



BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2-15, 2020

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, August 2	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy Panachida: Msgr. Paul & Pani Helen Tkach (<i>Per.</i>)
Monday, August 3	6:00 PM	Moleben to the Mother of God <i>With Prayers for the Special Intention of the Living</i>
Tuesday, August 4	8:30 AM	Matins
Wednesday, August 5	6:00 PM	Vespers for the Transfiguration
		Transfiguration of Christ
Thursday, August 6	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy Blessing of Fruit
Friday, August 7	6:00 PM	Paraklis to the Mother of God <i>With Prayers for the Special Intention of the Living</i>
Saturday, August 8	6:00 PM	Vespers
Sunday, August 9	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy Blessing and Distribution of Fruit Panachida: +Vivian Miller, by son Robert +Joseph Pacinda (<i>Perpetual</i>)

Monday, August 10	6:00 PM	Akathist to the Mother of God <i>With Prayers for the Special Intention of the Living</i>
Tuesday, August 11	8:30 AM	Matins
Wednesday, August 12	6:00 PM	Moleben to the Mother of God <i>With Prayers for the Special Intention of the Living</i>
Thursday, August 13	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy Special Intention: Fr. David's Family, Friends, and All Parishioners On His 9th Ordination Anniversary
Friday, August 14	7:30 PM	Vespers for the Dormition Candlelit Procession with Singing of Marian Hymns <i>(Weather Permitting)</i>
		Dormition of the Mother of God
Saturday, August 15	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy Blessing of Flowers and Herbs
Sunday, August 16	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy 25th Wedding Anniversary Blessing for Deacon John and Deborah Anderson

Collection Underway to Support Local Monastery

The parishes of the Youngstown Deanery are holding collections to support the **Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City**. The Abbess, Mother Christophora, told our dean Fr. Ken Bachofsky that the best way to help their ministry is by giving **GIFT CARDS** of any amount for **CVS, Giant Eagle, and Aldi**. You can participate in two ways before August 15th:

- ⇒ Purchase a gift card for one of these stores and leave it in the appropriate basket at church. *(Remember, you can purchase gift cards at our Smart Money counter after services!)*
- ⇒ Donations of cash or checks (made out to Saint John's) can be left in the appropriate basket in the vestibule. These funds will then be used to purchase a gift card.

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!

The Dormition Fast

We are in the period of the Dormition Fast, which goes from August 1st to 14th. 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.

Daily Services for the Dormition Fast

To help us in our spiritual efforts, we will offer **one service every day** during these two weeks, as listed on the monthly calendar and in this bulletin.

Prayers of Special Intention for the Living

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.

Confession

If you haven't been to Confession in a while—and were unable to go during Great Lent this year—the Dormition Fast is the perfect time to go! Fr. David will be hearing confessions 30 minutes before evening services; after services as needed; before Liturgy on Sundays (but no later than 8:50 AM); and by appointment.

Transfiguration and the Blessing of Fruit

August 6th is the holyday of the Transfiguration of our Lord. **Great Vespers** on August 5th will be at **6:00 PM**. **Divine Liturgy** will be on August 6th 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 Thursday, August 6th. Bring a basket or bowl of fruit for this blessing!

On the Sunday after the Transfiguration, August 9th, we will also provide small bags of blessed fruit for all parishioners. *(You are also welcome to bring fruit from home for this blessing, if you are unable to come on August 6th.)*

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 will be celebrated on Friday, August 14th at **7:30 PM**. *(Please note the later start time.)* This year, we will add something new: at the conclusion of Vespers, we will carry the icon of the Dormition in an outdoor **candlelit procession**, with the singing of Marian Hymns. Our procession route will be to the Cemetery Cross and back, thus linking the Falling-Asleep of Our Lady with the place where our departed loved ones are laid to rest.

Divine Liturgy will be on Saturday, August 15th 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.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP ***by Dan Hromyak***

"Jesus said to them, 'There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves'." - Matthew 14:16

This is what Jesus said right before he fed the five thousand men. How often do we really place our trust in Jesus when the situation looks grim? With Jesus, no gift is too small or insignificant when offered with love. But, we have to do our part. We should trust that Jesus will provide all that we need. We need to believe that Jesus has a better plan in store for us.

"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 intended for you.



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. 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. 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 () 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

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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

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

YouTube: youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon

Facebook: facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA

Instagram: instagram.com/saintjohnhermitagepa

Diocese: acrod.org



Happy Birthday

August 2 - Ann Pysh
August 3 - Jason Baker
August 5 - Nancy Ristvey
August 6 - Joann Yasnowsky
August 8 - Shannon Baker
August 12 - Henry Van Zanten
August 15 - Mike Holmes



**Lisa & Mike
Holmes
August 12th**

Altar Flowers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

In loving memory of
Vivian Miller

Sponsored by: Bob Miller

ETERNAL LAMP SPONSOR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

In loving memory of the birthdays of
Trefun & Magdalene Chupak

Sponsored by: Anne Kudelko & Family

Men to Hold Candles

August 9

Dave Firster
Mike Holmes
Jim Hynes
Bob Kapusta
Matt Kulusich

August 16

Steven Lukac
Steve Lukac
Andy Lutz
Ken Maceyko
Emil Maurer

Happy Wedding Anniversary

August 5th

Nancy & Michael Ristvey

August 6th

Elizabeth & John Safin

August 7th

Karen & Jim Hynes

August 10th

Carole & Doane Bailey

August 10th

Helen & Joseph Jaeger

August 12th

Debbie & Deacon John Anderson

August 12th

Lisa & Mike Holmes



**Deacon John &
Debbie Anderson
August 12th**