

We Honor Our Veterans...

On Sunday, November 8, 2020, we offer special prayers for all the veterans of our Saint John's parish family. This list below includes those members of our church or their immediate family members who are serving or have served in the armed forces of the United States. *Thank you for your service!*

May God, through the Prayers of the Archangel Michael, Saint George, Saint Demetrius, and all the Saints, grant these men and women, and all veterans who served or now serve our country, His blessings, grace, and mercy!



Robert Amos
Deacon John Anderson
Father Thomas Blaschak
Dennis Burpich
Stephan Chuba
Ruth Ristvey Cisneros
Thomas Doyle
Chester Everett
John Frejik
Patton Gilliland
Joseph P. Jaeger
Matthew Kulusich

Andy Lutz
Robert Maykowski
Paul McMahan
John D. Ristvey
Peter Roman
Edward Slovesko
Joseph Tatusko
Peter Tatusko
Aaron VanZanten
David VanZanten
Gary Yonchak

God Bless America!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Serve on Our Parish Board! With our annual Election of Officers meeting about a month and a half away on December 13th, we are seeking nominations and/or volunteers to serve on our Parish Board for 2021. Please speak to Board President Steve Lukac or Nominations Chairman Jim Hynes if interested.

BAKE
Sale



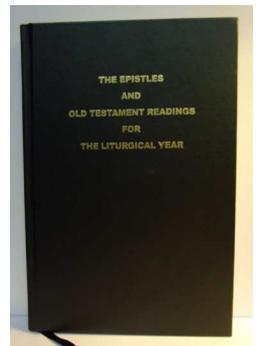
HOLIDAY BAKE SALE
DECEMBER 12th, 2020
Pre-Orders and Carry-Out Only!

Order forms are now available. Deadline for orders is **November 21st**. If you are interested in helping or in making a donation, speak with Francine Fabian (724-699-7614), Stephanie Shumkaroff or Kathy Piston.

New Epistle Book – Thank You!

We thank Dan Hromyak for donating a new Epistle and Old Testament Reading Book for our choir loft!

DID YOU KNOW? Scripture readings in the Orthodox Church are not chosen at random. They are appointed either based on the annual cycle of readings which begins on Pascha, or based on the fixed holydays and commemorations of the year. A book of Scripture readings is called a “lectionary”.



2021 Church Wall Calendars have again been provided to our parish through the generosity of **TOMON FUNERAL SERVICES**. We thank our parish funeral directors Joe Tomon and Jennifer for this annual gift, and ask God to bless them for many years! Please consider utilizing their excellent services.

Every home should have a calendar! Please take a calendar home and let it assist you in sanctifying the whole course of the year. Follow the daily commemorations, as the Church remembers the events of our salvation—the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Our Lord—and the lives of the saints. Use the Bible readings as daily spiritual nourishment.

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.

The Nativity Fast (Advent) begins on November 15th

During this time, we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ (*December 25*) and the festive season (*the "12 Days of Christmas"*) that ends with the Baptism of Christ (*January 6*).

Services will be held on Wednesday evenings throughout the Fast, as well additional Divine Liturgies on weekday mornings, and other occasional services.

Fasting goes hand-in-hand with our spiritual preparation. The traditional, fuller fast calls for abstinence from meat and dairy from November 15 until December 25. At a minimum, we are to abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, and observe the strict fast on Christmas Eve, December 24. (*Dispensation is given for Thanksgiving and the Friday following, as listed in the ACRY Annual.*)

Consider this: in America today, most people *pre-celebrate* Christmas, so that Christmas *ends* on December 25th. The Church wants us to take time and prepare *before* Christmas, and *then* celebrate and feast. We should, of course, be balanced in how we approach this, especially when invited by friends, neighbors and coworkers to holiday gatherings. In our personal and family observance of this pre-Christmas Fast, though, adding extra days of fasting and abstinence per week helps us focus more intently on preparation, and lessen the temptation to end Christmas on December 25th. *Remember: don't ask "what is the least I have to do?" but "what is the most that I can do for Christ?"*

Holy Confession

Confession is available before Sunday Liturgy at 8:25 AM, before the Wednesday Evening Services at 5:30 PM, and by special appointment. **If you were not able to go to Confession during Lent because of the COVID-19 shutdowns and haven't gone since, now is DEFINIATELY the time to go.** Recall that our Diocesan By-Laws include the following paragraph about our sacramental life and church membership:

All Orthodox Christians are exhorted to accept their Pastor's invitation to Holy Communion: "With the fear of God, and with faith and love, come forward" and to cleanse their souls of sin in Holy Confession and receive the Holy Eucharist frequently, but they must do so at least once a year within the Lenten Season in order to be members in good-standing of the Parish.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

by Dan Hromyak

"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." - Matthew 25:13

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We've all said, "I'll do it later when I have time." Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus' call is urgent, in the here and now, in our current circumstances. Don't delay. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? None of us is guaranteed tomorrow

"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities." - Matthew 25:40

God calls us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us. He expects us to grow our gifts, use them wisely and be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us.

DONATE TO THE DDD PROGRAM

COVID has turned much of our life upside down, including our Distinguished Diocesan Donors Program! The 2020 Fund Drive is still under way and will continue through the end of November. While there will be no DDD Dinner, your gift of \$100 or more is greatly needed. Proceeds from the DDD program benefit Camp Nazareth, and because COVID has caused all events and programs to be cancelled, DDD is basically our only source of Camp income. Checks can be made payable to "**Distinguished Diocesan Donors**" and sent directly to:

Diocesan Chancery
312 Garfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15906



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



MEN TO HOLD CANDLES

◆ November 15

Bob Andras
Jason Baker
Dave Beight
Dennis Burprich
Jerry Chupak

◆ November 22

Tom Doyle
Ed Fabian
Matt Fabian
Dave Firster
Mike Holmes

ETERNAL LAMP SPONSOR

November 8

In loving memory of
John Robert Hynes

by Jim, Karen, Katie & Brent Hynes

November 15

In loving memory of
Richard Hartley

by Katie Hartley & Family

A Note of Thanks

Special "Thanks" to everyone who sent the beautiful cards, text messaged and called me after my recent surgery. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Sincerely,
Marge (Benya) Holmes

Happy Wedding Anniversary!

November 9

David & Elise Saluga

November 12

Michaelene & Scott Obermiyer

CANDELABRUM SPONSOR

November 1

In honor of

David & Elise Saluga's
1st Wedding Anniversary

by Cynthia & Stephen Saluga

Happy Birthday!

November 10th Gino Tofani

November 12th John Parimuha

November 15th Amelia Baronowsky

November 18th Francine Fabian

November 19th Dorothy Wilson

November 20th Lauren Holmes

November 20th Mary Ann Tofani

