

*One should always have at home  
enough Theophany Water to last  
a whole year, and make use of it  
at every need:*

*In case of illness,  
when leaving on a journey,  
whenever one is upset,  
students prior to exams, etc...*

*People who drink a little Holy Water  
daily, before eating any  
kind of food, do well.*

*It strengthens the powers of our  
soul—if it is done with prayer and  
reverence, and one does not merely  
expect a mechanical result from it.*

*Saint John Maximovitch*



FMS

*The Great Sanctification of Water took place on the eve of Theophany. The Holy Water container will be left on the right side of the church for a few weeks, in order to give you easy access to it. Afterwards, it will be kept in the altar boy sacristy (right side room).*

**BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 8-21, 2023**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our 2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING and Swearing-In of the Church Board will take place on Sunday, January 29th. All parishioners in good standing (*which includes both reception of Confession and Communion no less than once a year, and financial support of the parish*) are asked to attend. We look forward to your participation in this important meeting!**

**We thank Deacon John Anderson** for offering the divine service on Sunday, January 8th in Fr. David's absence! *God grant him many years!*

**Christmas Poinsettias** will be distributed on Sunday, January 8th. We are grateful for all the donations from our parishioners and friends that made the beautification of our church with flowers possible for the celebration of the holydays of the Nativity and Baptism of Christ. May they now bring you joy at home during these winter months!

**The new format for weekly Perpetual Commemorations** begins on January 15th. The letter from Fr. David about these changes was printed in the last bulletin, and is included in today's bulletin as well in case you missed it. Please read this carefully!

**House Blessings** begin this week! Fr. David has set up/will set up appointments with those who have signed up. If you haven't signed up yet and would like your home blessed, please use the online form (on our website) or use a hard-copy form available in the fellowship hall.

**Holy Confession:** Don't forget that Confession is available before every Sunday and weekday Divine Liturgy beginning at 8:25 AM, and at other times as noted. Confession will also be available before Vespers on Saturday, January 21.

---

## **Akathist Service "For Life" on January 20th**

As in past years, we will offer a service to bring attention to the sanctity of human life in the womb and to pray for an end to the sin of abortion in conjunction with the "March for Life" in Washington DC. This year, we will celebrate the **Akathist Service to the Mother of God** at 12 Noon (*the time of the March*) on Friday, January 20, 2023. All are welcome!





*Our prayers and condolences are extended to all the family and friends of **+THOMAS PATRICK** who fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, December 27th, 2022. Tom's funeral service was held on January 3rd, 2023. May God grant him blessed repose and the kingdom of heaven! **Eternal Memory! Vičnaja jemu pamjat!***

### **Christmas Market 2022 Financial Report**

<u>Revenue Category</u>			<u>2022 Revenue</u>
Cookie Sales and			
Holiday Gifts &			
Decorator Items		1 & 2	\$6,670.08
Donations			\$250.00
Total Christmas Market			\$6,920.08
Revenue Available for Distribution			
prior to any expenses			\$6,920.08

# Stewardship

*By Dan Hromyak*

*"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." - Luke 2:19*

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. She heard God's message, and immediately said "yes." Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity.

*"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11*

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share ALL of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

## STEWARDSHIP: THANK YOU!

*As we start this new year of 2023, we are grateful for all of your gifts to our parish throughout 2022. We are also thankful to all those who made financial pledges for 2023! If you have yet to submit a pledge card, please do so as soon as you can. Extra cards are available in the vestibule. May God richly bless you throughout this year!*

TRAVELING ICON SCHEDULE	
January 8: Steve & Cyndy Saluga	January 22: Michele & Dave Firster
January 15: Milan & Stephanie Shumkaroff	January 29: Dorothy Pacinda

## Updates to Perpetual Commemorations of the Departed

Decades ago, our parish established a “*Perpetual Liturgy Fund*” to ensure that prayers would be offered for the departed loved ones of our parishioners. Today, this has grown to **125** separate intentions. While a daily Liturgy was something common in our Diocese in the early years, today it is no longer the norm.

Over the years, there have been two trends with these Perpetual Services in our parish: fewer and fewer families connected to these names are left, and more and more of our parishioners prefer to have them remembered on Sundays. During my pastorate, I have mostly satisfied both of these situations by offering one Panachida after the veneration of the Cross/Festal Anointing for any Perpetual Services that were not scheduled during the week. Starting during the 2020 shutdown and the period when we did not have coffee hour, I have served the Panachida before everyone was dismissed. However, the unintended consequence of all this is that many think that Panachidas are automatically scheduled every Sunday, or that a Panachida is a normal ending to a Sunday Liturgy!

Starting on **Sunday, January 15th, 2023** I will return to the “previous” order: Divine Liturgy, Announcements, Veneration of the Cross/Festal Anointing. I will generally *not* be offering a Panachida *before* the Veneration of the Cross/Festal Anointing on Sundays, excepting special occasions like Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, etc.

To streamline how **Perpetual Commemorations** are made, after some consideration, I will be applying the following practices starting

on **Sunday, January 15, 2023**. (*These apply only to the Perpetual Liturgy Fund intentions.*)

1. All Perpetual Commemorations for the Departed for a given week (Sunday through Saturday) will be mentioned in the context of the Sunday Divine Liturgy\*. While we do not offer the “Litany for the Departed” on Sundays as on weekdays, I will find appropriate ways to publicly pray for these individuals on Sundays. I will also pray for them privately in the *proskomedia* (preparation of the bread and wine before Liturgy). *I will not be offering a Panachida on Sundays for Perpetual Commemorations.*

2. In order to continue to pray for the departed during the week, I will also include the Perpetual Commemorations for the week at a weekday service (*excepting Holy Week and Bright Week*).

3. If anyone would still like to have a separate weekday (i.e. Monday-Friday) service for a perpetual commemoration, I am open to scheduling this, provided someone will be in attendance in person. (Live-stream doesn’t count.)

Regarding “non-perpetual” memorial services, I will be outlining some things in a subsequent bulletin write-up!

May their memories be eternal!

Fr. David

*\*Except on Palm Sunday, Pascha/Easter Sunday, and on other major holydays that may fall on a Sunday. In those instances, Perpetual Commemorations will be included on a different Sunday.*

# 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](mailto:father.david@stjohnacroc.org)  
Website: [www.stjohnacroc.org](http://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.

---

<b>Our Church’s Website:</b>	<a href="http://stjohnacroc.org">stjohnacroc.org</a>
<b>Our YouTube Live Stream:</b>	<a href="https://youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon">youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon</a>
<b>Our Facebook Page:</b>	<a href="https://facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA">facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA</a>
<b>Our Diocesan Website:</b>	<a href="http://acrod.org">acrod.org</a>

**For Online Giving Options, please visit our website: [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org)**

