



*“As a bird
without wings,
as a soldier
without arms,
so is a
Christian
without
prayer.”*

*St. Tikhon
of Zadonsk*

BULLETIN FOR APRIL 3-16, 2022

Saint John’s Orthodox Church

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Clergy:

Rev. Father David Mastroberte

Rev. Deacon John Anderson

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

- *SUN 4/3/2022** **FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER**
9:00 AM
Divine Liturgy
Panachida – Perpetual: +Joseph/+Katherine Pavlick
 ++Balzic Family
 +Stephen Repasky
 +Michael Penick
- Traveling Icon:** **Bob & Lorraine Amos**
- WED 4/6/2022**
6:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- FRI 4/8/2022**
6:00 PM Akathist Service to the Mother of God
- SAT 4/9/2022**
2:30 PM **OUR PARISH LENTEN MISSION**
4:00 PM Confessions with Deanery Clergy
 Vespers
 Lenten Fish Dinner to Follow
- *SUN 4/10/2022** **FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. MARY OF EGYPT**
9:00 AM
Divine Liturgy
Communion Breakfast to Follow
- Traveling Icon:** **Melinda Krocko**
- MON 4/11/2022**
6:00 PM Board Meeting
- WED 4/13/2022**
6:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- FRI 4/15/2022**
4:00 PM Vespers
4:30 PM Palm and Willow Preparation
- SAT 4/16/2022** **LAZARUS SATURDAY**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- *SUN 4/17/2022** **PALM SUNDAY – THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM**
9:00 AM
Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Palms and Willows
- Traveling Icon:** **Dorothy Pacinda**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Envelopes for “Patriarchal Pence” are included in this bulletin. This is our annual contribution for the work and ministry of His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Please return your gift as soon as possible!



Palm and Willow Preparation: NEW DAY AND TIME! Since the Erie Deanery Mission Service is now on Lazarus Saturday (*rather than on Friday evening, as it was in the past*), we will have our Palm and Willow Preparation on **FRIDAY, APRIL 15th**. A Vespers service will be offered at 4:00 PM, and palm and willow preparation will take place immediately after, starting approximately at 4:30-4:40 PM.

The final Youngstown Deanery Lenten Mission for this season will be held at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 1115 East Avenue, Erie on Saturday, April 16th. Vesper for Palm Sunday will be at 4:00 PM. Dinner to follow in the hall. All are invited!

A Lenten Vespers Service with regional clergy will be taking place at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 315 West Englewood Avenue, New Castle on Sunday, April 10th at 5:00 PM. Fr. David has been asked to offer the homily. Lenten refreshments will follow. The host pastor, Fr. Michael Gavrilos, invites all local Orthodox faithful to attend.

Easter Egg Hunt Donations: We are looking forward to our annual Easter Egg Hunt after Liturgy on Pascha (Sunday, April 24th)! This year, we are asking our parishioners for donations of small, individually-wrapped candy, as well as plastic eggs. Thank you in advance for your gifts! If you have any questions, please speak with Pani Vikkie.

Confessions are heard before evening services, from 5:25 PM to 5:55 PM, and before Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings, from 8:25 to 8:55 AM. Confessions will end 5 minutes prior to the start of services.

If you would like to schedule an appointment for Confession at a time other than those listed above, please call/text/e-mail Fr. David (724-813-3172, father.david@stjohnacroc.org).

Reminder About the Eucharistic Fast: Those receiving Communion at an evening Liturgy are to fast for a minimum of 3 hours prior to the service. (*Ideally, we should not eat after lunch.*) Fasting from midnight is still observed before receiving Communion at any morning Liturgy.

Our Parish Lenten Mission

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Confessions at 2:30 PM

Vespers at 4:00 PM

Lenten Fish Dinner to Follow



Communion Breakfast

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Following Divine Liturgy

Please plan on attending our 2022 Parish Lenten Mission! A “mission service”—involving visiting clergy and faithful from our Deanery—is a great opportunity for spiritual renewal and fellowship. Several Deanery priests will be available to hear Confessions, and one of the clergy will be offering a homily. Enjoy food and fellowship at our Lenten Fish Dinner after the Vespers service. And don’t forget to attend our Communion Breakfast on the following day!

Charitable Giving Update: Christmas Market Distribution

\$2,000.00: Community Food Warehouse

\$2,000.00: Meals on Wheels

\$2,000.00: Salvation Army

*An additional \$500.00 from our church’s “Fundraiser Tithe” account
was given to the Shenango Valley Children’s Transplant Fund.*

Our parish continues to make a difference in the lives of many in need!

Mark Your Calendars!

ACRY Bowling Tournament

Co-Hosted By Camp Nazareth and Our Church

Memorial Day Weekend: May 27-30, 2022

Our parishioners are invited to participate in the weekend. One does not need to be a member of the ACRY to join in—everyone is welcome!

Copies of the full information packet are available, giving more specific information.

- **Bowling**

Do you want to bowl and/or get a team together? Bowling will take place at 10 Pin Alley on Saturday and Sunday. The entry fee is \$18.00 per bowler.

- **Meals**

The organized meals for the weekend are:

Saturday Night Luau and Pig Roast at Camp Nazareth, including food, activities, live music, and fireworks!

Sunday Brunch at Saint John's Orthodox Church, following Divine Liturgy.

Sunday Grand Banquet at Tiffany's Banquet Center, with choice of beef, chicken or pasta entrée. (Child dinner entrée is chicken tenders.)

The package price for all three meals is:

- * Senior Meal Package: \$85/person
- * Junior Meal Package (13-17): \$70/person
- * Child Meal Package (12 and Under): \$50/person

Individual tickets are available as well:

- * Saturday Night: \$30 Adult, \$25 Junior, \$20 Child
- * Sunday Brunch: \$15 Adult, \$10 Junior, \$8 Child
- * Sunday Grand Banquet: \$50 Adult, \$40 Junior, \$25 Child

Deadline for Meal Tickets and Bowling is April 26, 2022!

We thank Deputy Chief Joel Ristvey for sharing this information!

Basic Fraud and Theft Prevention Tips:

1. If an offer or opportunity sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
2. **NEVER** give out your personal information including credit card numbers to people who call you. Legitimate agencies already have this information.
3. **NEVER** wire/send money and/or credit cards numbers or gift cards numbers, to anyone, especially to a foreign country including Canada.
4. If you receive a suspicious check, ask a bank manager for advice on the matter.
5. **NEVER** allow solicitors into your house unless you called them first. Ask to see a company ID.
6. If a stranger knocks asking for help, never let him/her in. Offer to call police for help.
7. **NEVER** pay full price in advance for work to be done. Get a written contract. All contractors must be registered with the State of Pennsylvania. Ask a lot of questions.
8. Scammers will sound official and use official titles and terms. Beware of really nice and older thieves too!
9. Be aware of your surroundings. Try not to walk alone and avoid nighttime shopping if possible. If followed, walk or drive to a public place and call police.
10. Keep your purse or wallet close to your body at all times and never flash cash. Never leave your wallet/purse unattended in a shopping cart. If you leave valuables in your car, hide them from plain sight in a locked trunk. You should always lock your car.
11. Always lock home doors, windows, and keep your garage door closed, even if it is for just a few minutes.
12. Leave a lot of lights on after dark. Consider having an alarm and video surveillance installed. ADT and VECTOR are common area companies.
13. If you are victimized, report it to police immediately, Dial 9-1-1. To file any type of non-emergency, dial the Mercer County dispatch at 724-662-6110 and ask for a police officer.

ATTENTION: VICTIMS OF INTERNET FRAUD

Please file an online complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at www.ic3.gov. IC3 works in conjunction with the FBI and the national White Collar Crime Center to link smaller cases like yours that are not usually prosecuted. If enough complaints involving the same criminal(s) are filed with IC3, a large case with multiple victims may be prosecuted at the federal level. When filing your complaint with IC3, include all details like names, phone numbers, email addresses, banks, scheme methods, etc.

Hermitage Police Department Incident/Case Number: _____

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.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

By Dan Hromyak

"...For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ..." - Philippians 3:8

The first commandment says that we should not put other gods before the Lord. Sharing all of our gifts - our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the Church helps us keep God first in everything. It helps us from putting other gods before God. It helps us from becoming a slave to our possessions. It helps us to use our gifts for the glory of God and not for the glory of ourselves.

"...Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep'" - John 21:17

How often do you actually say the words "I love you" to Jesus, to family members, or to friends? We are made to be in relationship with God and each other. Sincerely telling someone that you love them is the best gift you can give them because it comes from your heart. You are giving them the gift of yourself. We all crave love. Tell someone you love them every day.