



Bulletin for November 22 – December 5, 2020

*Before sitting down for your Thanksgiving feast, do not neglect to thank God in **PRAYER!**
Feel free to use the following prayers:*

In the name of the + Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

We, Your thankful and unworthy servants, praise and glorify You, O Lord, for the many blessings we have received from You. We bless You, we thank You, we sing to You and we rejoice in Your great mercy. In humility and love, we praise You: O Benefactor and Savior, glory to You.

AMEN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Eve Service: To mark the national holiday of Thanksgiving, we will celebrate a Prayer Service (*Moleben*) of Thanksgiving on the eve of Thanksgiving, November 25, at 6:00 PM. Take this opportunity to come to God's holy house and "*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!*" (Ps. 117)

Diocesan Yearbook/ACRY Annual Sponsors and Memorial Listings: If you would like to include your name and/or the names of your loved ones in the 2021 Diocesan Yearbook/ACRY Annual, please visit the church office.

Shop at Saint John's! When doing your Christmas shopping, don't forget about the opportunities we have at our church. Our Showcase stocks a variety of religious items and folk crafts from around the world. Visit the Smart Money counter for gift cards for a large number of stores.

AN UPDATE ABOUT THE SPECIAL FUND CALENDAR RAFFLE

Dear Saint John's Orthodox Church parishioners,

Thank you to everyone who helped raise over \$175,000 in the past 25 years for the Special Fund Raffle! Through your donations and selling tickets we helped our church tremendously.

We will not have a raffle for at least several months and will start a new contest hopefully in the not too distant future. We will finish up this year's chances to win on December 26th.

*With best regards,
Your Special Fund secretary,
Natalie Lukac*

Annual Election of Officers Meeting will take place on Sunday, December 13 and will be announced publicly on Sundays November 29, December 6, and December 13 in conformity with our By-Laws.

The Nativity Fast (Advent) Continues!

Please keep up with your spiritual efforts of fasting, increased prayer, and acts of charity. Come to additional services as you are able; many weekday services will be live streamed as well. Be sure to offer the Daily Nativity Fast Prayer from Metropolitan Gregory. Ample time has been set aside for the Confession. *“Let every heart prepare Him room...”*

Confession Times

During the Nativity Fast, Fr. David will be hearing Confessions:

- 8:15-8:50 AM before Sunday Liturgy
- 5:30-5:55 PM before Wednesday Evening Services
- By Appointment—Contact Fr. David to arrange a time!

Please wait in the front pew on the left side of the church. When the door to the side room is *open*, just walk right into the Confessional. (You don’t need to be “waved in” by Fr. David.)

ONLINE DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENT

The next “The Vine and the Branches” online Diocesan Youth event for youth ages 5-18 (Kindergarten up to 12th Grade currently) is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 6pm. Over 100 youth from nearly 45 parishes across the Diocese attended the first two “Vine and Branches” Events each time! His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory is calling all our youth ages 5-18 to once again come together online on December 6 in order to strengthen their faith and connect with their peers around the Diocese. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to be together with His Eminence, our priests, and one another. This will be a special Christmas Version of The Vine and the Branches. Cocoa will be “served”, a special Christmas performance will be offered, and there may even be a special Christmas Fireplace Scene!! Registration is quick and easy at acrod.org. Scroll down to: **“ON LINE DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENT DEC 6, 2020”** and click **“Register Now!”**

Registration closes on Thursday, 12/3, so register TODAY!

This next Vine and Branches Event won’t be until March 2021, so don’t miss out on this one!

Youth will be together for part of the Event, as well as in smaller “breakout rooms” grouped by age. Youth Ages 5-12 will be online from 6pm-7:30pm. Youth Ages 13-18 will be online from 7pm-8:30pm. Once you register for the event, a full schedule and the links to join the Event will be sent to you. His Eminence is looking forward to seeing all of you!!!

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH SPF50

The November-December 2020 edition of SPF50 is now available digitally on acrod.org.

This issue begins the week of November 15th and includes a Scripture reading guide and prayers designed specifically for families to prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

If you haven't tried SPF50 yet, consider joining in now. While the holiday season is undoubtedly a busy time, by making a commitment to read from the Bible and pray together for 50 minutes a month, your family will "keep Christ in Christmas" while spending quality time together.

To access this material or to find out more about how SPF50 can help your family grow in Christ, visit the Diocesan Website at acrod.org and look for the SPF50 logo.

SPF50
SCRIPTURE • PRAYER • FAMILY



Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series

Our Diocese is pleased to announce its next Parenting Workshop in its Series of Parenting Workshops entitled "Raising Believing Children". The next Workshop will be hosted online on Saturday, December 5th from 10am-12:30pm and will feature presentations by His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory and Fr. Stephen Loposky. The schedule will also include time for small group discussions and Questions and Answer sessions. Our Diocese has sponsored several of these Workshops around the Diocese and each has been a great experience for our parents. Several Workshops had been scheduled around the Diocese for Fall 2020, but were postponed because of our current circumstances. This Parenting Workshop will bring together faithful from around the entire Diocese. The Workshops are designed to help parents learn more about the "craft" of parenting and help them raise their children in the Faith. The Workshops focus on the ways parents can help their children stay faithful to Christ and His Church in a world that is filled with doubt and most often works against their Faith. The Workshops are for parents of any age – you're never too old to be a son or daughter, and likewise you're never too old to be a parent! His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory invites you to join him and other parents from around the Diocese as our Diocese seeks to help parents in their vocation to Raise Believing Children.

Registration closes on 12/2/20. The Workshop is free-of-charge.

More information is available on our Diocesan Website (acrod.org). Look for the Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series logo.



THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

By Dan Hromyak

"...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me" - Matthew 25:40

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient; when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's schedule.

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.



You are now able to **DONATE ONLINE** through our website, stjohnacroc.org. Just click on the "Donate" tab at the top of the page.

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

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

