

# SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

3180 Morefield Road • Hermitage, PA 16148

Office: 724-981-0571 • Rectory: 724-346-4457

Fax: 724-308-6615 • Website: [www.stjohnacroc.org](http://www.stjohnacroc.org)

## *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 August 13-26, 2017

# August 15th: The Dormition of the Mother of God



*by Fra Angelico, 1431*

# CALENDAR OF SERVICES & EVENTS

**MON 8/14/2017**

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6:00 PM Great Vespers with Litija for Dormition  
*Placing of the Burial Icon of the Mother of God for Veneration*

**TUES 8/15/2017 DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD (HOLYDAY)**

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

**FRI 8/18/2017**

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8:30 AM Divine Liturgy  
*+Marlene Roach, by the Mothers and Daughters Club*

**SAT 8/19/2017 GOLF SCRAMBLE**

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8:00 AM Shotgun Start  
2:00 PM (*approx.*) Golf Dinner and Basket Raffle in Hall (*Advance Tickets Only*)

**\*SUN 8/20/2017 SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
*Panachida: ++Hromyak Family (Per.)*

**MON 8/21/2017**

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6:00 PM Board Meeting

**WED 8/23/2017**

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8:30 AM Parastas  
*+Steve Blanar (Perpetual)*

**FRI 8/25/2017**

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8:30 AM Liturgy  
*+Protopresbyter Ronald Hazuda, by John & Nona Kolbrich*

**\*SUN 8/27/2017 SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
*Panachida: +Ronald Bich, 40th Day Memorial  
+Mary & +Joseph Bartko (Per.) +Anthony + Helen Dzurinda (Per.)*

11:00 AM Baptism of Tenley Fabian

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

¶ **We thank Fr. Michael** for serving Liturgy for us on August 13th! Fr. David will return home this evening.

¶ **Golf Scramble** is THIS Saturday, August 19th! Today (Sunday, August 13th) is the last day to purchase dinner tickets, and to submit sponsorships and patron ad listings. See Francine Fabian and Stephanie Shumkaroff at the display in the fellowship hall.

Donations of baked goods for the Golf Scramble Dinner can be dropped off to the church on Friday, August 18th between 1 PM and 5 PM and on Saturday, August 19th after 9 AM. Thank you!

¶ **Services for the Dormition of the Mother of God** are as follows: Great Vespers is on Monday, August 14 at 6:00 PM, and will include the blessing of loaves and the placing of the “shroud” of the Mother of God on the tetrapod for veneration. Divine Liturgy is on Tuesday, August 15 at 9:00 AM, with the traditional blessing of flowers and herbs. Please bring some for this blessing and let them adorn your icons at home!

*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 majority 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 to honor the Ever-Virgin Mary. Come and celebrate the Mother of God at her “falling asleep” at one or both services!*

## ¶ **Blessing of Animals: September 1**

We will again hold a “Blessing of Animals” this year. Its commemoration is two-fold. September 1st, the beginning of the Church Year, is a day set aside by our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to ask God to bless and protect all creation. September 2nd is the holyday of Saint Mamas, an early Christian martyr who is known as an intercessor for animals.

The Blessing of Animals will take place on Friday, September 1 at 7:00 PM outside the church. In case of bad weather, the blessing will be rescheduled. To promote the safety of all present, please make sure that your pet is either on a leash or in a crate.

## LOCAL EVENTS...

**Rummage and Bake Sale** sponsored by our neighbors at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 3325 Morefield Road, Hermitage on Friday, August 25 from 8 AM to 4 PM and Saturday, August 26 from 8 AM to 1 PM.

**"Vatra 5th Annual Chapter Rusyn Event"** sponsored by the Youngtown Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society on Saturday August 26, 2017 from Noon to 8 PM at Infant Jesus of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church grounds, 7754 South Ave, Boardman, Oh 44513. There will be Rusyn food, music, socializing and a "slanina" (bacon) roast around the bonfire.

## SOME FRIENDLY REMINDERS...

**Hospital Stays:** If you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital, please call Fr. David as soon as possible. The hospitals do not routinely call churches, so it is up to those who are hospitalized and their loved ones to alert the parish office.

**Rental of our Fellowship Hall** is open to parishioners of Saint John's. We do not rent to the general public. The fee for renting the hall is \$150.00. Please visit the church office to 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>

## Question and Answer:

### "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, and 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.



*Our  
Heartfelt  
Sympathy  
to:*

We offer our prayers, thoughts, and condolences to several of our members upon the passing of...

**Ronald Bich**, *husband of Karen Bich and father of Dawn Burns*

**Patricia Amos**, *mother of Bob Amos*

**Deloris Moon**, *mother of John Moon*

***Blessed Repose and Eternal Memory!***

## **Changes to Coffee Hour: A Call to Serve!**

**Our Sunday Coffee Hour is a mainstay of parish life**, allowing our members time for fellowship and conversation, and the opportunity to show hospitality to guests and visitors who join us for Liturgy.

For several decades, our PTO has admirably staffed coffee hour. But as we have fewer students these days, the job of putting on coffee hour for the entire parish has fallen on a small group of parents. Additionally, the cost of donuts was becoming a large chunk of the PTO budget.

Over the past few months, our Church Board has discussed Coffee Hour at meetings and has come up with several ways to equitably address these concerns. We want to make sure that we *continue* to have a great Coffee Hour, but we also want to get *more* of our parish involved. We have a two-pronged approach:

*(Continued on next page)*



- 1) We are forming a **Hospitality Ministry** to manage Coffee Hour and other meals during the year, the “core” members of which will oversee the purchase of refreshments and supplies. To staff Coffee Hour, we are reaching out to the wider parish community, and are looking for volunteers to take turns with set-up and clean-up. Think about it: if we can get just 24 individuals/families to commit to working Coffee Hour, that would mean those individuals/families would only have to commit to 2 Sundays during the year!
- 2) To cover the cost of refreshments, we will now be seeking financial **SPONSORS** for each Sunday’s Coffee Hour. For a donation of **\$20**, you will be able to sponsor Coffee Hour. Just like other sponsorships, you can either do it in your own name, in honor or memory of someone else, or you can donate anonymously. Sponsorships will be listed in the bulletin.

Additionally, you will notice some changes in the refreshments. No, we won’t have donuts every Sunday. We are currently putting together some “menu” ideas (like mini muffins and bagels, cheese and crackers, fruit, etc.) to diversify what we offer from week to week.

We are still finalizing the details, but the bottom line is: we need YOUR help! Jesus calls us to serve others, and this is a small way in which you can be of service to your fellow church members and our guests. We need your time, talent, and creativity to make this a success!

**Sign-up for volunteers and sponsors will be available in the next couple weeks. *Thank you in advance!***

# STEWARDSHIP

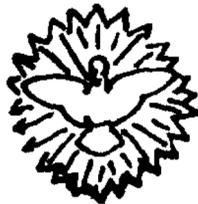
*by Dan Hromyak*

*"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 in mind for you.

*"For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." - Romans 11:29*

God has a special mission in mind for each of us. He has given us the gifts we need to accomplish that mission. If we deny our gifts or fail to use them as God calls us to use them, then some part of His work will be left undone.



**Encyclical for the Feast of the Dormition**  
*from His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America*  
*Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America*

*“The doors of caring do now open unto us, O most blessed Theotokos...”*  
*(Theotokion of the Small Paraklesis)*

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this blessed Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos we commemorate the Ever-Virgin Mary for offering her life to God as a witness of the power of grace. Through her holiness of life and her love of Him, she experienced His grace and became one who showed compassion to all she encountered. Because of her unique relationship with our Lord, she has and continues to show compassion to all in need who seek her intercessions for mercy and salvation from God.

The Theotokos is compassionate because she is the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ who revealed to us the grace of God through His ministry and teaching. She carried the Compassionate Savior in her womb. In the Holy Scriptures we read how our Lord saw the physical and spiritual needs of many, and He had compassion. They were like sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:34). They were hungry, blind, sick, suffering and rejected. He felt and understood their struggles and needs, and in compassion He blessed their lives through the power of grace.

The Virgin Mary shows us compassion because the holiness of her life led her to experience the abundance of God’s love. She was chosen to be the Mother of God because of her holiness; but this was also the nature of her entire life. In the beautiful hymns of this Feast of her Dormition, we celebrate her holiness and splen-

dor. We give thanks to God for her purity of heart and her tremendous faith that led her to dedicate her life to sharing His grace. We join with all generations in calling her blessed!

We also join together in our services and hymns, seeking the compassion and intercessions of the Theotokos. We ask her to hasten quickly to our aid. We fervently pray to her, crying from the depths of our souls, asking for compassion. We call her a merciful spring, a shelter, covering, and refuge. We proclaim to the world that she is a protection for the oppressed, food for the hungry, comfort for the estranged and those in pain, a staff to the blind, a visitation for the sick, and aid for the orphaned. In our time of need, we ask her to come and bring help, to lead us compassionately to Christ for healing, hope, and salvation.

As we commemorate the life and Dormition of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, we do so in joy and hope. This is a feast of compassion. We are inspired by the witness of her beautiful life. We are emboldened by the power of grace through her dedication to God. We are comforted by her compassion for us and her constant intercessions for our needs. She guides us through the love of God in showing compassion to others.

May the Virgin Mother of our Lord, a protection of all Christians, grant you help in your time of need, and may her witness inspire you to live in compassion so that others may find hope and salvation in Christ.

With paternal love in Him,

†DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

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SOUVLAKI  
MEDITERRANEAN  
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PASTRIES



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AUGUST 25TH - 27TH

Friday & Saturday Noon - 8PM

Sunday Noon - 7PM

**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

315 W. Englewood Avenue - New Castle, PA (Across From St. Camillus)

724-654-8521

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## Become a Distinguished Diocesan Donor

Become a part of the ministries and apostolates of our Diocese! Use the form on the right, or donate online at [acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram](http://acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram). Remember, send your contribution directly to the Diocese (by mail or through the Diocesan website), but tell Fr. David so he can note this for planning purposes.

This year's Youngstown Deanery **DDD Dinner** will be on Sunday, October 8 at Dilucia's Restaurant, Elm Road (next to the Echo Lane Bowling Alley) in Warren. The dinner will begin promptly at 5:00 PM. Those who contribute \$100 or more to the dinner are invited to attend. If you wish to bring a guest, guest tickets may be purchased for \$30 each. The deadline is Sunday, September 24.

# 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

**Bulletin Sponsor ~ Sunday, August 13th**

In Loving Memory of Frank Raiti on his birthday, August 19th, from Dorothy Pacinda

**BIRTHDAYS**

Aug. 13 Dominic Helmetzi  
15 Michael Holmes  
17 Melinda Kroko  
18 Josh Miklos  
19 Joseph Blasko  
Kaitlin Chacon  
Germaine Tatusko  
21 James Wilson  
24 Alex Parimuha  
26 Jennifer Miller

**MEN TO  
HOLD CANDLES**

**Sunday, August 20th**

Chester Everett  
Ed Fabian  
Matt Fabian  
Ron Fiegel  
Michael Holmes

**Sunday, August 27th**

Jim Hynes  
Bob Kapusta  
Matt Kulusich  
Steve Lukac  
Steven Lukac

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**August 18th**

*Gino & Maryann Tofani*

**August 19th**

*Justin & Lisa Blair*

**July 2017 Special Fund Winners**

1<sup>st</sup> Daniel Hromyak, Hermitage - #724 - \$50  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
3<sup>rd</sup> not sold - #042  
4<sup>th</sup> not sold - #046  
5<sup>th</sup> Joe Plawky, Hermitage - #251 - \$30  
6<sup>th</sup> Jimmy Hynes, Columbus, OH - #149 - \$30  
7<sup>th</sup> Jerry Castleman, Monroeville, IN - #239 - \$30  
8<sup>th</sup> Katie Hartley, Fowler, OH - #702 - \$50  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
10<sup>th</sup> not sold - #860  
11<sup>th</sup> Sydney Meyers, Hermitage - #844 - \$30  
12<sup>th</sup> Dennis Burprich, Hermitage - #562 - \$30  
13<sup>th</sup> Joel & Kim Girosky, Tampa, FL - #473 - \$30  
14<sup>th</sup> Joe & Linda Nemetz, Sharon - #440 - \$30  
15<sup>th</sup> Lorraine Amos, Hermitage - #651 - \$50

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
17<sup>th</sup> Lesley Rochester, Copley, OH - #413 - \$30  
18<sup>th</sup> Jerry Chupak, West Middlesex—#823 - \$30  
19<sup>th</sup> Dolly Lineman, Greenville - #303 - \$30  
20<sup>th</sup> Paul Keck, Mercer - #693 - \$30  
21<sup>st</sup> Nicholas Polanchka, Dalton, PA - #153 - \$30  
22<sup>nd</sup> Amy Ristvey, Hermitage - #901 - \$50  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
24<sup>th</sup> not sold - #311  
25<sup>th</sup> Katie Hartley, Fowler, OH - #217 - \$30  
26<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Pacinda, Hermitage - #489 - \$30  
27<sup>th</sup> not sold - #577  
28<sup>th</sup> Lorraine Amos, Hermitage - #476 - \$30  
29<sup>th</sup> Martha Templica, New Castle - #487 - \$50  
30<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
31<sup>st</sup> Lesley Rochester, Copley, OH - #539 - \$30