

—BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2-15, 2026—

***SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026**

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for August 2-8, 2026:

TKACH, Msgr. Paul & Pani Helen

PACINDA, Joseph

GELETY, Andrew & Anna

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026

6:00 PM Paraklis Service
to the Mother of God
With Prayers for the Living

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2026

6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Holyday
With Prayers for the Living

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026

TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Fruit

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

8:30 AM Pierogi 5K (*Rescheduled!*)
6:00 PM Vespers for Sunday
With Prayers for the Living

***SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026**

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Second Blessing
and Distribution of Fruit

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026

6:00 PM August Board Meeting

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026

6:00 PM Paraklis Service
to the Mother of God
With Prayers for the Living

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

LEAVE-TAKING OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Special Intention of
Fr. David's Family, Friends
& Parishioners on His 15th
Ordination Anniversary

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026

7:00 PM Vespers for the Dormition
Note Time! With Burial Procession
of the Mother of God

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026

DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

***SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026**

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ICON OF CHRIST "NOT MADE WITH HANDS"

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Students

Perpetual Commemorations for August 16-22:

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



RESCHEDULED!

**THIS Saturday,
August 8, 2026**

*All the same events
will take place,
just on this new day!*

*For more information,
please see Laura Fette.*

**Our 25th Anniversary
Golf Scramble** will be
held on Saturday, August
22nd at Avalon at Buhl Park.
Shotgun Start will be at 8:30
AM.

We are still accepting the fol-
lowing contributions:

- ⇒ **Gift Cards for the Raffle**
- ⇒ **Monetary donations**

Dinner-only tickets for the
post-golfing meal are availa-
ble for \$30 per person. See
Francine Fabian to get tick-
ets.

Sunday, August 16

ALL STUDENTS (*preschool, elementary school, high school, college, grad school, trade school, etc.*) are invited to receive a special blessing as they prepare to go to school for the 2026-2027 academic year. This will take place after Liturgy on **August 16, 2026**.

Parent/Teacher Meeting

A meeting for Sunday School Parents and Teachers will take place on Sunday, August 23 during Coffee Hour. This will be an opportunity to discuss the upcoming year of classes and youth events. *If you are interested in helping plan events and/or teaching, please speak with Fr. David or Pani Vikkie.*

**Register Online
for Church School!**

***Sunday School Kick-Off:
Sunday, September 13***



—Celebrate Our Faith with Upcoming Holydays & Blessings—

AUGUST 6: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
AND THE BLESSING OF FRUIT

This is a great feast on the Orthodox calendar. We will have Vespers on Wednesday, August 5 at 6:00 PM and Divine Liturgy on Thursday, 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 their services, visit 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.

Confession is available 30 minutes before evening services; after evening services as needed; before Liturgy on Sundays (ending at 8:45 AM); and by appointment.

“Come, let us ascend the mountain of the Lord and go into the house of our God. Let us contemplate the glory of his Transfiguration, the glory of the only-begotten Son of God the Father. From his light, let us receive light; and raised up by the Holy Spirit, let us sing the praises of the consubstantial Trinity forever.” (Vespers for Transfiguration)

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Friday, August 14, 2026

7:00 PM: Great Vespers
With Burial Procession
(Outdoors, Hopefully!)

Saturday, August 15, 2026

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Flowers
and Herbs

Please bring flowers and/or herbs
for the blessing! *(You may also bring them Friday and leave them at the Tomb*
until Saturday.)

“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 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 can 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.

Blood Drive **St. John's Orthodox Church**

**Fellowship Hall
3180 Morefield Road
Hermitage**

**Thursday, August 6
12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:
hermitageRSMO to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history
questions on the day of your appointment.



Come to give blood in August for a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. Terms: rcblood.org/August.

Thoughts on Stewardship ***From Dan Hromyak***

"Jesus said to them, 'There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves'." - Matthew 14:16

This is what Jesus said right before he fed the five thousand men. How often do we really place our trust in Jesus when the situation looks grim? With Jesus, no gift is too small or insignificant when offered with love. But, we have to do our part. We should trust that Jesus will provide all that we need. We need to believe that Jesus has a better plan in store for us.

"He said, 'Come.' Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus." - Matthew 14:29

When you hear Jesus calling, do you respond immediately and trust that He knows what He's doing? If so, you are walking on water! When we say "yes" to Jesus, we feel the power of his presence in our lives. We can feel the freedom it gives us! Listen how Jesus is calling you to live the extraordinary life He has intended for you.

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
Website: 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.

Our Church's Website:	stjohnacroc.org
Our YouTube Live Stream:	youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon
Our Facebook Page:	facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA
Our Diocesan Website:	acrod.org

For Online Giving Options, please visit our website: 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
Jacklyn Merry	August 9
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!*

Eternal Lamp

August 2

*For God's Blessings on Fr. Nate, Pani
Nicole and the Camp Nazareth Staff*

August 9

*For Mother Christophora and the
Sisterhood of the Monastery of the
Transfiguration in Ellwood City*

August AWARE House Donation Item:

WASHCLOTHS

(Leave your donations in the box in the hall!)

Schedule of Men to Hold Candles During the Gospel

August 2

Gus Redick
Dan Ristvey
Joel Ristvey
Matt Ristvey
Tom Ristvey

August 9

Thomas Ristvey
Steve Saluga
Milan Shumkaroff
Gino Tofani
Aaron Van Zanten

August 16

Donald Yasnowsky
Kevin Yasnowsky
Gary Yonchak
Bob Amos
Jason Baker