



■ BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 3, 2024 ■

<b>*SUN</b>	<b>1/21/2024</b> 9:00 AM	<b>33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — TONE 8</b> Divine Liturgy  <i>Perpetual Commemorations for January 21-27, 2024:</i> MUDREY FAMILY: John, Paraska, Marjorie, Joseph, Ann, Donald, Eric, John & Mary, Michael, Elva VUDMASKA FAMILY: Frank, Helen, John, Frank Jr., Mary, Marga- ret, Helen, Eva, Julia, Michael, Elva
<b>WED</b>	<b>1/24/2024</b> 9:00 AM	<b>Saints of the Day: St. Xenia of Rome &amp; St. Xenia of St. Petersburg</b> Divine Liturgy (Chapel) <i>With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations</i>
<b>*SUN</b>	<b>1/28/2024</b> 9:00 AM	<b>34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — TONE 1</b> Divine Liturgy <b>Installation of Parish Board Members and Annual Parish Meeting</b>  <i>Perpetual Commemorations for January 28-February 3, 2024:</i> GUZI, Andrew & Virginia ZAHURANEC, Edward & Irene
<b>TUES</b>	<b>1/30/2024</b> 9:00 AM	<b>THREE HOLY BISHOPS: BASIL, GREGORY AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM</b> Divine Liturgy (Chapel) <i>With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations</i>
<b>THURS</b>	<b>2/1/2024</b> 6:00 PM	Great Vespers for the Holyday
<b>FRI</b>	<b>2/2/2024</b> 9:00 AM	<b>MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE (HOLYDAY)</b> <b>40th Day of the Nativity</b> Divine Liturgy <i>With Blessing of Candles</i>
<b>*SUN</b>	<b>2/4/2024</b> 9:00 AM	<b>35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — TONE 2</b> Divine Liturgy  <i>Perpetual Commemorations for February 4-10, 2024:</i> KROKO, Mary, John & Tom

## ■ ANNOUNCEMENTS ■

**Our 2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING and Installation of the Church Board** will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2024. 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!

### **Upcoming Holyday: The Meeting of the Lord & Blessing of Candles**

February 2nd is an important holyday known as the *Meeting of the Lord in the Temple*. Since it is the 40th day after Christmas, this feast commemorates the presentation of the infant Jesus into the Jerusalem Temple and His reception by the elder Simeon. This event is recorded in the Gospel of Luke 2:22-39. According to the Gospel, Simeon recognized the Child Jesus as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles.” Thus the tradition developed of highlighting the use of candles on this day, as they remind us that Christ is the true Light of the World.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on February 2nd, we will offer the festal **Blessing of Candles**. We will have both decorated and plain candles available for a donation. You are also welcome to bring a candle from home for this blessing. Just place it on the prepared table before the Divine Liturgy. (*If you are unable to attend Liturgy and would like to have a candle blessed, you can also bring it to Vespers the night before.*)

### **KEEPING THE WEEKLY PRAYER LIST UP-TO-DATE**

On Sundays and at some other services, we include prayers for the living during the Litany after the Gospel. In order to keep the prayer list relevant and current, Fr. David is going to try a new system. **If you want someone to be included in our Sunday Prayer List, please fill out one of the newly-created cards and check off whether you want the person remembered for 1 WEEK, 1 MONTH, or 3 MONTHS. (After that period, you can always fill out a new card.)** Cards can be given to Fr. David.

## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

*By Dan Hromyak*

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17*

Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! This call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

*"Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties." - 1 Corinthians 7:32*

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this - use the word "pray" instead of the word "worry" in the future. Then spend your time praying instead of worrying.

### ***"All the church does is ask for money!!!"***

*You've probably heard someone say this at least once in your life. (Maybe you've said it yourself!) There is no doubt that all churches need money to keep the lights on, the water flowing, and for other operational expenses. But just as we ask you to be a good steward and support Saint John's, **our church also models stewardship both locally and internationally through charitable donations.***

***Take a look at our 2023 Charitable Giving breakdown on the next page.***

*The funds are marked by their source, either special collections, our 2022 Christmas Market (for local charities), or our "Tithe" account. (The Tithe Account is where we place a tithe [10%] from our other fundraisers which are earmarked for charitable giving.)*

***THANK YOU for your support that allows us to help others!***

## OUR CHURCH'S CHARITABLE GIVING IN 2023

### **Turkey Earthquake Relief – International Orthodox Christian Charities**

\$868.00 (*Collection*) & \$1132.00 (*Tithe*) = \$2000.00

### **Ukraine Relief – International Orthodox Christian Charities**

\$500.00 (*Tithe*)

### **Patriarchal Pence – Our Support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople**

\$672.00 (*Collection*)

### **Orthodox Christian Mission Center**

\$1101.12 (*Lenten Self-Denial Boxes*) + \$398.88 (*Tithe Account*) = \$1500.00

### **Orthodox Christian Fellowship – College Student Ministry**

\$500.00 (*Tithe*)

### **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry**

\$500.00 (*Tithe*)

### **Community Food Warehouse**

\$3000.00 (*Christmas Market*)

### **Salvation Army**

\$2000.00 (*Christmas Market*)

### **Mercer County Children's Transplant Fund**

\$500.00 (*Christmas Market*)

### **Building of Hope**

\$1000.00 (*Christmas Market*)

### **Warrior in Her**

\$500.00 (*Christmas Market*)

**GRAND TOTAL: \$12,672**

*Glory to God!*

## Some Important Dates for the Next Few Months

**Sunday, January 28, 2024:** Installation of 2024 Board and Annual Parish Meeting

**Friday, February 2, 2024:** Holyday—Meeting of the Lord. *Blessing of Candles.*

**Friday, March 8, 2024:** Pirohi Making

**Saturday, March 9, 2024:** First “Soul Saturday”

**Sunday, March 17, 2024:** Cheesefare Sunday—Pre-Lenten Meal and Lenten Vespers

**Monday, March 18, 2024:** First Day of Great Lent

**Monday, March 25, 2024:** Holyday-Annunciation *9 Months Until Christmas!*

**Friday, April 12, 2024:** Pirohi Making

**Sunday, April 28, 2024:** PALM SUNDAY

**Monday, April 29-Saturday, May 4:** HOLY WEEK

**Sunday, May 5, 2024:** PASCHA (EASTER)—the Resurrection of Christ

**Sunday, May 26, 2024:** Memorial Day Observance—Panachida at Cemetery Cross



# 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)**



Susan VanZanten	January 21
Eleanor Cooper	January 22
George Radu	January 23
Natalee Ristvey	January 26

*"God Grant You Many, Blessed Years!"*

## ***Be a Sponsor in 2024***

Many Sponsorship opportunities are still available. You can sponsor the **Bulletin**, **Eternal Lamp** or **Candelabrum**. You can offer these in honor of a loved one, in memory of someone departed, for a special occasion (birthday, anniversary) or simply to be the sponsor for a week. You can also donate **Altar Flowers** as well. Sponsorships are listed in the bulletin.

*Visit the Church Office for more information!*

***The Eternal Lamp for the Week of January 21, 2024***  
*For the Special Intention of our Homebound Parishioners*

***The Eternal Lamp for the Week of January 28, 2024***  
*For the Special Intention of our Newly-Installed Board Members*



## **Schedule of Men to Hold Candles During the Gospel**

### **January 21, 2024**

Steve Lukac  
John Lenhart  
Ken Maceyko  
Emil Maurer  
Randy Martin

### **January 28, 2024**

Paul McMahon  
Robert Miller  
John Moon  
Dan Ristvey  
Joel Ristvey

### **February 4, 2024**

Matt Ristvey  
Tom Ristvey  
Pete Roman  
Steve Saluga  
Milan Shumkaroff