

# BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 3-16, 2025

**\*SUN 8/3/2025**  
9:00 AM  
**8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
Divine Liturgy

*Weekly Perpetual Commemorations for August 3-9, 2025:*

*PACINDA, Joseph*

*GELETY, Andrew & Anna*

**MON 8/4/2025**  
6:00 PM  
Moleben to the Mother of God  
*Prayers for the Living*  
Enrichment Presentation: *"Mary the New Eve"*

**WED 8/6/2025**  
9:00 AM  
**TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST (Holyday)**  
Divine Liturgy  
*Blessing of Fruit*

**THURS 8/7/2025**  
12-5 PM  
Red Cross Blood Drive

**FRI 8/8/2025**  
6:00 PM  
Paraklis to the Mother of God  
*Prayers for the Living*  
Enrichment Presentation: *"Behold Your Mother"*

**SAT 8/9/2025**  
6:00 PM  
Vespers  
*Confession available before and after.*

**\*SUN 8/10/2025**  
9:00 AM  
**9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**POST-FEAST: TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST**  
Divine Liturgy  
*Blessing and Distribution of Fruit*

*Weekly Perpetual Commemorations for August 10-16, 2025:*

*JAEGER, Joseph*

MON	8/11/2025	
		5:15 PM Moleben to the Mother of God <i>Prayers for the Living</i>
		6:00 PM August Board Meeting
WED	8/13/2025	<b>LEAVE-TAKING OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD "SEVEN ARROWS"</b>
		9:00 AM Divine Liturgy <i>Special Intention of Fr. David's Family, Friends and Parishioners On the 14th Anniversary of His Ordination</i>
THURS	8/14/2025	<b><i>Eve of Dormition</i></b>
		7:00 PM Vespers with Blessing of Loaves & Dormition Procession
FRI	8/15/2025	<b>DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD (HOLYDAY)</b>
		9:00 AM Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Flowers and Herbs Fellowship After Liturgy—You are welcome to bring something to share!</i>
*SUN	8/17/2025	<b>10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
		<b>POST-FAST: DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD</b>
		9:00 AM Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Students</i>

***Weekly Perpetual Commemorations for August 17-23, 2025:***

*HROMYAK, John Sr., Mary, John Jr., Irene & Linda, Helen, Michael, Andrew, Mary Jane Sernik, George, Helen, John Kolbrich  
BLANAR, Steve, Anna, Peter*



ALL STUDENTS (preschool, elementary school, high school, college, grad school, trade school, etc.) are invited to receive a blessing at the start of the 2025-2026 academic year on Sunday, August 17, 2025 at the End of Liturgy.

*—Celebrate Our Faith with Upcoming Holydays & Blessings—*

**AUGUST 6: TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST  
& THE BLESSING OF FRUIT**

This is a great feast on the Orthodox calendar. We will have Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, August 6 at 9:00 AM. The tradition on this summer holyday is to bless grapes and other fruit—the “first fruits” of the summer harvest. This blessing will be offered at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on August 6th. You are encouraged to bring a basket or bowl of fruit to be blessed. We will ALSO bless and distribute grapes to all parishioners on the Sunday after the Transfiguration, August 10th. (You can bring fruit to this blessing as well.)



The nearby Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City will be having their Annual Pilgrimage on August 5th and 6th. For a schedule of services, visit [orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org](http://orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org).

**Praying for Others During the Dormition Fast**

At a number of services during the Dormition Fast, we will include intercessory prayers for the living. Please use the available prayer sheets and give them to Fr. David. Services marked “Prayers for the Living” in the bulletin and on the calendar will include the reading of these names.

If you haven’t been to Confession in a while, the Dormition Fast is the perfect time to go! Fr. David will be hearing Confessions 30 minutes before evening services; after evening services as needed; before Liturgy on Sundays (ending at 8:45 AM); and by appointment.

# SERVICES FOR THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, August 14, 2025

7:00 PM: Great Vespers with Litija  
*Dormition “Burial” Procession*  
*(Outdoors, Weather Permitting)*

Friday, August 15, 2025

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy  
*Blessing of Flowers and Herbs*  
*Fellowship in the Hall after Liturgy*



Please bring flowers and herbs for the blessing! *Read more below.*

We will have Fellowship and Refreshments in the hall following Liturgy on August 15th, to celebrate the feast together. *All those who would like to bring something to share are invited to do so.*

## ***“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 should 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.

# GOLF SCRAMBLE 2025

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 accepting the following:**

- ⇒ Team Commitments
- ⇒ Major sponsorships for \$100.00
- ⇒ Hole sponsorships for \$40.00
- ⇒ Patron Ad Listings for \$10.00
- ⇒ 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

## *Upcoming Services with Enrichment Presentations*

*Monday August 4 at 6:00 PM:*  
Moleben to the Mother of God  
Presentation Topic:  
"Mary the New Eve"

*Monday, August 8 at 6:00 PM:*  
Paraklis to the Mother of God  
Presentation Topic:  
"Behold Your Mother"

*Congratulations to  
**NOAH VANZANTEN**  
who received the Sacrament of  
Holy Chrismation  
on Sunday, July 27, 2025.  
God grant him many,  
blessed years!*



## Thoughts on Stewardship

*From Dan Hromyak*

*"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." - Luke 12:15*

The Gospel message is contrary to modern culture that continually tries to convince us that our joy comes from the material things we possess. That the more we acquire, the happier we will be. Jesus shows us that our true joy comes from our "invisible" gifts like love, mercy, and forgiveness. True joy comes from "emptying" ourselves, giving of ourselves rather than always taking. We are called not to be heard but to share. True joy comes from living a grateful and generous lifestyle; become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered."

*"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." - Luke 12:34*

Jesus encourages us to build up our treasure in heaven. The world encourages us to build up our treasure in real estate, investments, and material goods. How much time are you investing in building up a worldly treasure? How much time are you investing in building up a heavenly treasure? To invest more in the things of heaven, you must let go of some of the things of this world.

# SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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*Website: [www.stjohnacroc.org](http://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.

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Our Church's Website:	<a href="http://stjohnacroc.org">stjohnacroc.org</a>
Our YouTube Live Stream:	<a href="https://youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon">youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon</a>
Our Facebook Page:	<a href="https://facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA">facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA</a>
Our Diocesan Website:	<a href="http://acrod.org">acrod.org</a>

For Online Giving Options, please visit our website: [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org)

## *Happy Birthday!*

Jason Baker	August 3
Nancy Ristvey	August 5
Joann Yasnowsky	August 6
Evan Campbell	August 7
Shannon Baker	August 8
Gustav Redick	August 8
Becky Schultheis	August 13
Michael Holmes	August 15

## *Happy Anniversary!*

Ristvey, Michael & Nancy	August 5
Hynes, James & Karen	August 7
Campbell, Lucas & Khendra	August 7
Bailey, Doane & Karole	August 10
Holmes, Michael & Lisa	August 12

*God Grant You  
Many, Blessed Years!*

## ■ Our Sponsors ■

**August 3, 2025**

### *Eternal Lamp*

*For the Sisterhood of the Orthodox  
Monastery of the Transfiguration  
in Ellwood City as They Celebrate  
Their Feastday This Week*

**August 10, 2025**

### *Eternal Lamp*

*For All Those For Whom  
We Are Praying  
During the Dormition Fast Services*



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

**August 3**  
Paul McMahon  
Robert Miller  
John Moon  
Dan Ristvey  
Joel Ristvey

**August 10**  
Matt Ristvey  
Tom Ristvey  
Thomas Ristvey  
Steve Saluga  
Milan Shumkaroff

**August 17**  
Gino Tofani  
Donald Yasnowsky  
Kevin Yasnowsky  
Gary Yonchak  
Bob Amos