

BULLETIN FOR JULY 16-29, 2023



We Commemorate the Holy Prophet Elias (Elijah) on July 20th.

*SUN 7/16/2023
9:00 AM

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 5
Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for July 16-22:

HARTLEY, Richard

TRESCILLA, Michael & Susan & Helen ROTH

LITWILER, Mary & Perl

BICH, Ronald

DORUS, Joseph & Anna; David Dorus; Robert Sorokach

POTPRASKY, John & Betty

MON 7/17/2023
6:00 PM

Board Meeting

TUES 7/18/2023
9:00 AM

Saint of the Day: Martyr Emilian
Divine Liturgy with Weekly Perpetual Commemorations

THURS 7/20/2023
9:00 AM

ST. ELIAS THE PROPHET (HOLYDAY)
Divine Liturgy

*SUN 7/23/2023
9:00 AM

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 6
Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for July 23-29:

LYSOHIR, Sue & Steve

SLOVESKO, John & Helen, Richard; Kathleen Wansack

*RISTVEY Family: Michael, Anna, John, Stephanie, Steve, Ann, Stevie,
Joseph, Nicholas, George, Mary, Susan, Ann*

& KANISHAK Family: Andrew, Evelyn, Dorothy

HAYDUK, John & Anna

PERI, John & Anna

Panachida (After Mirovanije) + Vivian Miller, by son Robert Miller

*SUN 7/30/2023
9:00 AM

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 7
Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for July 30-August 5:

*PACZAK, John & Katherine, Anna, Mary, Michael, Walter,
Simon, Ann, Catherine & John Jr.*

TKACH, Msgr. Paul & Pani Helen

PACINDA, Joseph

GELETY, Andrew & Anna

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr. David will be away from the afternoon of Thursday, July 20 through Saturday, July 29. In case of an emergency in which you need the services of a priest, please contact the nearest Orthodox priest. In the event that a funeral needs to be scheduled, please call Fr. David on his cell phone: 724-813-3172.

Reminder: The Dormition Fast begins on August 1st. This two-week fast is in preparation for the Dormition of the Mother of God on August 15th. It is the “summer Lent” before the “summer Pascha”! Fast as you are able, with a joyful heart. Additional weekday services will be scheduled in order to assist us in our spiritual efforts. These will be listed in the next bulletin and on the August calendar.

Praying for Others During the Dormition Fast: At several of the Dormition Fast services, we will include intercessory prayers for the living. Please use the available prayer sheets and give them to Fr. David, or e-mail names to father.david@stjohnacroc.org.

FROM THE DIOCESE: Holy Resurrection ACRY Chapter #25 is delighted to be your hosts for the **78th National ACRY Convention** this Labor Day weekend! All information is now out and up on the ACROD website for the 78th National ACRY Convention. ALL deadlines are August 12. If you are interested in attending, visit acrod.org for more information, or speak with Fr. David.



On Sunday, July 23, the **Very Reverend Father Stephen Krivonak** from Erie will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for our community.

Please extend a very hearty welcome to Fr. Stephen and thank him for offering Liturgy! *May God grant him many, blessed years!*

GOLF SCRAMBLE NOTES

Don't Forget! The 2023 Golf Scramble will be held on **Saturday, August 19th at Avalon at Buhl Park**. Shotgun Start will be at 8:30 AM.

The post-golfing meal will again be held at our church hall, and will feature our *signature* all-you-can-eat buffet with spit roast lamb, chicken, sausage and peppers, side dishes, desserts and beverages. Dinner will begin to be served at 2:30 PM. We will also hold the ever-popular Basket Raffle at this dinner.

We are still accepting:

- ⇒ Team Commitments
- ⇒ Major sponsorships for \$100.00
- ⇒ Hole sponsorships for \$40.00
- ⇒ Patron Listings for \$10.00
- ⇒ General monetary donations to the event

Copies of the registration form/flyer and the sponsorship form are available in the church hall.

Dinner-only tickets are available for \$25 per person. See Francine Fabian to get your ticket!



BACK TO SCHOOL Blessing



CALLING ALL STUDENTS! Before you head back to school for the 2023-2024 academic year, you are invited to come forward for a prayer and a special blessing on:

**Sunday, August 20, 2023
at the End of Liturgy**

ST. ELIAS AND THE POWER OF PRAYER

Fr. Robert J. Teklinski (acrod.org)

On the Feast of St. Elias the Prophet, we read these words from the 5th chapter of the Universal Epistle of St. James the Apostle: "The fervent prayer of a holy man is powerful indeed" (James 5:16). The reason these words are read on the Feast Day of St. Elias is because the holy man St. James spoke about who prayed fervently, with great zeal and intense feeling, was St. Elias the Prophet. St. James then proceeds to tell just how powerful the prayers of the holy St. Elias were.

Elias prayed with deep faith, zeal and intense feeling to God for a drought in order to punish King Ahab, Queen Jezebel and the people of Israel who had turned their backs on the Lord God in order to worship the obscene pagan god, Baal. Elias' prayer was so fervent that the Lord immediately answered Elias by sending a drought and famine, which would last for 3 years and 6 months. The prayers of St. Elias, which were offered with zeal, faith and intensity, were answered by God with powerful results on several other occasions as well.

God told Elias to flee from the wrath of King Ahab, who was angry with Elias because he prayed for the drought and famine as punishment for Ahab's worship of Baal. Elias was instructed to go to a place called Serepta and stay there with a poor widow and her young son. Because the poor widow was kind to St. Elias, sharing with him the last bit of corn meal and oil she had left to live on during the famine, God answered the intense prayer of Elias to help the woman and her son. God multiplied the contents of her containers of corn meal and oil so that they never went empty. Neither the widow, her son, nor St. Elias went hungry.

On another occasion, the widow's young son became ill and died. The prayers of the holy and righteous prophet Elias, asking God to restore the boy to life, were again answered with powerful

results. The boy was restored to life and Elias gave him back to his mother in good health. On yet another occasion, St. Elias challenged the priests of the pagan god Baal to a contest to see if our God or Baal was the one true God. Again the prayers of the holy Elias would be answered with powerful results. The holy prophet Elias prayed with all his might for God to send fire from heaven to burn the sacrifice of a bull he had prepared to offer to the Lord, to prove to the sinful people of Israel that the Lord, not Baal, was the true God. Fire immediately came down from heaven, burning not only the bull, but also the wood, the stone altar and all the water Elias had ordered to be poured over the sacrifice. The priests of Baal failed in their attempt to call down fire from their false god. Still another powerful thing occurred as a result of the zealous prayers of Elias. When the Israelites saw the fire come down from heaven due to the prayer of Elias, they stopped worshipping Baal and they began to worship the Lord God again by proclaiming: "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God" (1 Kings 18:39). The prayers of Elias brought the children of Israel back to the Lord their God and away from eternal punishment.

To reward the Israelites for abandoning their worship of Baal, the holy prophet Elias again prayed fervently to God to end the 3 and one half year long drought and famine. Again the results of Elias' prayer were powerful in their effects. The Lord heard Elias' prayer and sent a great rain to end the drought and famine (1 Kings 18:41-45).

The prayers of St. Elias were indeed powerful in their effects for several reasons. First, Elias was a holy man who remained faithful to God in defiance of King Ahab who ordered the Israelites to worship Baal. His faith was so great that the prophet never doubted God's ability or willingness to answer his prayers. Second, Elias' prayers were offered with fervor. Elias prayed with great zeal and with intense feelings of love for God rather than rattling off words out of habit or from memory without any feelings of love for God.

Third, Elias did not pray for earthly riches or to feather his own nest. He prayed for spiritual things; that God would reveal His glory to Israel with the result being that the Israelites would turn away from idol worship and wickedness; turning back to the Lord their God and living according to His righteous commandments. Elias' prayers were also offered to God for the spiritual and material benefit of others and not for himself; namely that God would be merciful to the poor widow, her son and to the sinful people of Israel.

Our prayers will also be heard by God and answered with powerful results if we become like Elias, holy in the sight of God. Our prayers will be heard and answered by God with powerful effects if we offer them to God like Elias did: with unquestioning faith in God's power and His willingness to answer our prayers, praying with great zeal and with intense feelings of love for God.

Our prayers will be answered by God with powerful results if we, like St. Elias, pray for those spiritual and material things that we and others need to sustain us on our journey to the kingdom of God.

If we pray as holy people pray, fervently, that God will fulfill all those petitions of us His servants that are truly for our benefit and the benefit of others, then God will answer our prayers with powerful results. If we pray like Elias for what we really need, that God will give us in this world the knowledge of His Divine truths and give us life eternal in the world to come (Prayer of the 3rd antiphon), then God will answer our prayers with powerful results. How do we know this will happen? Because the Lord assures us in the Holy Scriptures that "the fervent prayer(s) (of holy people are) powerful indeed" (James 5:16).

Thoughts on Stewardship

by Dan Hromyak

"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." - Matthew 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Liturgy every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom." - Matthew 13:24, 37-38

As children of God, we are "all good seeds". We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others and share our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our example of gratitude and generosity we sow "good seeds" on earth and ultimately help each other get to heaven.

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