

—BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 11-24, 2026—

Schedule of Services & Events

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9 AM Divine Liturgy
Church School Class

Perpetual Commemorations for Oct. 11-17:

KROKO, Mary, John & Tom

DZURINDA, John Sr., Anna, John Jr., Stephen, Andrew,
Thomas, Anthony, Nicholas, Mary, Simon, Joseph,
Michael Jr., Abie

BENYA, Michael Sr., Catherine, Michael Jr Matthew,
Mary, Kasha, Steve, Betty, Peter, Catherine, John,
Andrew, George, Helen, Charles, Joseph

SOBEY, John Sr, Pauline, Anna, George, Andrew & John
Jr., Julia, Charles, Pauline

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026

6 PM October Board Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

9 AM Divine Liturgy (Chapel)
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations
for This Week and Next Week

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

6:30 PM Faith Enrichment: “All About Icons”
with Iconography Demonstration

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

6 PM Vespers for Sunday

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

9 AM Divine Liturgy
Church School Meeting

Perpetual Commemorations for Oct. 18-24:

HANDO, John & Dorothy

SOBEY, Charles & Betsy

BOLDISH FAMILY, Luka, Sophia, Frank, John, Mary,
Ann, William, Eleanora, Ronald, Rose, Michael, Irene,
Marie

No Weekday Services This Week:

Diocesan Council/Sobor in Johnstown

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9 AM Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for Oct. 25-31:

REPASKY, Stephen and Mildred and Family

WANCHISIN, Andrew, Anna, Stephen, Peter, Mary,
Andrew, Anna, John, Michael, George, Mary & Ellen,
Frank, Mary & Charles

PACINDA, George

4:30 PM Fall Fun Event

Sunday School Schedule Change

We will not have class on October 25. Classes in
November will take place on Nov. 1 and 15.

Sponsorships

Eternal Lamp on October 11, 2026:

In Memory of +George & +Anne Chuba,
By Children

Eternal Lamp on October 18, 2026:

In Thanksgiving for God’s Blessings
and In Honor of Their 38th Wedding Anniversary
By Debbie & Greg Cross

Coffee Hour Sponsor on Sunday, October 18, 2026:

Mary Ann Lavin

In Memory of +George & +Anne Chuba,
By Children

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

— God Grant You Many, Blessed Years! —

Gospel Candle Schedule

10/11 Gary Yonchak, Bob Amos, Jason Baker,
Dave Beight, Dennis Burprich

10/18 Ben Campbell, Evan Campbell,
Lucas Campbell, Jerry Chupak, Ed Fabian

10/25 Matthew Fabian, Chad Fette, Torry Hook,
Ron Hurl, Jim Hynes

October AWARE House Item: Twin Blanket or Throw

You can leave your donation in the appropriate box
in the Church Hall. Thank you for your generosity!

Pirohi Making: Nov. 11, 12 & 13

Please sign up in the hall if you can help with this
fundraiser! Our potato-cheese pirohi are \$9/dozen.
Orders can be placed by calling 724-981-0571.

Diocesan Council (Sobor): October 19-21, 2026

Every three years, priests and lay representatives of the parishes of our American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese (ACROD) gather for a Council (*Slavonic: Sobor*) to both review the current state of the Diocese and decide on any number of matters. Fr. David, Board President Steven Lukac and Natalie Lukac will be attending this year’s Sobor in Johnstown on behalf of our parish. Please pray that God will bless this meeting!

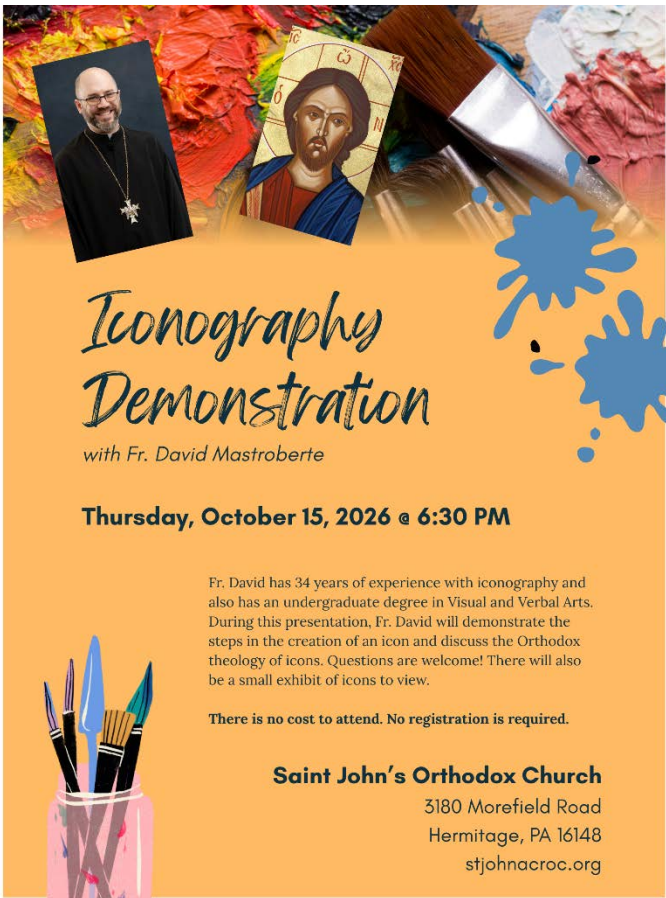
If there is a need for an emergency “sick call” during this time, please call the nearest Orthodox priest.

Fall “Faith Enrichment”— Two Thursdays in October

Join us for two interactive educational evenings!

Thursday, October 15 @ 6:30 PM:
“All About Icons” with Iconography Demonstration
Fr. David doesn’t pick up his paintbrushes often!
This evening, he will both describe and demonstrate the different steps in creating an icon and explain the theological concepts behind Orthodox iconography. Questions are encouraged! He will also have a small exhibit of other icons to view.

Thursday, October 29 @ 6:30 PM:
“Understanding the Orthodox Church Building”
We will experience a guided tour of our church explaining the different parts of an Orthodox church building and how it relates to our worship of Almighty God. Come with questions!



*Iconography
Demonstration*
with Fr. David Mastroberte

Thursday, October 15, 2026 @ 6:30 PM

Fr. David has 34 years of experience with iconography and also has an undergraduate degree in Visual and Verbal Arts. During this presentation, Fr. David will demonstrate the steps in the creation of an icon and discuss the Orthodox theology of icons. Questions are welcome! There will also be a small exhibit of icons to view.

There is no cost to attend. No registration is required.

Saint John’s Orthodox Church
3180 Morefield Road
Hermitage, PA 16148
stjohnacroc.org

“Fall Fun” Event: Sunday, October 25

4:30 PM until 7:00ish
On the Church Grounds

We’ll have a fire going, hot dogs and marshmallows for roasting, cider for drinking, and seasonal activities for our youth. We will end the night with Evening Prayers. (In case of inclement weather, meal and activities will be indoors.)

ALL are Welcome! There is no cost, but please sign up for planning purposes.

Bring Your Own Chair/Blanket. If you don’t have one and need a chair, please let us know beforehand.

Sign-Up to Bring Food/Dessert! You are welcome to bring something to share, listing it on the sign-up sheet.

Coming This November: Women’s Book Club

Pani Vikkie is organizing a women’s book club using the book *Seven Holy Women: Conversations with Saints and Friends* from Ancient Faith Publishing. Copies of the book will be \$16.00 from the Showcase. **An organizational meeting will take place on Friday, October 23 at 7:00 PM.** (Those who cannot attend the meeting can talk to Pani Vikkie about how to participate.)

Church School Holiday Fundraiser

For the upcoming Christmas season, our Church School is conducting a **WREATH FUNDRAISER** (*wreaths, sprays, centerpieces, garland*) through Mickman Brothers to benefit the Church School program and activities. *Our Church School earns 15% from all sales!*

All orders are placed online.
To shop, go to this QR code or go to [giftitforward.com](https://www.giftitforward.com) and enter the fundraising code **STJOHNPA007** where appropriate.



Orders can be placed through mid-December. Items are shipped directly via FedEx. Please share this information with your family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for your support!

Welcoming New Orthodox Christians on Nov. 7 & 8

We are looking forward to the reception of 5 adults and 2 children into the Orthodox Church over the weekend of November 7th and 8th! Michael James and Jeremy Gatewood will be baptized on Saturday, November 7 (Time TBA) and Joseph Buzard and the Milette Family will be received by Chrismation at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 8. *May God grant them many years!*

Thoughts on Stewardship

From Dan Hromyak

“My God will fully supply whatever you need...” - Philippians 4:19

God really does provide for those who are grateful and generous. This is very difficult for people that don’t live a stewardship lifestyle to believe. People are skeptical and say it’s just coincidence. If you are skeptical, try living a stewardship lifestyle for just one month - be generous with your gifts of time in prayer, talent in charitable works, and treasure, then see how God provides for your needs.

“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” - Matthew 22:21

Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given each of us. All God is asking is that we give back a portion of what He gave us. This is the essence of Stewardship. God should be our first priority in everything. All else comes second, especially our money.

AoB XV concludes, Hierarchs approve sign language lexicon and continue work on a common catechism

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America met in Pittsburgh, PA from October 3-6, 2026, for the 15th convening since its formation. The Assembly expressed sincere gratitude to Metropolitan Savas for hosting the meeting at the new Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Center, as well as the Pittsburgh pan-Orthodox community for hosting public events.

The weekend began with Vespers at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church on Saturday, October 3 and a concelebration of the Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Sunday, October 4.

Assembly XV focused primarily on the ongoing effort to create a Common Catechesis. After reviewing the work of the Theological Education Committee, the Assembly reaffirmed the mandate to the Committee to formulate a classical catechetical text.

The Assembly approved additional work on catechesis that engages many of the Assembly’s committees and new working groups. This comprehensive approach is unique in its inclusion of many voices and crucial in its collaborative nature for the teaching of the Orthodox faith in English. This represents a significant and distinctive undertaking which received the blessing and full support of all the Hierarchs present during the Assembly. Inspired by Saint Paul’s words: “and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2), this collaborative project will be a unique offering to the entire Orthodox Church.

Additionally, the Assembly of Bishops approved the American Sign Language Lexicon of Orthodox Christian Terminology as presented by the Assembly’s sign language lexicon team. The lexicon team members present included Presbyteria Karen Bartz (Interpreter), Greg Coogan, Hannah Mann, and Lola Lee Beno, accompanied by Savannah Foster, President of the Orthodox Christian Deaf Association (OCDA). Deacon Tigran Khachikyan, Emily Hart (Interpreter) and Mah-Rya Proper (Interpreter) were also present digitally.

During their time together, the Hierarchs of the Assembly reaffirmed their calls for a peaceful and just ending to the ongoing war in Ukraine and the conflicts in the Middle East. Reiterating earlier statements, the Assembly continues to call for “an immediate cessation of hostilities wherever war persists.” They urged the governments engaged in these conflicts to end the suffering of the people. Also, the Hierarchs grieved the dangers that Orthodox Christians face daily, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East, and the diminishing populations of Christians there. The Hierarchs urge their flocks to offer assistance through charitable giving to those agencies working to alleviate the suffering of people, as especially through the various programs of the Assembly’s Humanitarian Agency: International Orthodox Christian Charities. “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful” (Colossians 3:15).

The Hierarchs of the Assembly discussed the growing effects of artificial intelligence. Both positive and negative concerns were expressed that call for greater discernment and discussion. It was noted that the Assembly’s Affiliated Ministry, Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion (OCAMPR), will examine the topic at their 2027 conference.

On the tenth anniversary of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church in Crete in 2016, the Hierarchs are reminded anew of the vital importance of pan-Orthodox cooperation and collaboration as an essential expression of the unity of the Orthodox Church and a faithful witness to the Orthodox Christian faith in today’s world.

With thanksgiving to the Almighty God for the unity and cherished brotherhood of the Assembly of Bishops of the United States of America, the Assembly appeals to the wisdom of our Mother Churches to encourage the active cooperation of all Hierarchs in the United States without exception.

The next Assembly meetings will be hosted by the Metropolitan Nathanael (Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago) October 23-26 in Chicago, Illinois, and the following Assembly meeting will be hosted by Metropolitan Saba (Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America) in Houston, Texas in October 2028.

Pray for Our Seminarians!

His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory asks that we keep our Diocesan Seminarians in our prayers. Their names are: *Fr. Peter Sodini, Fr. Maximus Cannaverde, Deacon Bradley Shaffer, Nicholas Cizin, John Fedornock III, Spyridon Raburn, Clay Wood, Gabriel Saldana, David Miazga, and Ignatius Dixon.* May God bless and guide them in their formation!

About the Church Building
From "Worship" by Fr. Thomas Hopko

In the long history of the Orthodox Church a definite style of church architecture has developed. This style is characterized by the attempt to reveal the fundamental experience of Orthodox Christianity: God is with us.

The fact that Christ the Immanuel (which translated means "God with us") has come, determines the form of the Orthodox church building. God is with man in Christ through the Holy Spirit. The dwelling place of God is with man. "The Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands," says Saint Stephen quoting the Old Testament prophets. Saint Paul says that men are the temples of God: "Christ Jesus himself [is] the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (Eph 2.21–22).

The words of Saint Peter are very much the same. "Come to him [Christ] to that living stone . . . and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house . . . to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 2.4–5).

"We are the temple of the living God . . ." (2 Cor 6.16). And it is exactly this conviction and experience that Orthodox Church architecture wishes to convey.

Orthodox Church architecture reveals that God is with men, dwelling in them and living in them through Christ and the Spirit. It does so by using the dome or the vaulted ceiling to crown the Christian church building, the house of the Church which is the People of God. Unlike the pointed arches which point to God far up in the heavens, the dome or the spacious all-embracing ceiling gives the impression that in the Kingdom of God, and in the Church, Christ "unites all things in himself, things in heaven and things on earth," (Eph 1.10) and that in Him we are all "filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph 3.19).

The interior of the Orthodox Church building is particularly styled to give the experience of the unity of all things in God. It is not constructed to reproduce the upper room of the Last Supper, nor to be simply a meeting hall for men whose life exists solely within the bounds of this earth. The church building is

patterned after the image of God’s Kingdom in the Book of Revelation. Before us is the altar table on which Christ is enthroned, both as the Word of God in the Gospels and as the Lamb of God in the eucharistic sacrifice. Around the table are the angels and saints, the servants of the Word and the Lamb who glorify him—and through him, God the Father—in the perpetual adoration inspired by the Holy Spirit. The faithful Christians on earth who already belong to that holy assembly “. . . fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God . . .” (Eph 2.19) enter into the eternal worship of God’s Kingdom in the Church. Thus, in Orthodox practice the vestibule symbolizes this world. The nave is the place of the Church understood as the assembly and people of God. The altar area, called the sanctuary or the holy place, stands for the Kingdom of God.

Sacramental & Membership Information

Sick Calls can be made at any time. Please call Fr. David (724-813-3172) when a family member is admitted to the hospital, or to request a home visit to receive Confession and Communion.

Marriages are usually celebrated on Saturdays or Sundays. Circumstances may require a dispensation from the 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 or on Fridays.

Baptisms are usually scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays, but other days are possible. Consult the pastor. Two godparents (godfather and godmother) are required, at least one of whom must be a practicing Orthodox Christian in good standing and the other (at least) a practicing, baptized Christian.

Church Funerals are, under ordinary circumstances, provided for practicing Orthodox Christians. 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 Communion and periodic 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.

SAINT JOHN’S
ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Table with 2 columns: Label (Pastor, Church Address, Church Office, Website, YouTube, Facebook, For Online Giving, Our Diocese) and Value (Father David Mastroberte, 724-813-3172, 3180 Morefield Road, 724-981-0571, stjohncroc.org, youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon, facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA, stjohncroc.org, acrod.org)