

# SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## *Clergy:*

*Rev. Father David Mastroberte*

*Very Rev. Protopresbyter Michael Polanichka*

*Rev. Deacon John Anderson*

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

## Bulletin for November 19-December 2, 2017



## CALENDAR OF SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>*SUN</b>	<b>11/19/2017</b>	<b>24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Panachida: ++Pavlick Family</i>
	1:00 PM	Doors Open for Chinese Auction
<b>MON</b>	<b>11/20/2017</b>	
	6:00 PM	Vespers for the Holyday
<b>TUES</b>	<b>11/21/2017</b>	<b>ENTRY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE (HOLYDAY)</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Panachida: ++Sobota Family</i>
<b>WED</b>	<b>11/22/2017</b>	<b>EVE OF THANKSGIVING</b>
	5:30 PM	Holy Confession Available
	6:00 PM	Prayer Service (Moleben) of Thanksgiving
<b>*SUN</b>	<b>11/26/2017</b>	<b>24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Panachida: +Ann Volsko; ++Pacinda Family (Perpetual)</i>
<b>WED</b>	<b>11/29/2017</b>	
	5:30 PM	Confession
	6:00 PM	Moleben for the Nativity Fast
<b>*SUN</b>	<b>12/3/2017</b>	<b>25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Panachida: +Joseph Lukac (Perpetual)</i> <i>Election of Officers Meeting following Liturgy</i>

**Annual Election of Officers Meeting** will be held after services on Sunday, December 3rd. All parishioners who fulfill their spiritual and material obligations to the parish are invited and encouraged to participate!

### **Chinese Auction "Thank You"**

We thank all those who volunteered at our 2017 Chinese Auction! *A fuller report and "thank you" list will follow in the next bulletin!*

### **Thanksgiving Eve Service**

To mark the national holiday of Thanksgiving, we will celebrate a Prayer Service (Moleben) of Thanksgiving on the eve of Thanksgiving, November 22, at 6:00 PM. *(As this is not a Divine Liturgy, Holy Communion is not distributed at this service.)* Take this opportunity to come to God's holy house and *"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!" (Ps. 117)*

**2018 Special Fund "Calendar Sweepstakes" tickets** are available for a \$20 donation, as well as to sell to your family and friends. Please help with this annual fundraiser for our parish!

**Our annual St. Nicholas Celebration** (hosted by the PTO), as well as the Visit from "St. Nicholas," will take place on Sunday, December 10th following services. RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the hall, so that the PTO can accurately plan the refreshments for this great annual tradition!

The schedule for **pirohi making** for the Christmas "Wrap Up" Fest is as follows: Potato Prep on Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00 PM. Filling Prep on Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 PM. Pirohi Making on Friday, December 8 at 8:00 AM. We are not taking pre-orders for this sale. All pirohi will be sold at the event on December 16th!

Looking for a nice way to "keep Christ" in this pre-Christmas season? The **Nativity Scene Display** at Villa Maria Conference Center, Villa Maria, PA will take place December 3 and December 10 from 12 to 5 p.m. Admission to the display is free. This annual indoor Advent tradition features hundreds of nativity sets from around the world. For more information, [humilityofmary.org](http://humilityofmary.org) or call 724-964-8920.

thanksgiving  
gather family  
thankful family  
blessed grateful  
together blessings  
november

## The Nativity Fast (“Advent”) Continues!

The Nativity Fast began on November 15th. It is a season of preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ (*December 25*) and the festive season (*the “12 Days of Christmas”*) that ends with the Baptism of Christ (*January 6*). How can you observe this holy season? What should you do during these weeks leading up to Christmas?

### Pray

Attend special services which are held on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM (*except December 6th*). Offer the daily Prayer for Peace, as requested by our shepherd and father in Christ, Bishop Gregory. (*See next page.*)

### Go to Confession

Fr. David is available to hear Confessions before any evening service, starting at 5:30 PM; after evening services, as needed; before Sunday Liturgy, from 8:25 AM to 8:45 AM; and by appointment.

### Fast

Fasting goes hand-in-hand with our spiritual preparation. The traditional, fuller fast calls for abstention from meat and dairy from November 15 until December 25. At a minimum, we are to abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, and observe the fast on Christmas Eve, December 24. (*Dispensation is given for Thanksgiving and the Friday following, as listed in the ACRY Annual.*)

Consider this: in America today, most people *pre-celebrate* Christmas, so that Christmas *ends* on December 25th. The Church wants us to take time and prepare *before* Christmas, and *then* celebrate and feast. We should, of course, be balanced in how we approach this, especially when invited by friends, neighbors and coworkers to holiday gatherings. In our personal and family observance of this pre-Christmas Fast, though, adding an extra day or two (or more!) of fasting and abstention per week can help us focus more intently on preparation, and lessen the temptation to end Christmas on December 25th. *Remember: don't ask “what is the least I have to do?” but “what is the most that I can do for Christ?”*

### Be Charitable

Give donations as you are able. Be kind to others, especially when things get stressful around the holidays. Strive to reflect the peace and love of Christ. Forgive others, and ask forgiveness. Say “Merry Christmas” with a smile. Be thankful.

## Mealtime Prayers for Thanksgiving

*Before sitting down for your Thanksgiving feast, do not neglect to thank God in prayer! Feel free to use the following prayers:*

In the name of the + Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

We, Your thankful and unworthy servants, praise and glorify You, O Lord, for the many blessings we have received from You. We bless You, we thank You, we sing to You and we rejoice in Your great mercy. In humility and love, we praise You: O Benefactor and Savior, glory to You.

**AMEN!**



## Evening Prayer For Peace for the Advent Season

Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Word of God, You became flesh and dwelt among us. You made the womb of Your most-pure Mother more spacious than the heavens. Yet You, the true light, were born in the darkness of a cave, thereby enlightening the world that was darkened by sin. To redeem us, You shared Your whole life. You submitted to death on the Cross and rose from the dead, bestowing life. We share in Your death and resurrection, that we may indeed be dead to sin and alive in You. As we fast and prepare to celebrate Your life-giving manifestation, we pray especially that our respect for life will prevail in the world. Directed by Your command to care for “the least of these,” may we and all people heed Your call to show care and concern for life in the womb; for the lives of the poor, oppressed, and suffering; and for the lives of the sick, the elderly, and the dying. May Your peace reign in our hearts and throughout world, especially in places of unrest, so that the shedding of blood in warfare, violence, terrorism, tyranny, and all manner of strife may come to an end. May aggression between neighbors and nations fade away. May love reign in the lives of families. O Savior, You have said “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” May we become partakers of Your abundant life, together with all the saints whose lives have pleased You from the beginning. For You are the way, the truth and the life, O Christ our God, and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your most-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. AMEN.

# STEWARDSHIP

*by Dan Hromyak*

*"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities." - Matthew 25:21*

God expects us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us; He expects us to grow our gifts, use them wisely and be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us.

*"...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me." - Matthew 25:40*

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient; when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's schedule.

## **Visit our Diocesan Online Resources!**

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>

Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

# “Christmas Wrap-Up” Festival

**Saturday, December 16th, 2017  
12 Noon until 6:00 PM**



**Pirohi and Halushki Sale  
Homemade Cookie Walk  
Sales of Christmas Items  
Sales at our Religious Showcase  
Gift Wrapping Station**



*Tell your friends and neighbors about this NEW event at our church!*

*If you would like to help, speak with Mary Ann Lavin.  
We have both large and small jobs for which we need volunteers.  
Your help will make this new event a success!*

## **Coffee Hour Sponsors for November 26:**

**Robert & Kathy Piston**  
*(Health and Blessings)*

**Coffee Hour Volunteers**  
November 26:

December 3: Pani Eleanor

*Please visit the Church Office if you would like to sponsor  
a Sunday Coffee Hour (\$20 donation)  
or if you can volunteer to work at Coffee Hour.  
Many Sundays are still available!*



**Eternal Lamp ~ Sunday, November 19th**

In Loving Memory of John & Pauline Komisin from Karole Bailey

**Candelabrum ~ Sunday, November 26th**

In Loving Memory of our Brother/Uncle, George Balzic, by Joan & Stephen Chuba & Family



**BIRTHDAYS**

Nov. 19 Dorothy Wilson  
Nov. 20 Lauren Holmes  
Mary Ann Tofani  
Nov. 23 Sean Miller  
Nov. 24 Karen Bich  
Nov. 26 Dylan Figiel  
Nov. 27 Emily Anderson  
Andrew Chuba  
Robert Miller  
Nov. 28 Kevin Yasnowsky  
Nov. 29 Robert Miklos  
David Ristvey, Jr.  
Dec. 2 Chuck Kretchek

**HOLD CANDLES**

**Sunday, November 26th**

Ed Slovesko  
Gino Tofani  
Dr. Henry VanZanten  
Michael Waryanka  
Donald Yasnowsky

**Sunday, December 3rd**

Kevin Yasnowsky  
Gary Yonchak  
Bob Amos  
Bob Andras  
Jason Baker

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**November 21**

*Robert & Irene Miklos*



**MEN TO**