

# 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 July 30-August 12, 2017



### **August 6th: The Transfiguration of Christ**

*Bottom:* Mount Tabor  
in the Holy Land

*Left:* Orthodox Monastery  
on Mount Tabor



# CALENDAR OF SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>TUES</b>	<b>8/1/2017</b>	<b>FIRST DAY OF THE DORMITION FAST</b> <b>PROCESSION OF THE HOLY CROSS &amp; MACCABEE MARTYRS</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water <i>Panachida for +Fr. Paul &amp; +Pani Helen Tkach (Perpetual)</i> <i>(Graveside, weather permitting)</i>
<b>WED</b>	<b>8/2/2017</b>	
	5:30 PM	Confession Available
	6:00 PM	Paraklis to the Mother of God <i>with Prayers for the Living/Sick</i>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>8/4/2017</b>	
	5:30 PM	Confession Available
	6:00 PM	Moleben to the Mother of God <i>with Prayers for the Living/Sick</i>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>8/6/2017</b>	<b>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (HOLYDAY)</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>with Festal Blessing of Fruit; Mirovaniye</i> <i>Panachida for +Mary Taczak, 10th Anniversary, by Diane Kupensky</i>
<b>MON</b>	<b>8/7/2017</b>	
	5:30 PM	Confession Available
	6:00 PM	Moleben to the Mother of God <i>with Prayers for the Living/Sick</i>
<b>TUES</b>	<b>8/8/2017</b>	
	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy ++ <i>Ristvey Family (Perpetual)</i>
<b>WED</b>	<b>8/9/2017</b>	
	5:30 PM	Confession Available
	6:00 PM	Paraklis to the Mother of God <i>with Prayers for the Living/Sick</i>
<b>*SUN</b>	<b>8/13/2017</b>	<b>10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Panachida: ++Joseph Pacinda (Perpetual)</i> <i>+Andrew &amp; +Anna Gelety (Perpetual)</i>

# GOLF SCRAMBLE NOTES

Our 2017 Golf Scramble will be held on Saturday, August 19th at Oak Tree Country Club. Shotgun Start will be at 8:00 AM.

The post-golfing meal will again be held at our church hall, and will feature our *signature* all-you-can-eat buffet with spit roast lamb, roast chicken, sausage and peppers, side dishes, desserts and beverages. Dinner will begin to be served at 2:30 PM. We will also hold the ever-popular Basket Raffle at this dinner.

We are now accepting:

- ⇒ Team Commitments
- ⇒ Donations of Items for the Basket Raffle
- ⇒ Major sponsorships for \$100.00
- ⇒ Hole sponsorships for \$35.00
- ⇒ Patron Listings for \$10.00
- ⇒ General donations to the event

**Copies of the registration form/flyer and the sponsorship form are available in the church hall. See Francine Fabian or Stephanie Shumkaroff to make a sponsorship.**

Dinner-only tickets are available for \$20 per person. See Francine Fabian to get your ticket!

**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>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

¶ **Fr. David will be away** August 10th through 13th. In case of an emergency in which you need the services of a priest immediately, you may call Fr. Michael Polanichka (724-981-2520) or another local Orthodox priest.

¶ **On August 1st**, the first day of the Dormition Fast and a day set aside to honor the Holy Cross, we will have Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM. A lesser Blessing of Water service will follow. (Bring a container if you want to take any home!) We will also remember our founding pastor, Fr. Paul Tkach, on the anniversary of his repose as well as Pañi Helen Tkach. Weather permitting, we will offer a panachida for their perpetual remembrance at their graves.

¶ **The Dormition Fast** lasts from August 1st through 14th. This short fast is in honor of the Mother of God in preparation for her Dormition on August 15th. It is the “summer Lent” before the “summer Pascha”! The full, traditional fast calls for abstention from meat and dairy products for this time. At a minimum, we are to abstain from meat on Wednesdays and

Fridays of this period. *As always, do not ask what is the least you have to do, but what is the most that you can do!*

¶ We will have intercessory **Services to the Mother of God**—Paraklis or Moleben—on four evenings during the Dormition Fast. Each service will include prayers for the living. Fr. David still has the prayer lists for the living from the beginning of this year. If you want to make additions or corrections (to remove someone who has passed away, for example) please see Fr. David. To submit a new list of names of the living, please use the sheets available in the vestibule, or e-mail names to [father.david@stjohnacroc.org](mailto:father.david@stjohnacroc.org).

¶ **Confession:** If you haven’t been to Confession since Lent, now is the perfect time to go! Fr. David will be hearing confessions before evening services, and also before Liturgy on Sundays (but no later than 8:45 AM).

¶ **August 6th is the holyday of the Transfiguration of our Lord.** The tradition on this summer feastday is to bless grapes and other fruit. We will

bless fruit at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 6th. You are invited to bring a basket or bowl of fruit for this blessing! Also, as is our parish custom, small bags of fruit will be provided by the Charity Fund for all parishioners, so that all can participate in this beautiful tradition.

¶ **Church School Registration Forms** are now available. Church School will begin on Sunday, September 10, 2017. Parents, please get these forms to Fr. David by August 20.

¶ **LOCAL EVENT:** The annual “Senior Follies” production will be on August 5th and 6th. Three of our parishioners—Paula Kudelko, Karen Bich, and Theano Joy take part in this show. They have tickets available for purchase for \$10.00; this is a discounted price, since they are \$12 if you buy them at the door! You can see Paula, Karen or Theano to purchase.

## THE THREE “FEASTS OF THE SAVIOR” IN AUGUST

Among many Slavic Orthodox Christians, the period of the Dormition Fast is known as the **Savior’s Fast** or “Spasovka.” Why would a period of time before the Dormition of the Mother of God be entitled after her Son? The reason is that the first half of August includes three days associated with Our Savior:

#1: **August 1st** is known as the Procession of the Holy Cross. Centuries ago in Constantinople, August—with all of its summer heat—was a month of great sickness in the city. On August 1st, a procession with a relic of the True Cross was made around the city, praying for God’s protection. Water was also blessed. The blessing of water is still a custom in many places. Among some Slavs, honey is also blessed on this day.

#2: **August 6th** is the Transfiguration of Our Lord, commemorating the occasion when Our Lord revealed His glory to Peter, James and John on Mount Tabor before His passion and death on the Cross. While originally celebrated during Great Lent (so as to be chronologically before Good Friday), it later was transferred to August 6, 40 days before another “Cross” day—the Elevation of the Cross on September 14. Since this day coincides with the time of fruit harvest, it became customary to bring grapes, apples, and/or other fruits to the church for a blessing.

#3: **August 16**, a day after the Dormition, is the day set aside to honor the “icon of Christ Not-Made-By-Hands,” also known as the “Holy Towel”, “Holy Napkin”, or simply “Holy Face.” As the story goes, King Abgar was ruler of Edessa in Syria and suffered from leprosy. He heard of a healer named Jesus and sent his emissaries to bring Jesus to Edessa. While Jesus would not travel to Edessa personally, He wiped His face on a towel and sent that to King Abgar. The towel miraculously bore an imprint of the face of Jesus. Abgar was healed, and the item became well-known throughout the Christian East. Eventually, it was taken to Constantinople and enshrined there.

## **STEWARDSHIP** *by Dan Hromyak*

*"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." - Matthew 13:22*

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in worldly activities that you have no time for God? Stewardship is a lifestyle to be lived every day. It effects all the decisions we make. What we receive at Liturgy every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week.

*"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in the field. He who sows is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom." - Matthew 13:24, 37-38*

As children of God, we are all "good seeds," blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we share our talents and our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our stewardship we sow "good seeds" on earth to ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

# DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN DONORS PROGRAM

Established by His Grace, Bishop John, of *Thrice Blessed Memory*, the Distinguished Diocesan Donors Fund, has been an important source of funding for the establishment, maintenance and expansion of our many diocesan apostolates. An annual donation of \$100.00 or more, qualifies diocesan members and friends to be recognized as a *Distinguished Diocesan Donor*. Each "3D" member is honored at a complimentary dinner which is held in the donor's local deanery. It is asked that all donations be made by September 1st of each year.

All diocesan faithful and friends are cordially invited to become a *Distinguished Diocesan Donor* to further the apostolic works of our God-Saved Diocese.

To participate, please complete and mail the form below to the Diocesan Chancery.

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Enclosed is my contribution to the  
Distinguished Diocesan Donors Fund for the Year \_\_\_\_\_:

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

(\$100-Entry) (\$250 – Bronze) (\$500 – Silver) (\$1,000- Gold) (\$10,000 & Up - Platinum)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to "Distinguished Diocesan Donors," indicating the contribution year on the "memo" line and mail to:

Office of the Diocesan Treasurer  
Diocesan Administration Building  
312 Garfield Street  
Johnstown, PA 15906



### BIRTHDAYS

- July 30 Nicholas Baranowsky  
James Hynes  
Sandra Kraynok
- 31 Helen Parimuha
- Aug. 1 Gianna Cataloni  
Sam Lopusky  
Peter Roman  
Michael Waryanka
- 2 Ann Pysh
- 3 Jason Baker
- 5 Nancy Ristvey
- 6 John Cataloni  
Nicholas Soroka  
Joann Yasnowsky
- 8 Shannon Baker
- 9 Jefferey Banas  
Vivian Miller
- 12 Dr. Henry VanZanten

### MEN TO

### HOLD CANDLES

#### Sunday, August 6th

Kevin Yasnowsky  
Gary Yonchak  
Bob Amos  
Bob Andras  
Jason Baker

#### Sunday, August 13th

Robert Banas  
Dennis Burprich  
John Cataloni  
Ed Chuba  
Jerry Chupak

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### August 5th

*Michael & Nancy Ristvey  
Robert & Judith Banas*

#### August 6th

*John & Elizabeth Safin*

#### August 7th

*James & Karen Hynes*

#### August 10th

*Doane & Carole Bailey  
Joseph & Helen Jaeger*

#### August 12th

*Deacon John & Deborah*