



# BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 16-29, 2020

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>Sunday, August 16</b>	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>25th Wedding Anniversary Blessing for Deacon John and Deborah Anderson</i>
<b>Tuesday, August 18</b>	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy ++ <i>Hromyak Family (Perpetual)</i>
<b>Saturday, August 22</b>	6:00 PM	Vespers
<b>Sunday, August 23</b>	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy Panachida:     + <i>Andrew &amp; +Anna Gelety (Per.)</i> + <i>Steve &amp; +Anna Blanar (Per.)</i>
<b>Monday, August 24</b>	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy ++ <i>Ristvey Family (Perpetual)</i> <i>(Note Change of Date from Monthly Calendar!)</i>
<b>Friday, August 28</b>	6:00 PM	Vespers for the Holyday
<i>(Strict Fast Day)</i>		<b>BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST</b>
<b>Saturday, August 29</b>	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
<b>Sunday, August 30</b>	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy Panachida:     + <i>Anthony &amp; +Helen Dzurinda (Per.)</i> + <i>Mary &amp; +Joseph Bartko (Per.)</i>

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Reminders When Attending Services

Since resuming in-person worship (*initially limited to 25 people in May, and then more broadly opened on June 7*) we have been reminding our parishioners of the following “good practices” for those attending:

- ◆ Those who are sick or showing any symptoms of any illness are to stay home.
- ◆ Physical distancing is to be observed in the church. (*Families may stand together, of course!*)
- ◆ Wash your hands and use the available hand sanitizer.

Additionally, immediately after the Pennsylvania Department of Health made an executive order on July 1, we posted the following information on the church doors (*where it remains*) and announced it from the pulpit:

*On July 1, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Health issued an executive order requiring face coverings “in any indoor location where members of the public are generally permitted” (Section 2, B).*

*(If you are not wearing a face covering, we respectfully presume that this is due to a medical condition or another reason outlined in Section 3 of the executive order.)*

We appreciate your attention in these matters!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A big “**THANK YOU**” to all those who participated in the daily services throughout the two weeks of the Dormition Fast! We had one service every day from August 1st through 15th, and live-streamed each service for the benefit of those unable to attend in person. Twice each week, we offered prayers for our loved ones on the lists of names that were submitted. *May Our Lady, the most glorious and ever-virgin Mary, always protect you under her mantle of protection!*

**August 29 is the holyday of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist.** Vespers will be on Friday, August 28 at 6:00 PM and Divine Liturgy will be on Saturday, August 29 at 9:00 AM. This holyday is a **strict fast day** – no meat or dairy products are to be consumed. It is also a nice, pious custom (not a rule like the fast, but a custom nevertheless) that we do not consume foods that grow in heads (cabbage, lettuce) or use plates on this day. *Holy prophet, forerunner and baptist John, pray to God for us!*

**In-Person Church School classes**, which were slated to begin on September 13th, will **remain on hold** until further notice. Fr. David is currently exploring some possibilities for other options to continue to engage our students this year, so please stay tuned!

**Blessing of Students:** Ordinarily, we offer a group blessing for students at this time of the year. Given the circumstances, Fr. David is opting to offer this privately after services when requested by any parents and students who wish to receive it. Just ask Fr. David and he will be happy to do this!



## August 16th: The Image on the Towel – The Icon “Not Made With Hands”

*You may have seen this icon of Christ, with only His Holy Face visible on a cloth. This particular icon is viewed as the first icon – one which was made by Our Lord Himself. What is the story behind this? Read the following excerpt from the “Prologue from Ohrid” to find out!*

At the time when our Lord preached the Good News and healed every illness and infirmity of men, there lived in the city of Edessa, on the shore of the Euphrates, a prince named Abgar, who was completely infected with leprosy. He heard of Christ, the Healer of every pain and disease, and sent an artist, Ananias, to Palestine with a letter to Christ in which he begged the Lord to come to Edessa and to cure him of leprosy. In the event that the Lord was unable to come, the prince ordered Ananias to portray His likeness and to bring it to him, believing that this likeness would be able to restore his health. The Lord answered that He was unable to come, for the time of His passion was approaching. Instead, He wiped His face with a towel--and the image of His face remained on the towel. The Lord gave this towel to Ananias with the admonition that the prince would be healed by it, but not entirely--He would send the prince a messenger who would complete the healing of his disease later on. Receiving the towel, Prince Abgar kissed it and the leprosy completely fell from his body, but a little remained on his face. Later, the Apostle Thaddaeus came to Abgar, preached the Gospel, and secretly healed and baptized him. The prince then destroyed the idols which stood at the gates of the city. He placed the towel with the likeness of Christ--with a wooden backing, framed in a gold frame, and adorned with pearls--above the gates. The prince also wrote beneath the icon, directly on the gateway: "O Christ God, no one will be ashamed who hopes in You." Later, one of Abgar's great grandsons restored idolatry, and the Bishop of Edessa came by night and walled up that icon over the gates. Centuries passed. During the reign of Emperor Justinian, the Persian King Chozroes attacked Edessa, and the city was in great hardship. It happened that Bishop Eulabius had a vision of the All-Holy Theotokos, who revealed to him the mystery of the sealed wall and the forgotten icon. The icon was discovered, and by its power the Persian army was defeated.



# **THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP**

## ***by Dan Hromyak***

*"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. We are called to be good stewards by using those gifts to do the work that He has planned for each of us. 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.

*"Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?" - Romans 11:35*

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give the Lord anything - God already owns it all. God made everything. All we can do is return a portion of God's many gifts back to Him. Sincere gratitude for our gifts opens our hearts to joyful generosity! Through your generous sharing, you just may be the answer to someone's prayer.

**Thank you for your support of our parish!** Please continue to be as generous as possible, as your financial gifts help us continue our ministry of serving the Lord here in Hermitage!

Your offerings and donations can be mailed to:

*Saint John's Orthodox Church  
3180 Morefield Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148*



**Support our Mercer County Team!**  
**National Walk-a-Thon "Trek4Missions"**  
**Aug 8 - Sept 14**

The Orthodox churches of Mercer County have challenged the Erie County Orthodox churches to see who can raise the most funds for OCMC.

There are three ways you can support our Mercer County Team:

**Debit/Credit Card:** Go to the website [OCMC.org/trek4missions](http://OCMC.org/trek4missions). Click the red "DONATE" button, then click "Search for Team" (in red letters) and type in "Mercer" in the gray bar. Click "Mercer County PA" in red letters and either choose the Trekker participant you want to support with your donation, or click the "Donate Now" link at the top of the page. You can read each Trekkers' webpage before deciding who to support!

**In Person/By Check:** Give a check made out to "OCMC Trek4Missions" to a team member, which they will forward to OCMC.

**To Join the Team and Become a Participant:** Go to the website [OCMC.org/trek4missions](http://OCMC.org/trek4missions). Click the red "Join a Team" button. Type "Mercer" into the gray search bar, then click on the "Mercer County PA" page. Once there, click the "Join Team" tab. Enter the password "mercer1" then complete the registration. On your OCMC profile, you can design your own fundraising letter, add photos, set up an email list to get your friends and family to support you, and link all this to your Facebook page.

*If you have any questions, please speak with Henry Van Zanten or Kathy Piston.*

# 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.

---

**Website:** [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org)

**YouTube:** [youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon](http://youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA](http://facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/saintjohnhermitagepa](http://instagram.com/saintjohnhermitagepa)

**Diocese:** [acrod.org](http://acrod.org)





## Happy Birthday

August 17 - Melinda Kroko  
August 19 - Kaitlin Chacon  
August 19 - Germaine Tatusko  
August 24 - Alex Parimuha  
August 26 - Jennifer Miller  
August 27 - David VanZanten  
August 28 - Ed Chuba  
August 29 - Stephen Saluga

## Altar Flowers

In honor of  
Deacon John and Debbie Anderson's  
25th Wedding Anniversary  
Sponsored by: Emily Anderson



## Happy Wedding Anniversary

August 18<sup>th</sup>  
Mary Ann & Gino Tofani

## ETERNAL LAMP SPONSOR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

In loving memory of  
**Joseph E. Blasko**

Sponsored by: Wife, Mary Blasko

## Men to Hold Candles

August 23

Randy Martin  
Paul McMahon  
Robert Miller  
John Moon  
John Parimuha

August 30

Tom Patrick  
Dan Ristvey  
Joel Ristvey  
Matt Ristvey  
Tom Ristvey

## BULLETIN SPONSOR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

In loving memory of

**Frank Raiti**

on his birthday

Sponsored by: Dorothy Pacinda

