Lent”. This talk in an hour and 10 minutes in length, and goes over the history of Lent, the structure of Lent, and some practical guidance on how you can observe the Great Fast. It can be found at: [youtube.com/saintjohnsharon](https://www.youtube.com/saintjohnsharon) in the “Videos” section.

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Website: www.stjohnacroc.org

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 to receive Confession and Communion. 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

Mark Your Calendars!

An “**Afternoon of Reflection and Fellowship**” for our Deanery will be at Camp Nazareth on Sunday, March 30, 2025 from 3 -6 PM. More information will be in the next bulletin, but plan now to attend!

MARCH 2025 Pirohi Schedule

Wednesday, March 5
11:00 AM
Potato Prep

Thursday, March 6
6:00 PM
Filling Prep

Friday, March 7
8:00 AM
Pirohi Making and Sale

We are grateful to all those who are able to help prepare these delicious dumplings!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2 Pre-Lenten Breakfast
followed by Lenten Vespers
March 3 The Great Fast (Lent) Begins
March 7 March Pirohi Making & Sale
March 21-22 Kolbasi Making for Kolbasi Sale
April 4 April Pirohi Making & Sale
April 13 Palm Sunday
April 20 Pascha (Easter Sunday)

March 2025 Pirohi Order Form

Order Deadline: March 2, 2025
724-981-0571

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

_____ Potato-Cheese Pirohi @ **\$9.00**/dozen

_____ Butter Only

_____ Butter and Onions

Total Amount Due: \$_____

Pick-Up on Friday, March 7, 2025
12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM

(Doors Open at 12:00 NOON)

Happy Birthday!

Len Lenhart February 22
Ronald Figiel February 23
Janet Kretchek February 26
Dolores Christy February 27

*God grant you
many, blessed
years!*

Happy Anniversary!

Maceyko, Kenneth & Renee February 20

■ Our Sponsors ■

February 16, 2025

Candelabrum
*God's Blessings on Bob Amos
on His Birthday!*

Eternal Lamp
*In Loving Memory of sister Mary Doyle
By Helen Blasko*

February 23, 2025

Coffee Hour Sponsor
Sue Van Zanten – Thank You!

Eternal Lamp
*God's Blessings on husband Gregory
Cross on His Birthday, by Debbie Cross*



***Schedule of
Men to Hold
Candles During
the Gospel***

February 16
Robert Miller
John Moon
Dan Ristvey
Joel Ristvey
Matt Ristvey

February 23
Tom Ristvey
Thomas Ristvey
Steve Saluga
Milan Shumkaroff
Gino Tofani

March 2
Donald Yasnowsky
Kevin Yasnowsky
Gary Yonchak
Bob Amos
Jason Baker