

We Honor Our Veterans...

On Sunday, November 9, 2025, 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 Burprich
Ruth Ristvey Cisneros
John Frejik
Torry Hook
Paul McMahon
John Ristvey

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

God Bless America!

BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 9-22, 2025

— Schedule for November 9-22, 2025 —

*SUN	11/9/2025	22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ST. NEKTARIOS THE WONDER-WORKER 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy <i>Veteran Recognition</i>
		<i>Weekly Perpetual Commemorations for November 9-15:</i> <i>POLOCHAK, John & Katherine</i> <i>ADAMS, Estelle (Ledney)</i> <i>VALENT, George & Anna, Harold Bouslough</i>
MON	11/10/2025	6:00 PM Board Meeting for November
TUES	11/11/2025	<i>Saint of the Day: Great-Martyr Menas</i> 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations (CHAPEL)
WED	11/12/2025	11:00 AM Potato Prep for Pirohi
THURS	11/13/2025	6:00 PM Filling Prep for Pirohi
FRI	11/14/2025	8:00 AM Pirohi Making and Sale
SAT	11/15/2025	FIRST DAY OF THE NATIVITY FAST (ADVENT) 6:00 PM Vespers for Sunday (CHAPEL)
*SUN	11/16/2025	23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST APOSTLE MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
		<i>Weekly Perpetual Commemorations for November 16-22:</i> <i>POLANICHKA, Pañi Eleanor</i> <i>O'SHANIC, Joseph & Margaret</i> <i>VOLSKO, Ann</i>

WED	11/19/2025 6:00 PM	Pre-Nativity Service: Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God <i>Reflection Topic: "Mary, did you know? ... Yes."</i>
FRI	11/21/2025 9:00 AM	ENTRANCE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE (HOLYDAY) Divine Liturgy <i>Panachida for Weekly Perpetual Commemorations</i>
SAT	11/22/2025 6:00 PM	Vespers for Sunday (<i>CHAPEL</i>)
*SUN	11/23/2025 9:00 AM	24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Divine Liturgy

Weekly Perpetual Commemorations for November 23-29:
SOBOTA, Peter & Mary
PACINDA, Joseph, Mary, John, Joseph & George
JAEGER, Joseph

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PARISH MEETING

The Annual **Election of Officers Meeting** will take place on **Sunday, November 30** after Divine Liturgy. All members in good standing (having received Confession and Communion at least once within the past year and who support the church financially) are invited to participate. This announcement will be made from the pulpit on Sundays November 16, November 23 and November 30.

Join Us For Our Annual St. Nicholas Celebration!

December 6th is the holyday of St. Nicholas, a beloved saint known for his faith and generosity. "St. Nicholas" will be making his annual visit to our church on **Sunday, December 7th**.

We will have a potluck meal following Liturgy. ***All are welcome!***

Parents, please let Pani Vikkie know by November 30th if your child will be in attendance, so St. Nicholas can prepare accordingly!

Youngstown Deanery Sunday

American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese - Ecumenical Patriarchate



Feast of St. Nektarios of Aegina

Patron Saint of our Deanery

Sunday, November 9th, 2025

Please pray for the churches, clergy, and people of
our Youngstown Deanery!

Dormition of the Virgin Mary ~ Akron, OH

Holy Cross ~ Columbus, OH

Ss. Cyril and Methodios ~ Mercer, PA

St. John the Baptist ~ Hermitage, PA

St. Nicholas ~ Erie, PA

St. Nicholas ~ Warren, OH

Holy Father Nektarios, Pray to God for us!

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 today.

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.) Fast more intently in the days before Christmas. 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 27, 2025.

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 find another Orthodox resource. **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. Each time you receive a Christmas Card, pray for the sender(s). 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 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.

Prayerfully Preparing for Christmas:
**Nativity Fast Services
& Spiritual Reflections**

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

■ **November 19**

Akathist to the Mother of God

Topic: "Mary, Did You Know? ... Yes."

■ **November 26**

Prayer Service of Thanksgiving

Reflection on Thanksgiving

■ **December 3**

Prayer Service for the Nativity Fast

*Topic: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" –
Jesus the Messianic King*

■ **December 10**

Prayer Service for the Nativity Fast

*Topic: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing..." –
Christology in Christmas Carols*

■ **December 17**

Prayer Service for the Nativity Fast

*Topic: "We Three Kings" –
What the Gifts of the Magi Signify about Jesus*



***Confession** is available before Wednesday evening services beginning at 5:00 PM.*

Stewardship

Dan Hromyak

"Do you know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells within you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

Simply remembering that we are "temples of the Holy Spirit" should make our daily decision making relatively easy. If you truly want to imitate Jesus, then our words and actions should reflect the love, mercy, and forgiveness that flow from His Sacred Heart. Try it for one week. Try to remember that we're temples of the Holy Spirit and see how it affects the way that you live.

"...Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you imitate us." (2 Thessalonians 3:9)

Most people who live a grateful and generous lifestyle don't go around bragging about it. But through their words and actions, others take notice. They notice because of the joy and peace that results and others desire this in their own life. Know that the way you live your life may be the only interaction others may have with our Orthodox faith.

*St. John's
Christmas Market
And Cookie Sale*

Saturday, December 13, 2025

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Homemade Cookies, Nutroll, Cheesebreads,
Soups, Snack Mixes & More

Pickup Christmas Gifts \$5 and Under

Vintage Jewelry

Chinese Auction including Signature "Basket of Cheer"

All proceeds to benefit local charities.

*For more information or to find out how you can help,
please speak with Renee Maceyko and Mary Ann Lavin.*

*Schedule of
Men to Hold
Candles During
the Gospel*

November 9

John Moon
Gus Redick
Dan Ristvey
Joel Ristvey
Matt Ristvey

November 16

Tom Ristvey
Thomas Ristvey
Steve Saluga
Milan Shumkaroff
Gino Tofani

November 23

Aaron Van Zanten
Donald Yasnowsky
Kevin Yasnowsky
Gary Yonchak
Bob Amos

Pray for Our Seminarians

Deacon Peter Sodini, Deacon Maximus Cannaverde, Fr. Alexander Hurt-sellers, Bradley Shaffer, Nicholas Cizin, John Bonnewicz-Coffey, John Fedornock III, Spyridon Clay Raburn and Ignatius Leonardo

■ **Our Sponsors** ■

November 9, 2025

Eternal Lamp

*In Loving Memory of John Robert Hynes
from Jim, Karen, Katie and Brent Hynes*

November 9, 2025

Candelabrum

*In Loving Memory of our Grandmother
Pani Eleanor, from Kaela & Richard, Ja-
son & Courtney, Cameron, Brianna, Jor-
dan & Paul, and Taylor*

Eternal Lamp

*In Loving Memory of our Great-
Grandmother Pani Eleanor, from Aiden,
Jennifer, Eileen, Claire, and Madelyn*

Bulletin

*In Loving Memory of our Mother Pani
Eleanor from Valerie & Bill, Justine, and
Michael & Brenda*