

BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 15-28, 2026

SUN 2/15/2026 **MEATFARE SUNDAY – LAST JUDGMENT**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for February 15-21, 2026:
GULA, Helen & Peter
STROKE, Frederick & Julia
HOLLIDAY, Mike & Mary

TUES 2/17/2026 *Saint of the Day: Great-Martyr Theodore the Recruit*
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Chapel)
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations

SUN 2/22/2026 **CHEESEFARE SUNDAY – EXPULSION OF ADAM & EVE FROM PARADISE**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
After Liturgy Pre-Lenten Breakfast
~11:30 AM Vespers for the Beginning of the Great Fast

Perpetual Commemorations for February 22-28, 2026:
GULA, Metro, Paraska, Peter & Steve
POLANSKY, George & Anna
ANDRAS, John Sr. & Helen
SENAY, John & Mary, Anna & Kermit, Michael, Betty, Dennis

MON 2/23/2026 **FIRST DAY OF THE GREAT FAST (“CLEAN MONDAY”)**
6:00 PM Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete

WED 2/25/2026 *Saint of the Day: St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople*
5:45 PM Panachida for Weekly Perpetual Commemorations
6:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Lenten Potluck Dinner

FRI 2/27/2026 *Saint of the Day: St. Raphael of Brooklyn*
6:00 PM Akathist Service to the Passion of Christ

SUN 3/1/2026 **1ST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, followed by Youth Procession with Icons

Perpetual Commemorations for March 1-7, 2026:
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, and Family
HOLMES, Charles

WELCOME FR. NATHANIEL, PAŇI NICOLE, EUPHEMIA & SABINA CHOMA!

As Fr. Nathaniel and Paňi Nicole settle into their new assignment at Camp Nazareth, we are happy to welcome them to Saint John's on Sunday, February 15th! We look forward to their continued presence and participation in our parish community in tandem with our ongoing support for Camp Nazareth.

In the weeks ahead, please make a point to introduce yourself to Father and Pani!



*This year's Pre-Lenten Breakfast is being prepared by the **Christmas Market Committee** in gratitude to all parishioners for supporting the 2025 Christmas Market. **Thank You!***

Lent Begins on February 23, 2026 – “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 this and 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.

Camp Nazareth Summer Camp Registration Opens March 1, 2026!



*Parents, our parish covers **100%** of the costs for our youth to attend but you need the special registration code to get this discount. Contact Fr. David and he will give it to you. (Our Deanery Camping Week is July 19-25.)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to a recent sewer-related incident (to put it mildly) we want to remind everyone to **NOT FLUSH** cleaning wipes (*even the "flushable" kind*), feminine hygiene products, tissues, paper towels, diapers, trash, etc. down the toilets. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us avoid future problems.

Due to weather and rescheduling of meetings, our **Church School classes** have been on an extended hiatus. We will reconvene on Sunday, March 1!

Our **February AWARE House Collection** item is DEODORANT. A collection bin is in the hall. For more information or have any questions, see Renee Maceyko.

We are still collecting **CAN TABS** for the National ACRY. Just bring them in and add them to the container in the hallway! Proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House.

SPAGHETTI DINNER to benefit Hope Recovery Housing and honoring the legacy of Joshua Marriotti will take place on Saturday, February 21 from 3 to 7 PM at the Brookfield Fire Hall. Adults \$12 and age 12 and under \$6. If you would like tickets, you can see Paula Kudelko. Additional information is on the bulletin board.

LENTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL youth are invited to participate in the **Procession of Icons** at the conclusion of Liturgy on **Sunday, March 1st** – the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Icons will be provided, or one can be brought from home. This procession celebrates the "Triumph of Orthodoxy" and the restoration of icons after iconoclasm in the 9th century.

Our 2026 Lenten “Self-Denial” Offerings will benefit the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). All donations will be matched by our Tithe Account. Your Lenten sacrifices will help the propagation of the Orthodox Christian Faith around the world. Please be generous!

Read the Entire Book of Psalms This Lent: Make sure to take a copy of the 2026 Psalm Reading Guide from our Lenten Resource Table. It gives a portion of the Book of Psalms for each weekday of the Great Fast. This is a great (and very manageable) way to incorporate more Scripture in your Lenten efforts.

“WALK-IN” CONFESSION TIMES during Lent are as follows:

- **Before Sunday Liturgy from 8:15-8:45 AM**
- **Before Wednesday Presanctified Liturgies from 5:00-5:40 PM**
- **Before Fridays Evening Services from 5:20-5:50 PM**

You do not need to make an appointment or call ahead for these above times. If you would like to schedule an appointment for Confession at a time *other* than those listed above, please call/text/e-mail Fr. David (724-813-3172, father.david@stjohnnacroc.org).

Remember: Confessions are heard in the left side room (sacristy). If the door to the “confessional” room is open and the light is on, please WALK IN!

Reminder About the Eucharistic Fast: Those receiving Communion at an evening Liturgy are to fast for a *minimum* of 3 hours prior to the service. (*Ideally, we should not eat after lunch.*) Fasting from midnight is still observed before receiving Communion at any morning Liturgy. (Remember: only services titled “Liturgy” have the distribution of Communion. Other services offered during Lent – Vespers, Canons, Molebens, Akathists, Paraklis, Parastas – do *not*.)

Our Weekly Perpetual Commemorations of the Departed During Lent will be remembered during Sunday Liturgy (*as usual*) and at a Panachida on Wednesday evenings at 5:45 PM (before Presanctified Liturgy).

POTLUCK DINNERS will take place on the following dates: **Wednesdays February 25, March 11, March 18; and Tuesday, March 24.** You are invited to bring a Lenten dish, baked good, or a beverage to share with those assembled. This is a great opportunity to gather mid-week and cheer one another on as we go through our Lenten journey as a community!

El Tonto Por Cristo:
An ORTHODOX Movie
Coming to Meadville
on Sunday, March 29
—Meet the Director!

El Tonto Por Cristo is the first Orthodox narrative feature film in the English language. It is the tale of an unlikely saint: a monk in a (fictional) monastery on the coast of Texas who embraces the life of a Holy Fool. Through a series of vignettes, it shows a brotherhood of monks as they inch toward sainthood struggling along the way with the burden of their own condition.

This screening will include viewing of the film, a Q&A with writer and director Josh Jordan and his wife Jessica, as well as a post-show mingle.

The screening will be held on March 29, 2026 at **The Movies at Meadville; 11155 Highline Drive; Meadville, PA 16335**. The doors will open at 4:30 PM with the film starting at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by visiting stnicholaserie.org

VIP packages are also available for \$55 and include early entry into the venue, a personal meet and greet with Josh Jordan and exclusive El Tonto merch.

For more information on the film and to view the trailer, please visit www.eltontoporcristo.com.



Scan for
More Information &
Tickets

STEWARDSHIP

From Dan Hromyak

"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" - Matthew 4:10.

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

MARCH 2026 Pirohi Schedule

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

11:00 AM
Potato Prep

Thursday, March 5, 2026

6:00 PM
Filling Prep

Friday, March 6, 2026

8:00 AM
Pirohi Making and Sale

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

Get your orders in early!

March 2026 Pirohi Order Form

*Order Deadline: Sunday, March 1, 2026
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 6, 2026
12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM

(Doors Open at 12:00 NOON)

■ Our Sponsors ■

February 15, 2026

Candelabrum

*In Honor of Luciano Tofani
on His Second Birthday*

Eternal Lamp

*For Health and God's Blessings
to Bob Amos on His Birthday*

Coffee Hour

Paňi Vikkie & Fr. David

February 22, 2026

Eternal Lamp

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

Pre-Lenten Breakfast

Christmas Market Committee

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

February 15
Robert Miller
John Moon
Gus Redick
Dan Ristvey
Joel Ristvey

February 22
Matt Ristvey
Tom Ristvey
Thomas Ristvey
Steve Saluga
Milan Shumkaroff

March 1
Gino Tofani
Aaron Van Zanten
Donald Yasnowsky
Kevin Yasnowsky
Gary Yonchak