

CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH'S HOLYDAY!

THE
**NATIVITY OF
ST. JOHN**



JUNE 23

GREAT VESPERS AT 6:00 PM
WITH BLESSING OF LOAVES

JUNE 24

DIVINE LITURGY AT 9:00 AM
WITH FESTAL PROCESSION

*We have many holydays on our Orthodox Christian calendar,
but a church's patron saint day is **especially** significant day for a parish.
Some call it a church's "Second Pascha"—it's that important!
Make this year's celebration of the Nativity of St. John a joyful day in our community
by YOUR presence at one or both of these services.
(Some snacks will be provided after Liturgy on June 24.)*

BULLETIN FOR JUNE 22-JULY 5, 2025

*SUN	6/22/2025	2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
MON	6/23/2025	
	6:00 PM	Great Vespers for the Holyday with the Blessing of Loaves
TUES	6/24/2025	NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST—OUR CHURCH’S “NAME DAY”!
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy with Festal Procession (<i>Weather Permitting</i>)
THURS	6/26/2025	<i>St. David of Thessalonica</i>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Special Intention of Fr. David’s Family, Friends and All Parishioners</i>
*SUN	6/29/2025	3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
		HOLY APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy

Weekly Perpetual Commemorations for June 29-July 5, 2025:

*GELETY, Andrew Sr. & Mary, Andrew Jr. & Anna, Eleanor & Tony,
Charles & Theresa, Michael, Irene; Stephen Pajak, Kenneth Grunden
TOTEN, John Sr. & Ann, Mary, John Jr., George, Mike, Anna,
Charles, Stephen, Irene
VAN ZANTEN Family, Cornelius & Elizabeth; Jacob, Paul, Lena,
Jeanette; Henry & Evelyn; Henry
VIROSTICK, Peter & Lucille*

WED	7/2/2025	<i>Robe of the Theotokos & St. John Maximovich of San Francisco</i>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations</i>

*SUN	7/6/2025	4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy

Board Meeting After Liturgy

Weekly Perpetual Commemorations for July 6-12, 2025:

*DRAGAN, John
SEKERAK, Nicholas & Mary, Carmella, John & MaryLou, Helen,
Mary, George & Martha KLEIN
ANDRAS, Helen & John Sr.
DOBROVOLSKI, Josephine & Andrew
HARTLEY, Richard
TRESCHILLA, Michael & Susan & Helen ROTH LITWILER, Mary &
Perl*



NEWEST AMERICAN SAINT: ST. OLGA OF ALASKA CANONIZED JUNE 19-20, 2025

In the wide stillness of the Alaskan tundra—where the sky stretches open like a prayer and the rivers flow between worlds—God planted a soul full of hidden beauty. On February 3, 1916 (January 21, Julian Calendar), in the village of Kwethluk, at the meeting of the Kwethluk and Kuskokwim rivers, a daughter was born to the Native Yup'ik people. Her name in the Yup'ik language was Arrsamquq, a name meaning lowly, hidden, or unadorned—like the seed sown quietly in the earth. It was a name that would prophetically mark her life, for she lived not in boastfulness or acclaim, but in humility, reverence, and love.

From childhood, she was formed both by the land and by the Church. Her hands learned the ancient skills of Yup'ik women—sewing, cooking, preparing food for winter, raising children, and keeping the home. But her soul was formed by the divine grace that had come to Alaska with the Orthodox missionaries from Russia. The faith of Saints Herman and Innocent had taken root in her village, and in her heart. Her home life, the seasons, and the services of the Church were woven together, creating in her a seamless garment of earthly service and heavenly longing.

As she matured, she married Nicolai Michael, the village storekeeper and postmaster, who would later be ordained to the holy priesthood. In time, she would become known not only as Olga, but as Matushka Olga—a mother to thirteen children of her own, and a spiritual mother to an entire village. Quiet, gentle, and strong, she became a pillar of warmth and grace in Kwethluk.

In Yup'ik culture, to be called a real person—ella tanqilria—is the highest praise. It means

one who lives in harmony with the land and with others, who does not set themselves above others, but who listens deeply, works quietly, and carries the burdens of others as their own. Matushka Olga was just such a person. She did not preach. She did not boast. She simply lived with such goodness that the land, the people, and the Church would not forget her.

After her marriage to Nicolai Michael, Olga embraced not only the responsibilities of a wife and mother, but also the sacred calling of being a matushka—a priest's wife, a helpmate not only to her husband but to the Church. When Nicolai was ordained and began serving as the priest of the Church of Saint Nicholas in Kwethluk, she became the quiet heart of that parish community.

She raised thirteen children of her own in modest means and with deep love. Her home was open; her heart was larger still. She offered hospitality not as a performance, but as a way of life. Whether sewing warm clothes for those in need, baking bread for the altar, or comforting a grieving neighbor, she did all things without self-importance. She was known never to raise her voice, and to teach—like many Yup'ik elders—not with scolding but by example. Those who came into her presence often found themselves stilled, as if by a quiet flame.

Her life bore resemblance to the holy women of the Scriptures. Like Tabitha (Dorcas) in the Acts of the Apostles, she was “full of good works and almsdeeds which she did,” and like the Most Pure Virgin Mother of God, she treasured the mysteries of life and of God in her heart. She clothed the naked, fed the hungry, and helped bring new life into the world. As a midwife, she accompanied women through the dangers and blessings of childbirth; as a counselor, she listened to those suffering in silence, especially women who had suffered abuse. Her presence was maternal, unjudging, and deeply healing.

Though she lived in a land of long winters and hardship, she herself was a source of warmth. Her daily life—marked by prayer, labor, and service—became a hidden offering to Christ. Her prosphora was kneaded with prayers, her garments sewn with intention, her silence filled with watchfulness and love.

Those who knew her remember her not for speeches or public deeds, but for the realness of her presence. She was always there—praying quietly in

church, listening without interruption, carrying burdens without needing thanks.

In the eyes of the world, she was not great. But in the Kingdom of God, where humility is greatness and the last are first, she walked with the saints.

In 1978, Matushka Olga was diagnosed with cancer. By that time, she had already lived a full life of service and love. Yet, as with so many saints, her final chapter became her most luminous. She did not complain. She did not seek pity. She bore her affliction with the same humility and quiet strength that had defined her life.

When doctors could do no more, she did not despair. She continued to labor gently for those around her, even as her body grew weak. Her children and neighbors recall that she remained peaceful and kind, never bitter or afraid. Her illness became a cross, and she bore it without fanfare, entering more deeply into the sufferings of Christ.

On November 8, 1979, she reposed in the Lord, surrounded by her family in her home in Kwethluk. Her death, like her life, was not loud or dramatic—but it was accompanied by wondrous signs that revealed the hidden sanctity she had carried.

Though it was deep winter, and the land was locked in ice, the frozen river thawed, and the ice softened, allowing boats from nearby villages to arrive—a miracle of timing and temperature that no one could explain. Birds appeared in the sky, though they should have long since flown south. They circled above the village, as if bearing witness. Mourners gathered not only from Kwethluk, but from afar. The people knew—without being told—that a holy one had passed into eternal rest.

As the funeral began, there was a stillness in the air, the kind of sacred hush that often follows the repose of a saint. Those present wept, not with despair, but with awe. A mother, a matushka, a healer, a friend had been taken from them—but heaven received a quiet soul, adorned with the grace of her hidden love.

From the moment of her passing, the people of Kwethluk began to remember her not with mere affection, but with reverence. They spoke of her kindness with gratitude, and of her silence with wonder. Her name was whispered in prayer. And in time, those prayers began to be answered.

Thoughts on Stewardship

From Dan Hromyak

"They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets." - Luke 9:17

The story of the Loaves and Fishes shows us that when you share what you have, even if it doesn't seem like that much, miracles can happen! Do you think that your gift is too small or insignificant! Each of us has a role in God's plan; you just need to place your trust in the Lord. Nothing is impossible with God. You just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.

"I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7

How many of us can say this? St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God doesn't call us to be successful, he calls us to be faithful." How many times have we been blinded by the success of the world at the expense of our faith? Matthew Kelly says, "Take one minute each day to remind yourself that you are just passing through this life and will die one day; you will live more intentionally with a passion and purpose."

5th ANNUAL PIEROGI 5K WALK/RUN

—Saturday, July 19, 2025—

Start: Walk/Run begins at 8:30am

Location: Butler Community College LindenPointe parking lot, Hermitage, Pa 16148

Proceeds: St John's Orthodox Church

Awards: Awards: Top 3 Male & Female overall.

Each runner will receive Pierogi with assorted topping after the race!

Divisions: Top 3 in each age group. 14 & Under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 +.

Fee: \$30 registration: includes race day T-Shirt and event medal. *Same day registrations cannot be guaranteed a shirt.*

Online Registration: Run Sign up

<https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Hermitage/1stAnnualPierogi5kWalkRun>

Contact Information: Laura Fette @ lbstigliano@gmail.com

***** SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE! *****

Gold: \$300—Only 4 Available

Silver: \$150

T-Shirt Sponsor: \$30-50

Stop by the information table in the hall for a Sponsorship Form!

GOLF SCRAMBLE 2025

Don't Forget! The 2025 Golf Scramble will be held on **Saturday, August 23rd 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 \$30 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
- ⇒ 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](#)
- ⇒ 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, for any additional information, or to volunteer to help in any way, please speak with Ed or Francine Fabian.

Sponsorship Levels:

Sponsorship Level	Donation with Golf	Donation without Golf
Platinum Sponsor	\$850.00	\$450.00
Gold Sponsor	\$625.00	\$200.00
Silver Sponsor	\$575.00	\$150.00
Major Sponsor	—	\$100.00

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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To Reach Fr. David: 724-813-3172
E-mail: father.david@stjohnacroc.org
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, but other days are possible as well. 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!

Beth Anne Marriotti	June 22
Kathy Meiss	June 23
Martha Johnson	June 24
Sue Preston	June 30
Linda Sayers	July 5

Happy Anniversary!

Kraynok, Edward & Sandra	June 24
Fette, Chad & Laura	July 1
Lukac, Steven & Natalie	July 4

God Grant You Many Years!

■ Our Sponsors ■

June 22, 2025

Eternal Lamp
For All Parishioners
as we celebrate
our Church's Holyday

June 29, 2025

Eternal Lamp
God's Blessing on Sue Preston
On Her Birthday
By Debbie & Greg Cross

Schedule of
Men to Hold
Candles During the
Gospel

June 22
Randy Martin
Paul McMahon
Robert Miller
John Moon
Dan Ristvey

June 29
Joel Ristvey
Matt Ristvey
Tom Ristvey
Thomas Ristvey
Steve Saluga

July 5
Milan Shumkaroff
Gino Tofani
Donald Yasnowsky
Kevin Yasnowsky
Gary Yonchak