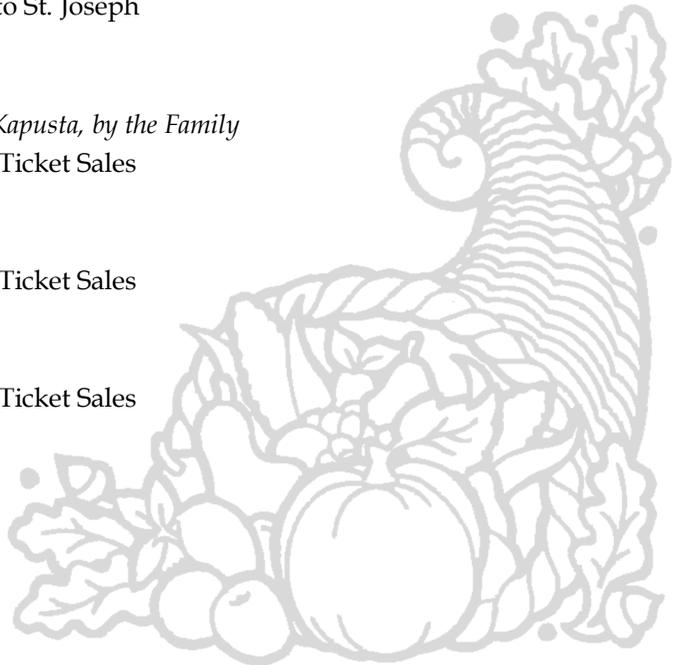


Bulletin for November 14-27, 2021

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

*SUN	11/14/2021	20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HOLY APOSTLE PHILIP 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy <i>(Live-Stream)</i> <i>Panachida: +George & +Anna Valent, Harold Bouslough (Perpetual)</i> <i>+Ann Volsko (Perpetual)</i>
MON	11/15/2021	<i>Nativity Fast (Advent) Begins Today</i> 6:00 PM Board Meeting
TUES	11/16/2021	<i>Saint of the Day: St. Matthew the Evangelist</i> 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy Special Intention: Diocesan Seminarians and Vocations
WED	11/17/2021	6:00 PM Akathist Service to St. Joseph
THURS	11/18/2021	8:30 AM Parastas <i>+Beckie Kapusta, by the Family</i> 3-7 PM Chinese Auction Ticket Sales
FRI	11/19/2021	3-7 PM Chinese Auction Ticket Sales
SAT	11/20/2021	10 AM-2 PM Chinese Auction Ticket Sales

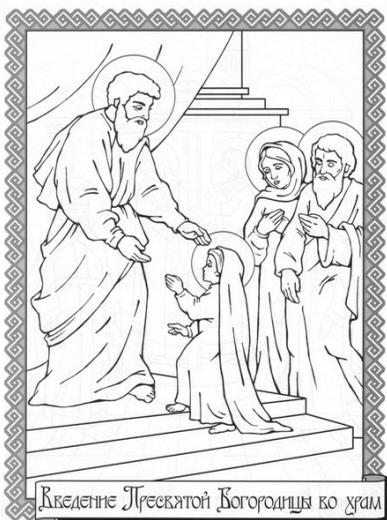
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

(CONTINUED)

- *SUN 11/21/2021 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
ENTRANCE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE (HOLYDAY)
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (*Live-Stream*)
Panachida: +Peter & +Mary Sobota (Perpetual)
++Pacinda Family (Perpetual)
- 1:00 PM Chinese Auction Broadcast on YouTube
- TUES 11/23/2021** *Saint of the Day: St. Alexander Nevsky*
8:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Special Intention: Thanksgiving to Almighty God
- WED 11/24/2021 THANKSGIVING EVE**
6:00 PM Prayer Service (Moleben) of Thanksgiving
- *SUN 11/28/2021 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (*Live-Stream*)
Panachida: +Joseph Lukac (Perpetual)
+Michael & +Mitzi Hnat (Perpetual)



November 21st is the holyday of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple. This day commemorates an event from the life of the Ever-Virgin Mary. When she was three years old, her righteous parents Joachim and Anna presented her to live within the precincts of the Temple in Jerusalem. We sing on this day:

“Today is the foreshadowing of the good pleasure of God and the herald of the salvation of men. The Virgin is revealed in the temple of God, and beforehand she announces Christ to all. Let us therefore cry to her with mighty voice: Hail, fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation.”

We Honor Our Veterans...

On Sunday, November 14, 2021, 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
Paul McMahan
John D. Ristvey
Peter Roman
Edward Slovesko
Joseph Tatusko
Peter Tatusko
Aaron VanZanten
David VanZanten
Gary Yonchak

God Bless America!

NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE 2021

Dear Beloved Faithful Clergy and Laity of our God-Protected Diocese,

It is hard to believe that this month marks the ninth anniversary of my Consecration and Enthronement as your Hierarch. It has been a very strange couple of years with the arrival of the Coronavirus early in 2020. The pandemic has turned our lives upside down. Several of our Clergy and many of our Laity have been exposed and sickened. Unfortunately we also lost many wonderful people of our Diocese and beyond. May their memories be eternal!

From the very beginning as God fearing people we have been praying for the Lord's help. In all of our Divine Liturgies additional petitions and prayers have been offered. And yet the struggle continues around the world. I believe we must intensify our prayers. If we are feeling like we are sinking because we are overwhelmed in our home life, work life, school life or even our social life (including social media and technology) we must be like Peter. He was walking on the water towards Jesus and when he became distracted by the winds and waves and today the virus, he began to sink. Peter cried out, "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14:30) and Jesus Christ reached down and pulled him out the stormy sea.

As we once again enter the Season of the Nativity Fast, I ask you, actually I plead with you, the good faithful people of our Diocese, to join me on a journey to meet the new born King. During these 40 days leading to the Nativity of our Lord let us increase our efforts in church attendance, in prayer, in fasting, in scriptural reading, in almsgiving, in repentance and confession, in receiving the Eucharist. This is who we are as active Orthodox Christians.

In the last six years, I have challenged everyone, Clergy and Laity, to offer a special prayer for during evening prayers. The text of this prayer will be provided to the Clergy for distribution. Each household should have sufficient copies so that each young person that can read has one by their bed to use nightly and those who are too young to read may say the prayer with their parents before they go to bed. Of course, all the adults should also participate.

To assist with this challenge, a special web page has been created on the Diocesan Website, which contains downloadable texts of the special prayer. Other postings will be made on various social media outlets to encourage maximum exposure and participation.

With all of us united in prayer this Nativity Fasting Season, I am convinced that we will help to improve our lives and those of others throughout the world.

Working in His Vineyard with much love,

+ Metropolitan Gregory

+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

CHINESE AUCTION 2021: UPDATED FORMAT, SAME GREAT EVENT!



Please carefully read the description below!

This year's Chinese Auction will use a *partially* online format.

STEP 1: Get Your Tickets In Person on 11/18, 11/19 & 11/20

Three days prior to the Auction, we will be OPEN for you to get your \$5 admission ticket; one free sheet of tickets; one to-go piece of homemade cake; purchase additional sheets of tickets and tickets for our special raffles; and put your tickets in for prizes. All ticket holders will have their ticket numbers registered with name and phone number. *All this is done in-person—not virtually!*

Stop by our hall at the following times:

- Thursday, November 18th from 3:00 to 7:00 PM
- Friday, November 19th from 3:00 to 7:00 PM
- Saturday, November 20th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

(NOTE: You will NOT be able to buy tickets or put in tickets on Sunday, November 21st.)

STEP 2: Watch the Drawing Online Broadcast on 11/21 at 1:00 PM

This year, we will not have an audience in the hall for the actual drawing. You are invited to watch the Chinese Auction drawing on our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon](https://www.youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon)) at 1:00 PM on November 21st.

If you are unable to watch it, don't worry--we will also call the registered phone number to let you know when your prizes can be picked up.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!



Prayers of Thanksgiving For Your Holiday Dinner

*Before sitting down for your Thanksgiving feast on November 25th,
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

2022 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 free 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 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 2022 Diocesan Yearbook/ACRY Annual, please visit the church office.

National ACRY “Lots o’ Luck” calendar raffle tickets are available in the church office for a donation of \$25.



ST. NICHOLAS VISIT
Sunday, December 5th

Join Us For

“Cookies and Cocoa with St. Nicholas”

While St. Nicholas usually visits our parish the Sunday on or after December 6th, this year, he will make his visit on the eve of his holyday—Sunday, December 5th.

Rather than offer a full meal, we will keep refreshments simple (so, more like coffee hour). If you would like, you are invited to bring a dozen holiday cookies or something small to share. Beverages will be provided.

Parents, please let Fr. David know by December 1st if your child will be in attendance, so we can prepare accordingly!

The Nativity Fast (Advent) begins on November 15th: *Some "How-To" Ideas from Fr. David*

During these next six weeks, 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). Here are some ways to observe this holy time in a meaningful way:

◆ FAST

Fasting goes hand-in-hand with our spiritual preparation for the Nativity. Traditionally, every day from November 15th until December 25th was kept as a fast day. Without a doubt, this poses a challenge for most of us. So, what can we do, practically speaking?

The Nativity Fast should represent an *increase of fasting in our life.* Pastorally, I would offer the following general ideas. If fasting is not your strong suit during most of the year, then be very careful to abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays during Advent. If you already keep those fasting days throughout the whole year, then add more days as you are able (Mondays, all weekdays, etc.). During the latter part of the Nativity Fast (December 12th onwards), you may also want to increase your fast even more.

All of us are enjoined to observe the strict fast from meat and dairy on Christmas Eve, December 24.

Remember: it's not the *least* that we *have* to do, but the *most* that we *can* do for Our Lord!

◆ TAKE TIME TO PRAY DAILY

There are many ways to do this, but the key is to be consistent. You can use your prayer book, or pick up one of the "Basic Daily Prayers for Orthodox Christian" sheets in the vestibule (which has a short daily prayer rule). Be sure to offer the "Nativity Fast Prayer Challenge" from the Diocese. Set this as a goal for the next six weeks. If you miss a day, just pick up again the next day.

◆ PRAY FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD LIST

Each time you send a Christmas Card, ask God to bless the recipients. If you want to take it a step further, pray for them weekly or even daily.

◆ **READ THE SCRIPTURES**

I will be sharing a Bible reading guide for December 1-24 in the next bulletin. The “essential” passages from the Gospels for this season would be chapters 1 and 2 of Matthew’s Gospel and chapters 1 and 2 of Luke’s Gospel.

◆ **GO TO CONFESSION**

As we sing in one carol: “Let every heart prepare Him room.” During the Nativity Fast this year, Confessions will be heard 30 minutes prior to all Sunday and Week-day Liturgies; 30 minutes before the Wednesday Evening Services; and by special appointment. Do not neglect this great sacrament of God’s forgiveness!

◆ **ATTEND DIVINE SERVICES**

We have additional services scheduled throughout the next six weeks. On Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM, we will have a Prayer Service appropriate to the season. Additional weekday Divine Liturgies (offered for various special intentions) will be offered. Check the schedule for details. These are great opportunities to be in God’s house!

◆ **BE CHARITABLE**

We think of charity as giving money to those in need—and that is certainly an act of charity! But charity comes from the Latin *caritas*, which denotes the kind of Christian love directed towards all people. As God showed His love for us by sending His Son, so we strive to show that same love in our actions and attitudes.

◆ **DON’T FORGET THE “TRUE MEANING” OF CHRISTMAS**

Christmas is not primarily about “family”, “togetherness”, “generosity”, or any such adjective. **Christmas is about Jesus Christ.** All of the wonderful aspects we associate with this holiday—the time with loved ones, the delicious foods, the gifts we exchange—flow from the fact that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). This isn’t just an intellectual fact. The Church gives us the Nativity Fast and the Christmas holyday every year as an opportunity to grow in our relationship with God. We should take advantage of it.

**How can we “keep Christ in Christmas”?
By putting Christ at the center of our life now and always!**

God bless you on this journey to Bethlehem!

Thoughts on Stewardship

By Dan Hromyak

"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom does not belong to this world.'" - John 18:36

Life is short. How much time, energy and money do you put into building "your" kingdom here on earth? We all know we can't take it with us. The real kingdom is in the next life. Yet, how much time, energy and money do we invest in working for that eternal kingdom? Ask God for His guidance. Detach from earthly possessions. Generously share your material goods with others for the greater glory of God.

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Luke 21-28

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.



You are now able to **DONATE ONLINE** through our website, stjohnacroc.org. Just click on the "Donate" tab at the top of the page. *(Share this info with your out-of-town relatives as well, and invite them to support their "home parish"!)*

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

3180 Morefield Road • Hermitage, PA 16148

Office: 724-981-0571 • Rectory: 724-346-4457

E-mail: father.david@stjohnacroc.org • 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

