

BULLETIN FOR MARCH 15-28, 2026

*“Your Cross we adore, O Master,
and Your Holy Resurrection we glorify!”*

SUN **3/15/2026** **3RD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**
8:15-8:45 AM Confession
9:00 AM Procession with the Cross & Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for the Week of March 15-21, 2026:
JAEGER, Joseph
SPONDIKE, John & Mary
KARAS, Andrew & Agnes

WED **3/18/2026** *Saint of the Day: St. Cyril of Jerusalem*
5:00-5:40 PM Confession
5:45 PM Panachida for Weekly Perpetual Commemorations
6:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Lenten Pot-Luck Dinner

FRI **3/20/2026** *Saint of the Day: Martyred Monks of St. Sabbas Monastery*
5:20-5:50 PM Confession
6:00 PM Moleben (Prayer Service) to the Holy Cross
 & Soul Saturday Panachida

SUN **3/22/2026** **4TH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER**
8:15-8:45 AM Confession
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Reception into the Orthodox Church of the Hook Family

Perpetual Commemorations for the Week of March 22-28, 2026:
HERCHA, Vasil & Melania
BELOUS, John
PAVLICK, Paul, Ruth & Paul Denny

TUES **3/24/2026** *Eve of the Annunciation*
5:20-5:50 PM Confession
6:00 PM Great Vespers with Festal Blessing of Bread, Wheat, Wine and Oil
Lenten Potluck Meal

WED 3/25/2026 ANNUNCIATION TO THE MOTHER OF GOD (HOLYDAY)
8:15-8:45 AM Confession
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
*Weekly Perpetual Commemorations will be mentioned during Liturgy.
(No Evening Service tonight.)*

FRI 3/27/2026 *Eve of the Saturday of the Akathist Hymn*
5:20-5:50 PM Confession
6:00 PM Akathist Service to the Mother of God

SUN 3/29/2026 5TH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. MARY OF EGYPT
8:15-8:45 AM Confession
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for the Week of March 29-April 4, 2026:
BURPRICH, JoAnn & Eric
PAVLICK, Joseph & Katherine
BALZIC, Joseph & Sophie, George
REPASKY, Stephen

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

WELCOME, HOOK FAMILY! On Sunday, March 22, we will witness the Sacrament of Chrismation and the Reception into the Orthodox Church of the Hook Family: Torry, Sara, Reagan, Sadie and Eliza. *We offer our prayers for them, our congratulations to them, and wish them many, blessed faith-filled years!*

Our Lenten Journey Continues! Fast as you are able with a joyful heart. Pray at home daily. Read the Scriptures. Attend as many Lenten services as possible. Go to Confession. Give charitably. This is how we are called to intensify our Christian life during these sacred days leading to the Cross and Empty Tomb. *Having suffered the passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!*

Our **March AWARE House Collection** item is Women's Shampoo/Conditioner. A collection bin is in the hall. For more information or have any questions, see Renee Maceyko.

Fifth Week of Lent – *Special Schedule...*

On March 24-25, we will celebrate the great feast of the **Annunciation to the Mother of God**. This is the day – nine months before Christmas – when we remember Gabriel’s announcement to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. Even though we are still in Lent, it is nevertheless a joyful day. We do not offer the Presanctified Liturgy, so this also means we will not have a Wednesday night meal. We are shifting that to Tuesday night. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

6:00 PM: Great Vespers with Blessing of Loaves
Followed by Lenten Pot-Luck Meal (*Yes, it’s still meatless.*)

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy
No Evening Service

We will also have the celebration of the **Akathist Service to the Mother of God** on Friday, March 27, at 6:00 PM. This is traditional on the eve of the Fifth Saturday of Lent (which is dedicated to the ever-Virgin Mary). It also connects to the Annunciation as many Incarnational themes are woven into the fabric of this service. *“Rejoice, Unwedded Bride!”*

CONFESSION is available at the following times during Lent:

- **Before Sunday Liturgy from 8:15-8:45 AM**
- **Before Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy from 5:00-5:40 PM**
- **Before Fridays Evening Services from 5:20-5:50 PM**
- **Other times as listed on the Monthly Calendar**

You do not need to make an appointment or call ahead for these 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).

Easter Candy: We are grateful for all donations of candy for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Pascha Sunday, April 12. Please leave candy in the blue bin in the hall. (We do NOT need plastic eggs this year!)

Willow Watch: Pussy willows are in bloom, so if you have any, please cut them and bring them to church anytime before Saturday, April 4.

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 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!

Lenten Pot-Luck Dinners will take place on the following upcoming dates: **Wednesday**, 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!

Camp Nazareth Summer Camp Registration is OPEN! Parents, our parish covers 100% of the costs for our youth to attend one week of camping 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, but you can attend another week if needed.*)

Save the Date! Youngstown Deanery Pascha Celebration will be at Camp Nazareth on Saturday, May 9, 2026. This is a new event for our Deanery. *More information forthcoming!*

STEWARDSHIP

From Dan Hromyak

“Not as many sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.” - 1 Samuel 16:7

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ - John 11:40

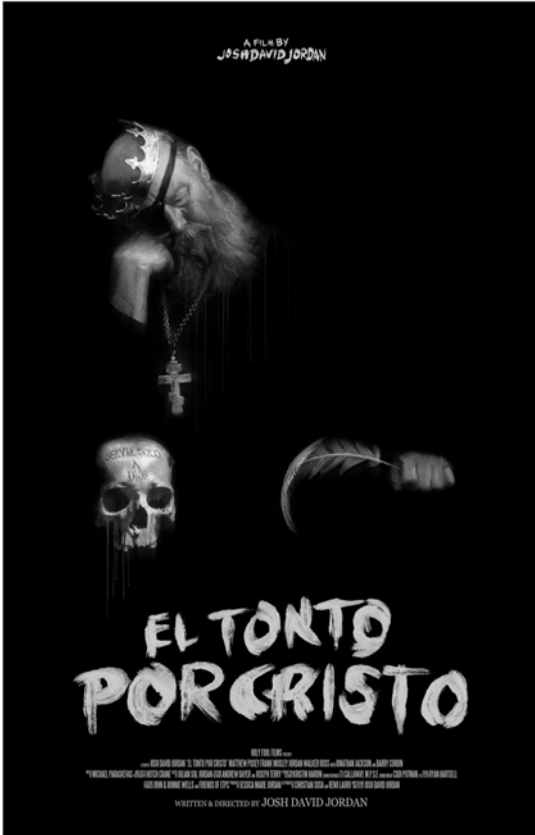
Many of us say that we believe in God. We attend Sunday Liturgy and participate in parish events. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren’t going our way, do we really believe? Do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really do see that God is providing for our needs. Living a grateful life allows us to see God’s active presence in our daily lives and we become “partakes of the divine nature.”

Quotes from the Saints about the Holy Cross

But we are able to see Christ’s inexpressible love for man not only from the cross itself but also from the words which He spoke while upon the cross. At the very time when He was nailed and they were mocking Him, deriding Him and spitting upon Him, He said: “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34)... At the same time that they were saying, “If You are the Son of God save Yourself,” He was accomplishing everything necessary to save these same ones who were reproaching Him. ...He did forgive them, if they wished to repent, because if He had not forgiven them this sin, Paul would not have become an apostle; if He had not forgiven them this sin, the three thousand and the five thousand, and the many other thousands, would not have immediately believed. (*John Chrysostom*)

The knowledge of the Cross is concealed in the sufferings of the Cross. (*Gregory the Great*)

God does not create a cross for man. No matter how heavy a cross a man may carry in life, it is still just wood, from which man himself made, and it always grows from the soil of his heart. (*Ambrose of Optina*)



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

2026 KOLBASI MAKING & SALE

We will again have a kolbasi-making event and sale to prepare for Easter. Kolbasi will be made in the hall on Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28 at 8:00 AM each day. Volunteers are needed, so please come and help! Kolbasi will be sold following Liturgy on Sunday, March 29.

For more information, speak with Jerry Chupak.

APRIL 2026 Pirohi Schedule

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

11:00 AM

Potato Prep

Thursday, April 2, 2026

6:00 PM

Filling Prep

Friday, April 3, 2026

8:00 AM

Pirohi Making and Sale

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

Don't forget: this is our last sale until October!

April 2026 Pirohi Order Form

*Order Deadline: Sunday, March 29, 2026
(Or Until We Reach Our Production Limit!)
724-981-0571*

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

____ Potato-Cheese Pirohi @ **\$9.00**/dozen

____ Butter Only

____ Butter and Onions

Total Amount Due: \$_____

Pick-Up on Friday, April 3, 2026
12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM

(Doors Open at 12:00 NOON)

***Pray for Our Diocesan
Seminarians***

*Fr. Peter Sodini
Fr. Alexander Hurtsellers
Deacon Maximus Cannaverde
Deacon Bradley Shaffer
Nicholas Cizin
John Bonnewicz-Coffey
John Fedornock III
Spyridon Raburn
Clay Wood
Ignatios Leonardo*

■ **Our Sponsors** ■

March 15, 2026

Eternal Lamp

*God's Blessings on Aunt Marge Holmes
on Her Birthday,
by Debbie & Greg Cross*

March 22, 2026

Eternal Lamp

*In Memory of Father, +Joseph Paolick
and Uncles, Godfather +Paul Paolick
and +Andrew Paolick on their birthdays,
by Debbie & Greg Cross*

Candelabrum

*In Memory of +Debbie Anderson
on the 2nd Anniversary of Her Repose,
by Debbie Cross*

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

March 15
Evan Campbell
Lucas Campbell
Jerry Chupak
Ed Fabian
Matt Fabian

March 22
Chad Fette
Torry Hook
Ron Hurl
Jim Hynes
Abram Johnson

March 29
Martin Johnson
Steven Lukac
Steve Lukac
John Lenhart
Ken Maceyko