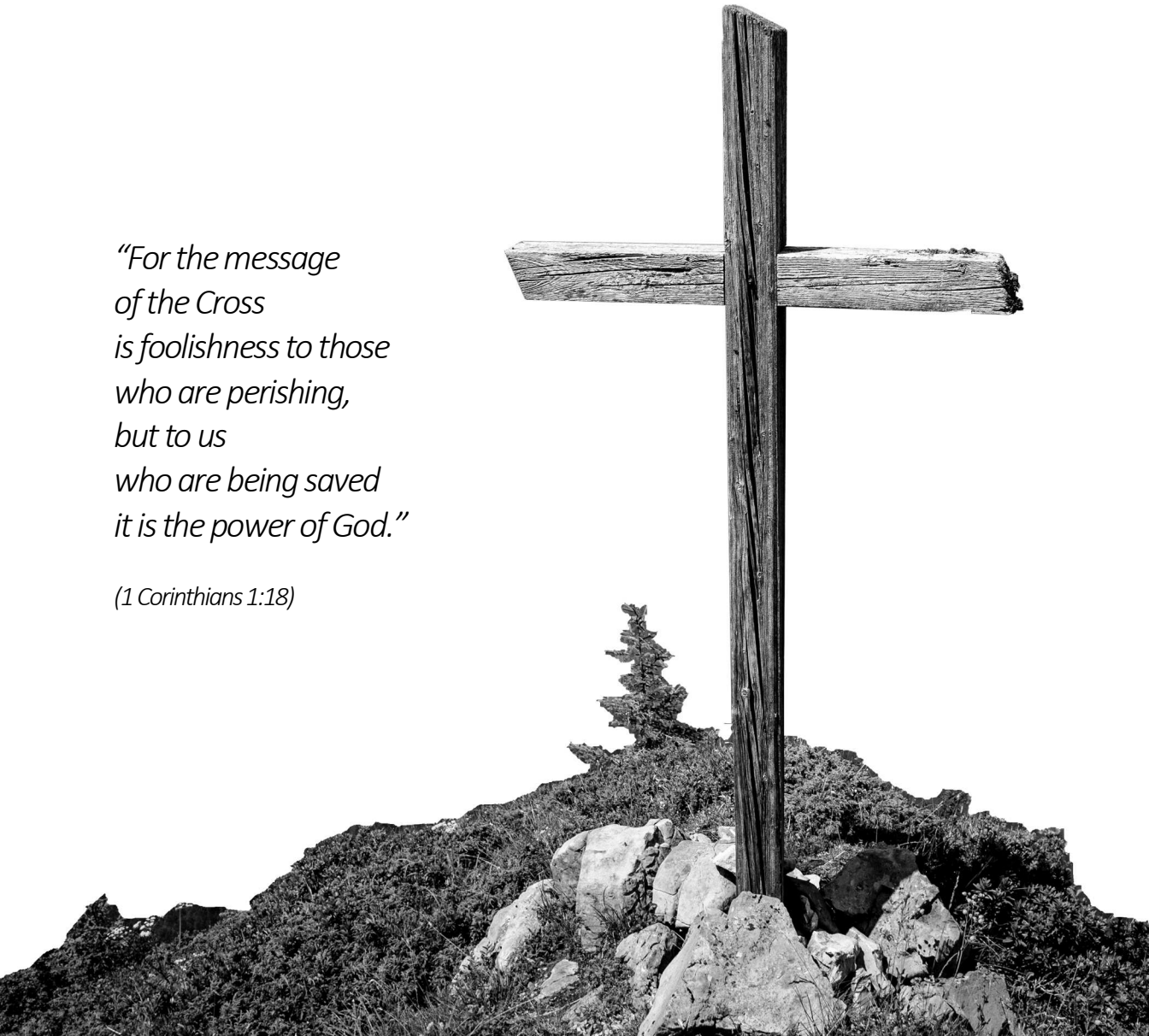


# BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 14-27, 2025

*"For the message  
of the Cross  
is foolishness to those  
who are perishing,  
but to us  
who are being saved  
it is the power of God."*

*(1 Corinthians 1:18)*



**\*SUN 9/14/2025 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (STRICT FAST HOLYDAY)**  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

***Weekly Perpetual Commemorations for September 14-20:***

*KOMISIN, George & Estella, John & Pauline, Harry & Anna VER-  
HOLEK, Helen Penich*

*KLUTCHER, John & Mary*

*RISTVEY Family: Michael, Anna, John, Stephanie, Steve, Ann,  
Stevie, Joseph, Nicholas, George, Mary, Susan, Ann, John, Susan*

*& Kanishak Family: Andrew, Evelyn, Dorothy*

**WED 9/17/2025**  
9:00 AM ***Saints of the Day: Martyrs Sophia, Faith, Hope and Love***  
Divine Liturgy  
*With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations*

**FRI 9/19/2025**  
6:00 PM Prayer Service (Moleben) in Honor of the Holy Cross  
*With Prayers for the Living/Sick*  
6:30 PM Panachida: *+Sue Preston, by the Family*

**\*SUN 9/21/2025**  
9:00 AM **SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
Divine Liturgy

*Panachida: +Sue Preston, by Debbie & Greg Cross*

***Weekly Perpetual Commemorations for September 21-:***

*REPASKY, Helen*

*GUZI, Frank*

*ROWLANDS, Charles & Mary*

*HALL, Frank & Connie*

**TUES 9/23/2025**  
9:00 AM ***Conception of St. John the Baptist***  
Divine Liturgy  
*With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations*

**SAT 9/27/2025**  
6:00 PM Vespers for Sunday

**\*SUN 9/28/2025**  
9:00 AM **SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
Divine Liturgy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Fr. David will be teaching on Mondays** at Christ the Saviour Seminary in Johnstown through the academic year. While some weeks will be taught remotely from Hermitage, most weeks will be taught in person in Johnstown. *As always, if you need to reach him, please call his cell number found on the back page.*

### **2025 Fall Young Adult Retreat at Camp Nazareth Friday, October 17-Sunday, October 19, 2025**

This Fall Retreat is sponsored by American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Y2M, The OCA Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church USA. It is open to ages 18-35. The guest speaker will be Very Rev. Dr. Nicholas Ferencz will speak about "To Believe or Not to Believe, that is the Question." Along with some outdoor activities, fellowship and worship. To register, visit [campnazareth.org](http://campnazareth.org)

The National Junior A.C.R.Y. invites all youth  
ages 8-18 to attend the annual Fall Encounter!



REGISTER

November 7-9, 2025

Cost: \$120

RETREAT AND RECHARGE  
WITH YOUR FRIENDS  
AT CAMP NAZARETH!



# THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

*from The Law of God*

*by Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy*

We call ourselves Christians because we believe in God as we were taught to believe by the Son of God Himself, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ not only taught us to believe in God correctly, but He also saved us from the power of sin and eternal death.

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, out of love for us sinners came down from Heaven and, as a man, suffered instead of us for our sins: He was crucified, He died on the Cross, and on the third day He Resurrected. As the sinless Son of God, by His Cross (that is, by suffering and death of the Cross for the sins of all men and of all the world), He conquered not only sin but also death itself--He arose from the dead, and He made the Cross the weapon of His victory over sin and death.

As the vanquisher of death, Who arose on the third day, He saved us also from eternal death. He will resurrect all of us, all the dead, when the last day of the world comes; He will resurrect us for joyful and eternal life with God.

The Cross is the weapon--or sign--of Christ's victory over sin and death. Our Lord Jesus Christ received in His breast the terrible spears of sin and death which were invincible for us. He died on the Cross, but He also arose, as the vanquisher of sin and death, and thus opened for us the way to eternal life.

Now everything depends on us: if we wish to be delivered from the power of evil, sin, and eternal death, then we must follow

Christ, love Him, and fulfill His Holy Will, being obedient to Him in everything, and live with Christ.

This is why, in order to express our faith in Jesus Christ our Savior, we wear a cross on our body, and during prayer we form the cross over ourselves with our right hand--that is, we make the sign of the Cross.

For the sign of the Cross we put the fingers of our right hand together as follows: We bring the tips of the first three fingers together (the thumb, index, and middle ones), and bend the last two (the "ring" and little fingers) against the palm.

The first three fingers express our faith in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, as the Trinity one in essence and indivisible.

The two fingers bent signify how the Son of God, when He comes down from Heaven, being God, became man; that is, they signify His two natures--divine and human.

In order to make the sign of the Cross, with our fingers in this position, we touch our forehead, for the blessing of our mind, our stomach, for the blessing of our internal feelings, then our right and left shoulders, for the blessing of our bodily strength.

The sign of the Cross gives us great strength to repel and conquer evil and to do good, but we must remember to make the sign of the Cross correctly and without haste, otherwise it will not be the sign of the Cross, but just waving our hand around, which only gladdens the demons. By making the sign of the Cross carelessly we show a lack of reverence for God. This is a sin, called sacrilege.



# Thoughts on Stewardship

*From Dan Hromyak*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." - John 3:16*

God created us to be in relationship with Him. Sin broke that relationship. Jesus came to earth so that we may reconcile our relationship with God. Following Jesus' example we can be blessed with a joy-filled life on earth and eternal life in Heaven. These four points are known as the "kerygma" - the first proclamation of the Gospel. This core message is the basis of our Orthodox faith. How do you live this out in your daily life?

*"No servant can serve two masters. He will hate one and love the other or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (wealth). - Luke 16:13*

Jesus knows that for many of us God and money run "neck and neck" as top priority. Is money a "god" that you put before God? Giving money to support the Church and other charity is a pillar of our faith, just like attending Liturgy every day and participating in parish ministry. Giving money frees us from becoming a slave to money. It increases our dependence on God and our trust that God will provide all that we need.

## *A Prayer for the Acceptance of God's Will*

O Lord, I do not know what to ask of You. You alone know what my real needs are. You love me more than I myself know how to love. Help me to see my real needs which are hidden from me. I am afraid to ask for either a cross or consolation. I can only wait on You. My heart is open to You. Visit me and help me for the sake of Your great mercy. Strike me and heal me, cast me down and raise me up. In silence I worship Your holy will and Your ways which are beyond my understanding. I offer myself as a sacrifice to You. I put all my trust in You. I want nothing more than to fulfill Your will. Teach me how to pray. Pray Yourself in me. Amen.





## OCTOBER 2025 Pirohi Schedule

**October 8, 2025**

11:00 AM

Potato Prep

**October 9, 2025**

6:00 PM

Filling Prep

**October 10, 2025**

8:00 AM

Pirohi Making and Sale

*Sign-up sheet for volunteers  
is located on the Infor-  
mation Table in the Hall.*

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

### *Coffee Hour "Thank You"...*

*We thank those who supplied the  
refreshments for Coffee Hour  
on Sunday, September 7:*

*Martha Johnson, Sara Hook,  
Madeline Johnson, Suzanna Johnson,  
Khendra Campbell, and Clare Campbell!*

### **OCTOBER 2025 Pirohi Order Form**

*Order Deadline: October 5, 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, October 10, 2025**

12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM

*(Doors Open at 12:00 NOON)*

# SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

3180 Morefield Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

*Church Office: 724-981-0571*  
*To Reach Fr. David: 724-813-3172*  
*E-mail: [father.david@stjohnacroc.org](mailto:father.david@stjohnacroc.org)*  
*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)

## ■ Our Sponsors ■

**September 14, 2025**

***Eternal Lamp***

*In Memory of Parents Joseph & Catherine Pavlick on Their Wedding Anniversary, by Debbie & Greg Cross*

**September 21, 2025**

***Eternal Lamp***

*In Memory of +Sue Preston, as a 40th Day Memorial, by Debbie & Greg Cross* ➡

***Bulletin***

*In Memory of +Mary Taczak, as a Birthday Remembrance (9/23) by Diane Kupensky*

***Coffee Hour—Thank You!***

*In Memory of +Mary Taczak as a Birthday Remembrance (9/23) By Diane Kupensky*

***Candelabrum***

*In Honor of Cousin Michelle Firster's Birthday, by Debbie & Greg Cross and Rich & Richie Preston*

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

**September 14**

Ken Maceyko  
Emil Maurer  
Randy Martin  
Paul McMahon  
Robert Miller

**September 21**

John Moon  
Gus Redick  
Dan Ristvey  
Joel Ristvey  
Matt Ristvey

**September 28**

Tom Ristvey  
Thomas Ristvey  
Steve Saluga  
Milan Shumkaroff  
Gino Tofani