

BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

*SUN 8/28/2022

9:00 AM

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Divine Liturgy

Blessing of Students

Panachida: +Anthony & +Helen Dzurinda (Perpetual)

+Joseph & +Mary Bartko (Perpetual)

Church School Parents Meeting

MON 8/29/2022

9:00 AM

BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

(HOLYDAY— STRICT FAST DAY)

Divine Liturgy



THURS 9/1/2022

9:00 AM

CHURCH NEW YEAR

Divine Liturgy

Panachida: +James Kudelko 40th Day Commemoration, by the Family

*SUN 9/4/2022

9:00 AM

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Divine Liturgy

Panachida: ++Chuba Family (Perpetual)

++Dupay-Diloretto Family (Perpetual)

THURS 9/8/2022

9:00 AM

NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD *(HOLYDAY)*

Divine Liturgy

*SUN 9/11/2022

9:00 AM

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Divine Liturgy

Panachida: All Those Who Died in 9/11/2001 Attacks

++Komisin Family

++Klutcher Family

September Board Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 29th: Beheading of St. John
Monday, August 29th is the day set aside to honor the martyric beheading of our church's patron saint, Saint John the Baptist. Due to the solemn nature of this day, we are called to keep a STRICT FAST from all meat and dairy products.

Golf Scramble – THANK YOU!
We thank everyone who participated in and supported the 2022 Golf Scramble on August 27th. A full report will follow in a subsequent bulletin!

Our "Traveling Icon" Ministry Continues! Sign Up! Over the past few months – since the Sunday of Orthodoxy in March – our parish's Traveling Icon of Christ, the Mother of God and St. John has visited numerous households. It has inspired our parishioners to pray during that week, especially for our church. So far, every week through October 30th is filled! If you would like to sign up – either for the first time, or for another week – add your name to the sign-up sheet in the church hall.

Congratulations and best wishes to **HELEN KACHAYLO** to turns 90 on September 7th! May God grant her many, blessed years! *Mnohaja i blahaja lita!*

You are invited to send Helen a card for this milestone birthday:

Helen Kachaylo
c/o The Residence at Willow Lane
30 Heckle Road
McKees Rocks, PA 15136





Our prayers and condolences are extended to all family and friends and the passing of +ANNE PYSH on August 22, 2022. Anne had recently turned 99, and the family is grateful for the cards that many parishioners sent for this occasion. May Anne's memory be eternal!

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, October 9, 2022

Columbus Day Weekend

6:00—8:00(ish) PM

On the Church Grounds

We'll have a fire going, hot dogs/sausages and marshmallows for roasting, some seasonal activities for our youth, and finish with Evening Prayers outside. Fun for the whole family!

There is no cost to you for this event, but please RSVP to Fr. David or Pani Vikkie by October 2nd for planning purposes.

(If you would like to help in any way, please let them know, too!)



**FALL
FUN
NIGHT**

On the 29th of August, Orthodox Christians commemorate Saint John the Forerunner by celebrating the feast day of his Martyrdom.

Who was Saint John the Baptist?

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus Christ, is a very intriguing and important character in the Bible. We know both the story of his birth and his death, and his death is mentioned in three of the four Gospels, which is very rare in the Bible.

Saint John has been promised by the prophets: In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3). Later Jesus said that no other prophet was greater than St. John the Baptist.

He lived in the desert for many years, spending most of his life in the wilderness. His ongoing message was to prepare the coming of the Messiah. This is why he is often called the Forerunner of Christ. He was the one who preached those famous words: Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 4:17)

He dressed in camel skin, he ate nothing but locusts and wild honey. This is the reason why he is often regarded as an example of asceticism. He preached about Christ, baptized people in the river of Jordan and made the way to Christ, just like it was promised in the Old Testament.

He was the one who baptized Jesus Christ Himself, after saying to Him: I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me? (Matthew 3:14)

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist

After Jesus was baptized, St. John continued to live the ascetic lifestyle and to preach about repentance. However, one day he was thrown into prison. Why did it happen?

The reason for his incarceration was be-

cause St. John preached against the ruler of Galilee, King Herod Antipas, who had married his own brother's wife. It is interesting to note that John the Baptist was not killed because he preached about Christ, but because he called out the king's unlawful behaviour - adultery.

When in prison, St. John preached God's word by his very presence. Herod and Herodias were disturbed by that because they couldn't handle his message. They couldn't bear the truth. It was not faint, it was not a formality. Saint John lived the way he preached.

On the day of Herod's birthday, he and his guests were eating and drinking excessively, they were taken away by their passions. Herod was so inflamed, that he even agreed to bring the head of St. John to Salome, Herodias' daughter.

And this is exactly what happened - Saint John the Baptist was beheaded and his head was brought to Salome on a platter.

The feast in the Orthodox tradition

The feast of the Beheading has been celebrated from ancient times. This is why there are many beautiful icons of the feast in the Orthodox tradition.

Some icons show multiple scenes that tell the story of Saint John's imprisonment and death. The others focus on the actual execution and portray the saint on his knees, praying to God, right before being beheaded. There are also icons that only show the head of John the Baptist on a golden platter.

On the day of the feast, during the All-Night Vigil service as well as the Divine Liturgy, we sing special hymns, that remind us about what happened:

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner, Became an act of divine dispensation, For he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior.

Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, Loving not the law of God, nor eternal life, But that which is false and temporal. (Kontakion of the Beheading of John the Forerunner)

What we are really celebrating on the day of the feast of the Beheading of Saint John the

Baptist is his courage to witness to the Truth, to stand up and say to the king that what he was doing was wrong. We are also celebrating St. John's ascetic lifestyle and his humble nature, that we can all learn from.

From: obitel-minsk.org/saint-john-the-baptist

Stewardship

By Dan Hromyak

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." - Luke 14:13-14

One of the main principles of living a stewardship lifestyle is to give without expecting anything in return. This is difficult for some to comprehend in our "consumerist" culture that we live in. This is even difficult for many parish communities that have become heavily dependent on parish fundraising events to support the mission and ministry of their local parish. Generally speaking, at a parish fundraiser, you pay money and receive something in return, it's just a financial transaction. This is opposed to our parish offertory at Divine Liturgy, where you unite your sacrifice with Jesus', renewing our covenant relationship with Him.

"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." - Luke 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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E-mail: father.david@stjohnacroc.org
Website: www.stjohnacroc.org

Clergy:
Rev. Father David Mastroberte
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.

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| Our Church's Website: | stjohnacroc.org |
| Our YouTube Live Stream: | youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon |
| Our Facebook Page: | facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA |
| Our Diocesan Website: | acrod.org |

For Online Giving Options, please visit our website: stjohnacroc.org



TRAVELING ICON SCHEDULE

August 28: Steve & Cyndy Saluga

September 11: Gary & Kathy Yonchak

September 4: Jim & Karen Hynes

September 18: Sue, Rich & Richie Preston

OCTOBER 2022 Pirohi Schedule

Wednesday, October 5

11:00 AM
Potato Prep

Thursday, October 6

6:00 PM
Filling Prep

Friday, October 7

8:00 AM
Pirohi Making and Sale

*We are grateful to all those
who are able to help pre-
pare these delicious dump-
lings!*

October 2022 Pirohi Order Form

Order Deadline: October 2, 2022
724-981-0571

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

_____ Potato-Cheese Pirohi @ **\$9.00**/dozen

_____ Butter Only

_____ Butter and Onions

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

Pick-Up on Friday, October 7, 2022
12:00 Noon—2:00 PM

(Doors Open at Noon)