

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 August 4-17, 2019

The Blessing of Fruit for the Transfiguration



CALENDAR OF SERVICES & EVENTS

*SUN	8/4/2019	SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy	<i>Panachida at the End of Liturgy for Msgr. Paul and Pani Helen Tkach</i>
		<i>Panachida:</i>
	+John & +Anna Hayduk	(Perpetual)
	+John & +Anna Peri	(Perpetual)
	++Paczak Family	(Perpetual)
	+Vivian Miller	(by Robert Miller)
MON	8/5/2019	
9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy & Panachida	+John Kloss 40th Day <i>by Uncle Fr. Michael & Aunt Pani Eleanor</i>
7:00 PM	Vespers for the Holyday	
TUES	8/6/2019	TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST (HOLYDAY)
9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Fruit	
FRI	8/9/2019	
6:30 PM	Confessions	
7:00 PM	Paraklis to the Mother of God, with Prayers for the Living	
*SUN	8/11/2019	EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy	Second Blessing of Fruit and Distribution of Fruit
		<i>Panachida:</i>
	+Joseph Pacinda	(Perpetual)
	+Andrew & +Anna Gelety	(Perpetual)

MON 8/12/2019

6:00 PM Board Meeting

TUES 8/13/2019

8:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Special Intention:

Fr. David' Family, Friends, and All Parishioners

WED 8/14/2019

7:00 PM Vespers for the Holyday, with Prayers for the Living

THURS 8/15/2019

DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD (HOLYDAY)

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Flowers and Fragrant Herbs

SAT 8/17/2019

Golf Scramble and Golf Dinner

***SUN 8/18/2019**

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Panachida:

++Hromyak Family

(Perpetual)

A Note of Gratitude

John and I would like to thank everyone for thinking of our family during the loss of my mother Sheila Mihalson.

Thank you to all who sent beautiful sympathy cards and all the Facebook messages. We truly appreciated the prayers and the words of comfort.

Many Thanks,
Christine & John Frejik

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our 2019 Golf Scramble will be held on Saturday, August 17th at Oak Tree Country Club. The **Golf Dinner** will again be held at our church hall at 2:30 PM. Dinner-only tickets are available for \$20 per person. See Francine Fabian

We are asking parishioners to consider being a **sponsor** for this event: Major sponsorships, \$100.00. Hole sponsorships, \$35.00. Patron Listings, \$10.00. See Francine Fabian. **Deadline for sponsorships and tickets is August 11.**

The Dormition Fast goes from August 1 to 14. This two-week fast is in preparation for the Dormition of the Mother of God on August 15th. It is the “summer Lent” before the “summer Pascha”! We are invited to fast as much as we can to prepare for this great holyday of our Orthodox Church.

To help us in our spiritual efforts, we will offer a number of services during this time, as listed on the monthly calendar and in this bulletin. At many of these services, we will include intercessory prayers for the living. Please use the available prayer sheets and give them to Fr. David, or e-mail names to father.david @stjohnacroc.org.

Dormition Fast Service Times

Please pay close attention to the times listed on the calendar and in the bulletin! Our evening services for the remainder of the Dormition Fast will begin later than usual, at 7:00 PM.

Transfiguration and the Blessing of Fruit

August 6th is the holyday of the Transfiguration of our Lord. Vespers on the eve of the holyday will be at 7:00 PM. Divine Liturgy will be at 9:00 AM. The tradition on this summer holyday is to bless grapes and other fruit—the “first fruits” of summer. We will bless fruit at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, August 6th. Bring a basket or bowl of fruit for this blessing!

On the Sunday after the Transfiguration, August 11th, we will again provide small bags of fruit for all parishioners. (You are also welcome to bring fruit from home for this blessing, if you are unable to come on August 6.)

Transfiguration Monastery Pilgrimage

The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration (321 Monastery Ln, Ellwood City) will hold their Annual Pilgrimage. On Monday, August 5, a Vigil Service will begin at 6:00 PM, with light refreshments available one hour before and one hour after the service. On Tuesday, August 6, Hierarchical Liturgy at 10:00 AM. After Liturgy, at 12:30 PM, a picnic lunch will be served. The gift shop will open. 2:30 PM, the Sacrament of Unction will be offered. Refreshments will be served at 4:00 PM. All are welcome to celebrate the Transfiguration with the Sisters!

Confession

If you haven't been to Confession since Lent, the Dormition Fast is a perfect time to go! Fr. David will be hearing confessions before evening services, and also before Liturgy on Sundays (but no later than 8:50 AM).

Services for the Dormition of the Mother of God

To mark the great feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of Mary, the Mother of God, we will offer the following services: Great Vespers on Wednesday, August 14 at 7:00 PM, with the blessing of loaves. Divine Liturgy will be on Thursday, 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!*

The Blessing of Flowers and Herbs?

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 at the Virgin Mary's 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.

Get Ready for School with God's Blessing!

Blessing of Students will take place on Sunday, August 18th. We will offer this blessing before our youth begin the school year at their K-12 schools. In addition, we will hold an **Informational Meeting** for parents of Church School students on Sunday, August 18th to talk about the upcoming year. Sunday School classes will begin on September 8th.



Dear Father David and church family,
Thank you for the generous scholarship and graduation gift. I thank you for giving the best second family here at church. I look forward to all the good memories and blessings in the future.

Love,
Shannon Slovesko

Do Orthodox “Worship” Mary?

<http://theorthodoxfaith.com/article/worship-of-mary/>

Orthodox Christians bless, venerate, and honor Mary, but we never worship her.

Part of the confusion about the worship of Mary stems from the very idea of worship itself. In modern churches when one talks about worship they usually mean the singing that takes places before the sermon. When a visitor hears us singing about Mary, they associate that singing with worship of Mary. But in the Orthodox church, worship is understood as sacrifice. When we offer the Eucharist we participate in the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus. Orthodox would never offer a sacrifice to Mary.

We honor Mary due to her relationship with Christ, it is never done in isolation or based on her own merit. In the icons of the church will rarely, if ever, see Mary depicted by herself. She is always shown with Christ. The most common image is Mary holding Christ with her hand pointing to Him, directing the faithful to look unto Christ for salvation.

In Luke, we read (LUKE 11:27-28)

A certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!” But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

Mary is not honored solely based on the fact she physically gave birth to or nurtured Jesus. She is honored because she heard the word and kept it. It is her life of being completely surrendered to the will of God that she is honored. While giving birth to Christ is Mary’s own unique experience, her example of submission can be followed by all Christians.

The Orthodox church lives out the scripture (LUKE 1:48) “henceforth all generations will call me blessed.”

There has been much debate in recent centuries about the level of veneration that is due to Mary, largely due to the fear of going too far. The unfortunate result has been to not honor Mary at all. In fact, the Rev. Billy Graham has said repeatedly, “We evangelical Christians do not give Mary her proper due.” Many modern Christians look at Mary as a distant historical figure but

for Orthodox Christians she is a present, living example in our worship of the one God. Since the beginning of Christianity to the present day we have never ceased to honor Mary.

From the Early Christians

For whereas Eve, yet a virgin and undefiled, through conceiving the word that came from the serpent, brought forth disobedience and death; the Virgin Mary, taking faith and joy, when the Angel told her the good tidings that the Spirit of the Lord should come upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadow her, and therefore the Holy One to be born of her should be the Son of God, answered, Be it don to me according to thy word. And so by means of her was he born, concerning whom we have shown so many Scriptures were spoken; through whom God overthrows the serpent, and those angels and men who have become like to it, and on the other hand, works deliverance from death for such as repent of their evil doings and believe in him - St. Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho (c. 160 A.D.)

Just as Eve, wife of Adam, yet still a virgin, became by her disobedience the cause of death for herself and the whole human race, so Mary, too, espoused yet a Virgin, became by her obedience the cause of salvation for herself and the whole human race.... And so it was that the knot of Eve's disobedience was loosed by Mary's obedience. For what the virgin Eve bound fast by her refusal to believe, this the Virgin Mary unbound by her belief. - St. Irenaeus, Against Heresies (175-185 A.D)

The whole race of man upon earth was born from Eve; but in reality it is from Mary the Life was truly born to the world. So that by giving birth to the Living One, Mary became the mother of all living - St. Epiphanius, Against Eighty Heresies, 78,9 (c. 374)

Happy August Birthdays

August 5th Nancy Ristvey

August 6th Joann Yasnowsky

August 8th Shannon Baker

August 9th Jefferey Banas

August 12th Henry VanZanten

August 15th Mike Holmes

August 17th Melinda Kroko

MEN TO HOLD CANDLES

Sunday, August 11th

Dan Ristvey

Joel Ristvey

Matt Ristvey

Tom Ristvey

Pete Roman

Sunday, August 18th

Steve Saluga

Milan Shumkaroff

Ed Slovesko

Gino Tofani

Henry VanZanten Wedding Anniversaries

August 5th

Nancy & Michael Ristvey

August 6th

Elizabeth & John Safin

August 7th

Karen & Jim Hynes

August 10th

Carole & Doane Bailey

August 12th

Debbie & Deacon John
Anderson

