



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Annual Blessing of Animals is TODAY, September 1,** at 4:00 PM in the parking lot. For the safety of all humans and animals present at the blessing, all animals must be restrained (on a leash, in a crate, etc.). In the case of bad weather, the blessing is cancelled.

**Reminder: Church School classes** begin on September 8th.

**Are you a DDD member?** Check out the information about the Distinguished Diocesan Donor program included in this bulletin! *NOTE: The Diocese has discontinued the practice of DDD Dinners, so there is no Youngstown Deanery DDD Dinner this year.*

## July 2019 Calendar Winners

- 4<sup>th</sup> Renee Maceyko, Hermitage 431
- 6<sup>th</sup> John Cataloni, Hermitage 341
- 8<sup>th</sup> Mark Goral, Sharpsville, 218
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Pacinda, Hermitage 873
- 10<sup>th</sup> Tricia Ruffo, New Wilmington 367
- 12<sup>th</sup> Braden Houk, New Castle 695
- 13<sup>th</sup> Brooke & Kaitlin (No last name) Hermitage 429
- 16<sup>th</sup> Ken Maceyko, Hermitage 925
- 17<sup>th</sup> John R. Frangakis, Hermitage 159
- 18<sup>th</sup> Jerry Chupak, W Middlesex 334
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dave Av, Robbinsville, NJ 195
- 20<sup>th</sup> Angel Compeli, New Castle, PA 382
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sandra Stewart, Hermitage 408
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mary Chupak, New Wilmington 905
- 25<sup>th</sup> Taylor Moon, Mercer 975
- 27<sup>th</sup> Cassie Meeks, Fremont, IN 774
- 29<sup>th</sup> Karen Miller, Rahway, NJ 795
- 30<sup>th</sup> Dolores Sonoga, Youngstown 426

# “Spiritual Resolutions” for the Church New Year

*September 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the Church Year. Since summer vacations are over and the school year has begun, our day-to-day lives also go back to “business as usual.” This is a great time to make a resolution to get your spiritual life back on track!*

*Below are a few suggestions. This is not an exhaustive list! There are plenty more resolutions one could make. The idea is not to see this as a “check list” and try (and possibly fail) to do all of them. Prayerfully consider where you need progress in your life with Christ in light of this list, and see if anything rises to the top. Make that your resolution for the New Church Year!*

**Pray at home every day.** If you can’t pray morning and evening, then choose one and make that your main prayer time. Use the Come to Me prayerbook, another Orthodox prayer book, or the “Basic Prayers” sheets available in the vestibule.

**Read the Scriptures at home with regularity.** Use the wall calendar. Use the Diocesan website or similar apps for your phone. Use the guide in the back of the Orthodox Study Bible. Pick one book of the Bible and read a little every day before moving on to the next book. Read Bible stories to your kids or grandkids. The most important thing is to engage with God’s Word.

**Go to church every Sunday—and don’t make excuses.** Sometimes things happen, but don’t let anything habitually get between you and Liturgy on the Lord’s Day. (If you’re homebound because of age, health, illness, weather: sanctify Sunday morning by spending time in prayer.)

**Attend weekday services** as possible. We all have different situations in life (work, school, etc.) and these situations make demands upon our schedule. But never forget that liturgical worship extends beyond Sunday morning. If you can make it on a weekday/holyday, don’t stay home!

**Pray before meals.** Don’t eat without thanking the Creator who provided the meal.

**Be conscious about fast days and plan accordingly.** Often, we miss days of fasting because we don’t make it a priority and don’t think ahead. Make them part of the rhythm of your life.

**Cut back on staring at screens.** Spend time with loved ones, read a book, go outside. It’s far easier to encounter God in those moments than in front of our phone, TV, or computer screen.

**Completely eliminate and guard against pornography.** It’s everywhere, it’s accepted—and it’s still a sin that darkens the mind. Addiction can be broken through faith and work. (Information about an interesting subscription service for this purpose can be found at [covenanteyes.com](http://covenanteyes.com))

**Make the Sign of the Cross *carefully and often.*** Hold your fingers right, and don’t be sloppy. Every time you sign yourself with the Cross, you are making a profession of faith in Christ. The Devil hates the Cross. Cross yourself before eating, when you pass a church, when you need a quick prayer, when you hear bad news, when you hear good news, when you wake up in the morning, when you go to bed at night... *pray without ceasing!*

**Reconcile with someone.** Remember what we say in the Lord’s Prayer: *“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”*

**Invite someone to church.** Lots of people are looking for God, but don’t know where to turn. If you have the right opportunity, invite someone to come to church with you.

# Thoughts on Stewardship

## By Dan Hromyak

*"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." - Luke 13:30*

We have a difficult time with the concept of giving without expecting something in return. Even when we give to charity we often want something in return - a raffle ticket, a dinner, a chance to play golf or our name in print. Yet, as Christian stewards, we need to remember that the true reward for our giving awaits us in heaven.

*"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." - Luke 14:33*

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.



**St. George Greek Orthodox Church**

315 West Englewood Avenue

New Castle, PA 16105

**Thursday, September 12th, 2019**

**1:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.**

Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter **StGeorge** to schedule an appointment.

# 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*.

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

## *Happy Anniversary!*

### **September 2**

Deborah & Michael Waryanka

### **September 3**

Dina & Matthew Fabian

### **September 5**

Debbie & John Moon

### **September 6**

Kelly & Ron Figiel

### **September 6**

Father David & Pani Vikki  
Mastroberte

### **September 8**

Janet & Chuck Kretchek

### **September 10**

Shannon & Jason Baker

### **September 13**

Michelle & Paul McMahan

### **September 15**

Stephanie & Milan Shumkaroff

## **ETERNAL LAMP SPONSOR**

### **SEPTEMBER 1**

In Loving Memory of Mother  
Katherine Varsho,  
by Kathy & Gary Yonchak

### **SEPTEMBER 15**

In Loving Memory of Mother  
Anna Blasko,  
by Helen Blasko

## **MEN TO HOLD CANDLES**

### **◆September 15**

Bob Kapusta  
Matt Kulusich  
Steven Lukac  
Steve Lukac  
Andy Lutz

### **◆September 22**

Ken Maceyko  
Emil Maurer  
Paul McMahan  
Robert Miller  
John Moon

## *Happy Birthday!*

September 1<sup>st</sup> Andy Lutz  
September 2<sup>nd</sup> Stephen Chuba  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> Cynthia Saluga  
September 4<sup>th</sup> Tom Hellmann  
September 4<sup>th</sup> Emma Kate Ristvey  
September 5<sup>th</sup> Bob Bobanick  
September 7<sup>th</sup> Helen Kachaylo  
September 7<sup>th</sup> Donald Yasnowsky  
September 8<sup>th</sup> Nancy Long  
September 9<sup>th</sup> Shelley Hando  
September 9<sup>th</sup> Delores Jisko  
September 14<sup>th</sup> Helen Blasko

*God Grant You  
Many, Blessed Years!*



Mark Your Calendars With These Parish Events!

– PIROHI SALES –

Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> & Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

– CHINESE AUCTION –

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

– 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET –

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

**OCTOBER SALE  
PIROHI SCHEDULE**

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

Wed., October 2  
at 1:00 PM  
(Hall setup; Potato prep)

Thurs., October 3  
at 6:00 PM  
(Filling prep)

Friday, October 4  
at 8:00 AM  
(Pirohi Making and Sale)

**Remember:**  
**Get your  
orders in  
by September 29!**

**October 2019 Pirohi Order Form**

*Order Deadline: Sunday, September 29, 2019  
(724) 981-0571*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Potato-Cheese Pirohi @ \$8.00/dozen

\_\_\_\_\_ Butter Only

\_\_\_\_\_ Butter and Onions (on the side)

Total Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-Up on Friday, October 4, 2019  
12:00 Noon—2:00 PM  
*Doors Open at Noon.*

# 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*

## Sacramental and Membership Information

**Sick Calls** can be made at any time. Please phone the rectory (724-346-4457) when a family member is admitted to the hospital, or to request a home visit. Hospitals do *not* call to alert the parish when someone is admitted.

**Marriages** are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. Circumstances may require a dispensation from the diocesan bishop. Consult the pastor at least six months in advance and before any plans have been made for the wedding reception. Marriages cannot be celebrated during the fasting seasons of the church, or on Fridays.

**Baptisms** are usually scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays. Consult the pastor. Two godparents (godfather and godmother) are required, at least one of whom must be a practicing Orthodox Christian in good standing at an Orthodox parish, and the other (at least) a practicing, baptized Christian.

**Church Funerals** are, under ordinary circumstances, provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and material obligations to the parish; otherwise, the funeral service is conducted at the funeral home. The Church does *not* permit cremation.

**Parishioners in "good standing"** are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John's Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular church attendance, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these sacraments no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and financially support the parish (especially through an annual "pledge").

**Prospective members and returning members** are asked to fill out an application form, copies of which are available in the church office.

## Like Us on Facebook

[facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA](https://facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA)

## Follow Us on Instagram

[instagram.com/saintjohnhermitagepa](https://instagram.com/saintjohnhermitagepa)

## 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>