

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

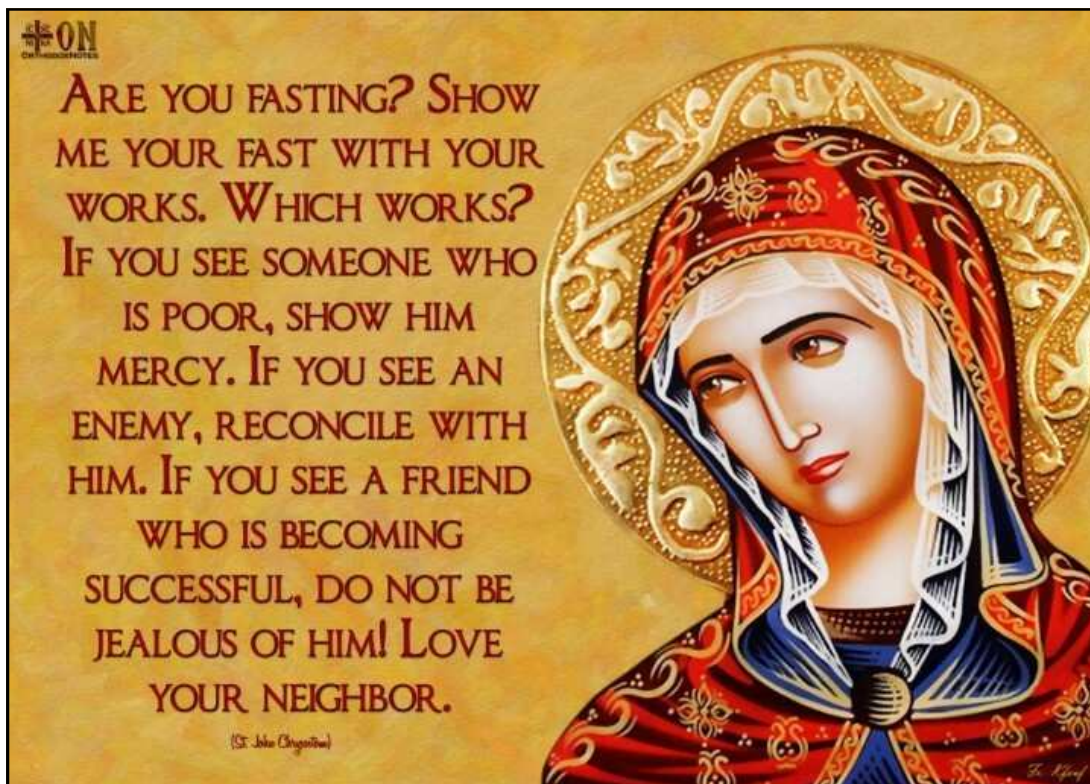
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Clergy:

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 February 18-March 3, 2018



CALENDAR OF SERVICES & EVENTS

SUN 2/18/2018 4TH PRE-LENTEN SUNDAY: CHEESEFARE; SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
*Panachida: +Matthew & +Anna Hudak (Perpetual)
 ++Gula Family (Perpetual)*

6:00 PM Vespers for the Start of the Great Fast

MON 2/19/2018 FIRST DAY OF THE GREAT FAST – LENT (STRICT FAST)

(No Confessions Tonight)

6:00 PM Canon of Repentance Service, Part 1 at Our Church

TUES 2/20/2018

6:00 PM Canon of Repentance, Part 2 at St. George Serbian Orthodox Church

WED 2/21/2018

8:30 AM Parastas @ Chapel +Mike & +Mary Holliday (Perpetual)

6:00 PM Canon of Repentance, Part 3 at St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Church

THURS 2/22/2018

6:00 PM Canon of Repentance, Part 4 at Holy Cross Orthodox Church

FRI 2/23/2018

5:30 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

SUN 2/25/2018 FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST; SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Icon Procession with Church School Children
*Panachida: +George & +Anna Polansky (Perpetual)
 +John Sr. & +Helen Andras (Perpetual)
 ++Senay Family (Perpetual)
 +Violet Reeves, by daughter Joann Wansack and Family*

5:00 PM Pan-Orthodox Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at Our Church
Dinner to Follow

MON 2/26/2018

9:00 AM Parastas @ Chapel
+John Polanichka 40th Day, by Fr. Michael & Pani Eleanor

WED 2/28/2018

4:30 PM Hall Set-Up and Potato Prep
5:30 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

THURS 3/1/2018

6:00 PM Filling Prep

FRI 3/2/2018

8:00 AM Pirohi Making & Sale
5:30 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Paraklis to the Mother of God

SAT 3/3/2018 SOUL SATURDAY

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Panachida & Reading of Lists of Names of Departed (Hramoty)

SUN 3/4/2018 SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST; ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
*Panachida: +Mike & +Ruth Frejik (Perpetual)
+Tom Chuba & ++Family (Perpetual)
+Charles Holmes (Perpetual)*

We offer our prayers and congratulations to **MARY CHUPAK** who celebrates her 90th birthday on Sunday, February 25th. *May God grant her many blessed years! Na mnohaja i blahaja lita!*



ANNOUNCEMENTS (GENERAL & LENTEN)

2018 Lenten Pirohi Sales: Our first pirohi sale for the season will take place on Friday, March 2nd. Info on the last page. Given the early date of Holy Week and Easter, we will have our second sale on Friday, March 30th. Please plan accordingly! Worker sign-up sheet is in the hall.

¶ We will usher in the Lenten season with the special **Vespers Service for the Beginning of Lent** on Sunday evening, February 18th, at 6:00 PM. Please take note of the additional services scheduled during this season, as found on the monthly calendar and in the bulletin.

¶ **Lenten Self-Denial Boxes/Folders** are available in the vestibule. Please take one (or more!) and add your offerings to it throughout Lent. After Pascha, our donations will be shared with the Community Food Warehouse and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). Related to this...

¶ **February 18th is designated as “Mission Sunday”** by the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops in the US. Focus is given to the work of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center—OCMC. We support OCMC throughout the year, especially through our Denial Boxes and Gift Wrapping proceeds. Please say a prayer for Orthodox Missions and Orthodox Missionaries serving around the world, consider volunteering to serve as part of an Orthodox Mission Team, and support this eternal work of the Church with a gift to the Mission Center.

Local “Sunday of Orthodoxy” Service at *Our Church*

We will be hosting this year’s **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** for ALL the local Orthodox parishes on **Sunday, February 25**. The Vespers service will begin at 5:00 PM. Homily will be offered by the Very Rev. Nicholas Ferencz, pastor of our Diocesan parish in Rankin, PA. Pasta dinner to follow in the fellowship hall.

Please make every effort to attend, so that we can properly welcome our brothers and sisters from the other parishes for that service and meal. *We want a full church!*

Sunday of Orthodoxy Choir Practice will be on Sunday, February 25 at 3:30 PM. Paula Kudelko invites all of our choir members to participate.

¶ **Services During the First Week of Lent:** As is customary in our area, the local Orthodox parishes will each take an evening hosting a portion of the *Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete*. The schedule is in the bulletin. Our parish will host the service on **Monday, February 19th at 6:00 PM**. The “Great Canon” is a liturgical composition on the theme of repentance, which includes a number of troparia (hymns) referencing all of “salvation history,” from Adam and Eve to Christ. The repeated refrain is: “*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*”

¶ **Confessions** will be heard beginning at 5:30 PM before most evening Lenten services (unless otherwise noted). Fr. David is also available by appointment; and before Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings, starting at 8:25 AM. *All Orthodox Christians are expected to approach this sacrament during Lent!*

¶ **Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession of Icons:** Following Liturgy on February 25th, a short Procession of Icons will be held inside the church, to celebrate the “Triumph of Orthodoxy” and the restoration of icons after iconoclasm in the 9th century. All **youth** are invited to participate in this procession by carrying an icon—either one brought from home, or an icon provided by the church. *Youth are to gather in the vestibule following Communion on Sunday, February 25th to be arranged for the procession.*

¶ **“Willow Watch” has begun!** Please keep an eye out for pussy willows, especially with this warmer weather. Please cut them as soon as they are ready and bring them to the church. We do have ONE request: do *not* put them in plastic bags. Please use paper bags. *(We had to throw out a large number of willows the past two years due to mold.)*

¶ **Information on the Diocesan ACRY Retreat** in Homestead on Saturday, March 17th was published in the last bulletin, and is available on acrod.org. Consider *your* participation in this event!

¶ **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. *(Also, remember that only services called “Liturgy” have the distribution of Holy Communion. Other services – Canon, Moleben, Parastas, Paraklis – do not have Communion.)*

¶ **Services for the Departed:** Since the Divine Liturgy is not offered on the weekdays of Lent, the Parastas (*requiem service*) will be offered for the perpetual remembrance of the departed. Holy Communion is not given at this service. Also, do not forget about

the Soul Saturdays during Lent! If you are not able to come to all of them, please consider attending one during this season as we remember our dear faithful departed.

¶ **PTO Easter Raffle** will take place this year on April 2nd, in conjunction with our Lenten Communion Breakfast. Donations of items can be brought to the church hall and placed in the designated location. Monetary donations are also accepted. Deadline for donations is March 18th. Please see Pani Vikkie or Shannon Baker if you have questions.

¶ Our **Parish Lenten Mission** will be on Saturday, March 24th. Confessions at 2:00 PM. Vespers at 4:00 PM. Fish Dinner to follow.

¶ We are accepting donations of candy for the **Easter Egg Hunt** on Easter Sunday, April 8th. They must be *individually wrapped* and *small* enough to fit inside the plastic eggs. Donations may be brought to the church hall.

Inter-Parish Services & Events During the Great Fast

One of the blessings afforded us in a special way during Lent is the opportunity to be together with our fellow Orthodox Christians, both at our church and at other churches. Here is a concise list of such happenings:

- ◆ 2/19-23: Canon of St. Andrew at Local Orthodox Churches (*See Schedule*)
- ◆ 2/25: Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at Our Church, 5 PM; meal to follow.
- ◆ 3/11: Lenten Mission in Warren, 4 PM; meal to follow.
- ◆ 3/17: ACRY Lenten Retreat in Homestead
- ◆ 3/24: Our Lenten Mission, 4 PM; meal to follow.
- ◆ 3/30: Lenten Mission in Erie, 6 PM; meal to follow.

Notes of Gratitude

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation is extended to all the parishioners for the beautiful cards, kind words, and monetary gifts that were sent when my brother John died on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018. His daughter (ALLISON, 55) died four days later, on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018. You may have remembered her, because she stayed with us for about 6 months while we were still in Sharon.

A special "thank you" is extended to Fr. David for announcing my brother and niece's death from the pulpit. Thank you all for your kind expression of sympathies.

Fr. Michael & Pani Eleanor

To my Church Family,

Thank you for all the Prayers, food, flowers, cards, phone calls and good wishes following my recent hip surgery. I was over-whelmed and so appreciative of everything. Thank You again, and I am anxious to return to church.

God Bless You all,
Nancy Ristvey

Teachings from the Church Fathers on Fasting

“Fasting gives birth to prophets and strengthens the powerful; fasting makes lawgivers wise. Fasting is a good safeguard for the soul, a steadfast companion for the body, a weapon for the valiant, and a gymnasium for athletes. Fasting repels temptations, anoints unto piety; it is the comrade of watchfulness and the artificer of chastity. In war it fights bravely, in peace it teaches stillness.” – St. Basil the Great, Homily on Fasting

“Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one’s flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of concupiscence, quenches the fire of lust, and kindles the true light of chastity. Enter again into yourself.”- St. Augustine of Hippo, Sermon, On Prayer and Fasting, LXXII

The Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, this prayer is added to church services from Sunday through Friday evenings during the Lenten season. Add it to your daily prayers!

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power and vain talking.

But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience and love.

Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not judge my brother. For blessed are You forever and ever. Amen.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

by Dan Hromyak

"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God." - Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on Earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

"Here I am!" he answered." - Genesis 22:11

It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord," when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say "Here I am, Lord," when a neighbor needs our help, when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us. Discipleship is not always easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.

Stay up-to-date on happenings throughout our Diocese!

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org> Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>
You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

Don't forget to "like" our parish on Facebook: facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA

CAMP NAZARETH SUMMER CAMP 2018

The time for Summer Camp is Rapidly Approaching!!! The clock is ticking!!

REGISTER ONLINE STARTING MAR. 1, 2018!!!

Dates for the Summer Camping Program

Week 1 -- July 15 - 21, 2018

New England, NY, NJ, Florida and Canada Deaneries

Week 2 -- July 22 - July 28, 2018

Johnstown, Pocono, Southern Tier, Youngstown and Chicago Deaneries

Week 3 -- July 29 - August 4, 2018

Pittsburgh, Mid-Atlantic, Tri-State and Washington D.C. Deaneries

Register Online Starting March 1, 2018

Register at – *campnazareth.org*

From the Home Page, From the 2018 Summer Camp Icon, or From the Diocesan Summer Camp Tab found under the Summer Camp Tab and look for Camper Registration.

\$20 Early Bird Discount Per Child!!!!

(one-time only, not per week)

Register & pay by May 15, 2018!!!!

Online Registration MUST be complete AND payment must be submitted by May 15 in order to qualify for the Early Bird Discount.

Registrations after June 15 will incur an additional \$20 late fee.

When you register online please note that **you will still need to submit a paper copy of the Medical Examination Form (i.e. Camper Physical)** which must be filled out and signed by a licensed medical professional (licensed physician or physician's assistant). This form will be emailed to you after you complete the online registration process.

Payment by check, money order, or credit card is accepted. Checks and Money Orders are to be made payable to *Camp Nazareth* and sent to *Camp Nazareth at 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137.*

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PLEASE STOP INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE
TO
SIGN-UP TO SPONSOR COFFEE HOUR OR
TO VOLUNTEER



MARCH 2ND SALE PIROHI SCHEDULE

*Please add your name
to the sign-up sheet
in the Hall!*

Wed., February 28
at 4:30 PM
(Hall setup; Potato prep)

Thurs., March 1
at 6:00 PM
(Filling prep)

Friday, March 2
at 8:00 AM
(Pirohi Making and Sale)

Remember:
*Get your
orders in
by Feb. 25!*

March 2, 2018 Pirohi Order Form

*Order Deadline: February 25, 2018
724-981-0571*

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

_____ Potato @ 8.00/dozen \$ _____

_____ Butter Only

_____ Butter and Onions

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

Pick-Up on Friday, March 2, 2018
12:00 Noon—2:00 PM
(Doors Open at Noon)

BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 19 Deacon John Anderson
Feb 22 Lisa Bair
Feb 22 Margaret Sirb
Feb 23 Ron Figiel
Feb 25 Mary Chupak
Feb 25 Steven Kudelko
Feb 25 Dorothy Patrick
Feb 26 Janet Kretchek
Feb 27 Dolores Christy
Feb 28 Justin Bair
March 2 Brenda Polanichka
March 3 Donna Swetlech

MEN TO HOLD CANDLES

Sunday, February 25th

Ken Maceyko
Dr. Emil Maurer
Fred Meiss
Robert Miller
John Moon

Sunday, March 3rd

John Parimuha
Tom Patrick
Dan Ristvey
Joel Ristvey
Matt Ristvey

ANNIVERSARIES

February 20th

***Renee & Ken
Maceyko***

***May God grant them
many blessed years!
Na mnohaja i blahaja lita!***



Candelabrum Sponsorship

Sunday, February 25

**In Honor of Mother Mary Chupak's
90th Birthday**

Sponsored by:

**Linda & Alex Corney & Family
Patti & Jerry Chupak & Family
Ron Chupak & Family**

**May God continue to Bless Mary
as she celebrates her Birthday**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

ETERNAL LAMP SPONSORS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18
FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR
HOME BOUND MEMBERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MARY TURIN PRISBY
ON THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY
OF LEAVING THIS EARTH

SPONSORED BY HER DAUGHTER
ROSEMARY PRISBY