

Bulletin for March 5-18, 2023

L E N T

FASTING

PRAYING

ALMSGIVING



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

*SUN 3/5/2023
9:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST — THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY
Divine Liturgy
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations

Perpetual Commemorations for March 5-11:
REPASKY, +Stephen, +Mildred, +John & +Helen
HOLMES, +Charles

Youth Procession with Icons at the Conclusion of the Divine Liturgy

TUES 3/7/2023
9:00 AM

Parastas (Memorial Service)
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations

WED 3/8/2023
11:00 AM
6:00 PM

Potato Prep for Pirohi
Lenten Service: Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

THURS 3/9/2023
6:00 PM

Filling Prep for Pirohi

FRI 3/10/2023
8:00 AM
6:00 PM

Pirohi Making and Sale
Lenten Service: Moleben to the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
and Soul Saturday Panachida with Reading of Names of Departed

*SUN 3/12/2023
9:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST — ST. GREGORY PALAMAS
Divine Liturgy
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations

Perpetual Commemorations for March 12-18:
TRESCILLA, +Susan & +Michael
PALAHUNIK, +Vasil & +Kathryn, +Mary & +Perl, +Kathryn,
+Frances, +Steve, +Ted, +George
SPONDIKE, +John & +Mary
KARAS, +Andrew & +Agnes

MON 3/13/2023
6:00 PM Board Meeting

TUES 3/14/2023
9:00 AM Parastas (Memorial Service)
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations

WED 3/15/2023
6:00 PM Lenten Service: Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Lenten Potluck Dinner

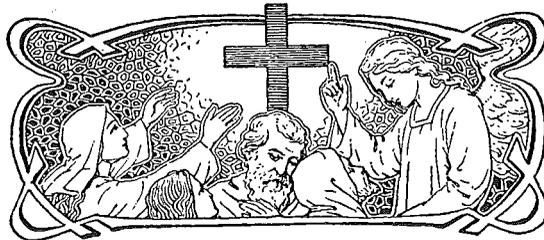
FRI 3/17/2023
6:00 PM **St. Alexis “the Man of God” & St. Patrick of Ireland**
Lenten Service: Moleben to the Holy Cross

SAT 3/18/2023
9:00 AM **Soul Saturday**
Parastas (Memorial Service) with Reading of Names of Departed

***SUN 3/19/2023**
9:00 AM **THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST—HOLY CROSS**
Divine Liturgy
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations

Perpetual Commemorations for March 19-25:
HERCHA, +Vasil & +Melania
BELOUS, +John

4:00 PM Lenten Mission Vespers at St. Nicholas Church in Warren



ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Thank You” to all who participated in our Pre-Lenten Potluck Meal and Vespers on February 26th! We had a wonderful time of fellowship over food and drink, and **40 people** stayed for Vespers for the start of Great Lent!

March Board Meeting will take place on Monday, March 13 at 6:00 PM.

Our next **Sunday School Class** will take place on Sunday, March 19th.

The Sacrament of Confession

All Orthodox Christians are expected to go to Confession during Great Lent! Confessions will be heard before evening services, from 5:25 PM to 5:50 PM; before Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings, from 8:25 to 8:50 AM; before other weekday services, and at our Lenten Mission on March 26 starting at 2:45 PM. There is no need to make an appointment for the “walk-in” confession times. Confessions will end 10 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. (Also, only services titled “Liturgy” have the distribution of Holy Communion. Other services offered during Lent—Vespers, Canons, Molebens, Akathists, Paraklis, Parastas—do *not* have Communion.)

Lenten Pot-Luck Dinners

Following our Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgies on **March 15, 22, and 29**, we will have a pot-luck/covered-dish meal in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to bring a Lenten dish, baked good, or a beverage to share with those assembled. This is a great opportunity to gather mid-week and cheer one another on as we go through our Lenten journey together.

A new sign-up sheet for our Traveling Icon is available in the hall. The schedule goes through the end of 2023. Please sign up to take the icon home for a week as you offer prayers for our parish community!

Willow Watch

Please keep an eye out for pussy willows for Palm Sunday! Cut them as soon as they are ready and bring them to the church. We do have ONE request: do not put them in plastic bags. Please use paper bags.

SOME PIOUS REMINDERS...

There's an old saying: *"Before Liturgy, talk to God. During Liturgy, let God talk to you. After Liturgy (in the hall), talk to each other."* The volume of "background noise" before and after services is starting to pick up again. The acoustics in our church are very good, and sound carries. It is wonderful that we are happy to see one another and want to visit and chat—which is why we have a hall and time for fellowship after services. Please help maintain a reverent atmosphere in the church, especially before services!

Often, we distribute blessed bread after Liturgy. The technical term for this bread is *"antidoron"* (a Greek word that means "instead of the Gift" i.e. instead of Holy Communion). This bread is ***not*** Holy Communion, but it is the same *type* of bread used for the Eucharist (called *prosphora*). Given its connection to the Liturgy, this bread is a blessed item and should be treated with respect.

Please be careful with the blessed bread! We do not throw it in the trash, give it to pets, or use it for other purposes. (If there is extra bread leftover, we *can* take it home and/or bring it to someone who was not able to be at Liturgy.) We also should also be careful with the crumbs from blessed bread. (You may have noticed Fr. David placing the blessed bread crumbs outside the church, in spots where people don't walk, to dispose of them on the earth.)

Overall, to limit the amount of bread crumbs that wind up in the vacuum, and to not have a "trail of breadcrumbs" throughout the aisles of the church, please be careful when taking and eating this bread.

Thank you! God bless you!

Stewardship

By Dan Hromyak

"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" - Matthew 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the others "gods" we have put before God.

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you." - Genesis 12:1

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness and greed. Yet, God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember, "God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful."

TRAVELING ICON SCHEDULE	
March 5: David & Irene Beight	March 19: Helen Jaeger
March 12: Ed & Francine Fabian	March 26: Milan & Stephanie Shumkaroff

Lenten Missions 2023: Participate and Get Involved!

The schedule for the 2023 Youngstown Deanery Mission Vesper Services is on the next page. **Take a look!**

What is a Lenten “mission” service? These are occasions that bring together clergy and faithful from throughout the Deanery (a territorial unit of the Diocese) for prayer and fellowship. The service includes a sermon from a visiting priest and there is usually an opportunity to receive Holy Confession as well. ***You are invited to participate in these three Mission Services!***

Our Lenten Mission will take place on Sunday, March 26th. *(While we usually have our mission on a Saturday, due to various scheduling issues, this year’s mission will be on a Sunday.)* **Confessions** will begin at 2:45 PM, **Vespers** will be at 4:00 PM, and a **Fish Dinner** in the hall will follow. Make every effort to attend!

Information will be announced about ways you can help with our Mission.

You might ask “You seriously want me to go to church TWICE in ONE day?!” Yes. Lent is about making an extra effort in your spiritual life. A Lenten Mission is a great way to do this.

In that same vein, don’t forget about the other Missions! Yes, Erie is a bit of a drive, but not an insurmountable distance away. Moreover, Warren is roughly a 30-minute drive for most of us. **This year, let’s make sure that our Saint John’s community is well-represented at the Warren Mission on March 19th.** Remember, it used to be common for people to go on pilgrimage—often on foot—for long distances to visit a holy place. Let’s plan to go this short distance and join our brothers and sisters at St. Nicholas in Warren in prayer and fellowship!





2023 MISSION SERVICES

in the

YOUNGSTOWN DEANERY

Join the clergy and faithful of our Deanery as we prayerfully journey together towards Pascha!

—Sunday, March 19, 2023—

St. Nicholas Church

2053 North Road NE, Warren, OH

Vespers at 4:00 PM

—Sunday, March 26, 2023—

St. John's Church

3180 Morefield Road, Hermitage, PA

Vespers at 4:00 PM

—Saturday, April 8, 2023—

St. Nicholas Church

1115 East Avenue, Erie, PA

Vespers at 4:00 PM

Priests will be available before each service for Holy Confession.

A homily will be given at each Vespers. Food and fellowship will follow.

*Free-will offerings will be accepted on each occasion
for the work and ministry of the Youngstown Deanery.*

CENTRAL REGION
DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT
(Sponsored by the National ACRY)

SATURDAY, April 1, 2023
10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH
903 ANN STREET
HOMESTEAD, PA

Speaker: Fr. David Mastroberte

**Topic: From 'Rejoice, Unwedded Bride' to 'The Mother of Sorrows':
A Marian Journey Through Lent and Holy Week**

Youth Presenter: Fr. David Urban

Topic: Prosphora—the Bread of Life

SCHEDULE

10:00 am - Akathist to the Theotokos
10:45 am - Coffee Social
12:00 noon - First Session
1:30 pm - Lunch
2:30 pm - Second Session
4:00 pm – Vespers

Includes a Continental Breakfast & Light Lunch

COST: FREE WILL OFFERING

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 25, 2023

If you would be interested in going along with Fr. David, speak with him soon!

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
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.

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

✧ SPIRITUAL WISDOM

Until a man's earthly life finishes its course, up to the very departure of the soul from the body, the struggle between sin and righteousness continues within him. However high a spiritual and moral state one might achieve, a gradual or even headlong and deep fall into the abyss of sin is always possible. Therefore, communion of the holy Body and Blood of Christ, which strengthens our contact with Him and refreshes us with the living streams of the grace of the Holy Spirit flowing through the Body of the Church, is necessary for everyone.

St. John the Wonderworker of San Francisco, "The Church as the Body of Christ"

APRIL 2023 Pirohi Schedule

Wednesday, April 5

11:00 AM
Potato Prep

Thursday, April 6

6:00 PM
Filling Prep

Friday, April 7

8:00 AM
Pirohi Making and Sale

***Be sure to tell your
family, friends, neighbors,
coworkers, etc.
about our pirohi sale!***

April 2023 Pirohi Order Form

Order Deadline: April 2, 2023
724-981-0571

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

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

_____ Butter Only

_____ Butter and Onions

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

Pick-Up on Friday, April 7, 2023
12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM

(Doors Open at Noon)