

# BULLETIN FOR APRIL 14-27, 2024

\*SUN 4/14/2024  
9:00 AM      FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER  
Divine Liturgy

*Perpetual Commemorations for April 14-20, 2024:*

*BENIC, Anna & John, John Jr. & Carole*

*KARAS, John Sr., Martha, Andrew & Agnes, George & Ann,  
Wesley, John & Mary*

*YARABINEC, Steve*

MON 4/15/2024  
6:00 PM      Board Meeting

WED 4/17/2024  
5:45 PM      Panachida for Weekly Perpetual Commemorations  
6:00 PM      Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
*Lenten Pot-Luck Meal*

THURS 4/18/2024  
9:00 AM      Parastas (Chapel)  
*+Henry Van Zanten 40th Day, by the Family*

FRI 4/19/2024  
6:00 PM      Akathist Service to the Mother of God

\*SUN 4/21/2024  
9:00 AM      FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. MARY OF EGYPT  
Divine Liturgy

*Perpetual Commemorations for April 21-27, 2024:*

*KROKO, John, Mary & Tom*

*LAZOR, George, Mary, John, Susan, John, Katherine, Nicholas,  
Katherine*

*Perpetual Commemorations Transferred from Holy Week:*

*PENICK, Andrew*

*ANDRAS, Helen & John Jr.*

*POPADICS, John & Mary; Irene & Chester O'KRESIK; Peter &  
Mary O'SHANICK*

*MISINAY, Joseph, Mary, Joseph Jr. & Daniel*

3:00 PM      Deanery “**Afternoon of Reflection & Fellowship**” at Camp Nazareth  
Vespers, Talk “*Our Journey Through Holy Week*” and Lenten Meal

**WED 4/24/2024**  
5:45 PM Panachida for Weekly Perpetual Commemorations  
6:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
*Lenten Pot-Luck Meal*

**FRI 4/26/2024** *(No Service or Confessions Tonight)*

**SAT 4/27/2024** **LAZARUS SATURDAY**  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
*Palm and Willow Preparation*

4:00 PM Vespers for Palm Sunday

**\*SUN 4/28/2024** **PALM SUNDAY—THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM**  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
*Blessing of Palms and Willows*



## Kids: We Need YOUR Help on Palm Sunday!

This year, Fr. David would like to involve our youth in a special way during the Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday. **All children are invited to carry and wave palms during the Little Entrance of the Divine Liturgy** (when the Gospel is carried in procession). **PARENTS**, all you need to do is **a)** make sure your children are there at the beginning of Liturgy and **b)** have them sit in the front pew on the LEFT side of the church. Palms will be provided!

# *As We Enter the Last Two Weeks of the Great Fast...*

*Stay strong!* Let us all continue our spiritual preparation for Holy Week and Pascha: fast, pray, attend additional services, give charitably, and go to Confession. Use this time to grow closer to Our Lord.

- **HOLY CONFESSION** is available at the following times during Lent:

**Sundays from 8:20-8:50 AM**

**Wednesdays from 5:10-5:40 PM**

**Fridays (when service is scheduled) from 5:20-5:50 PM**

Use these times, OR make an appointment. If you would like to schedule an appointment for Confession at a time other than those listed, please call/text/email Fr. David (724-813-3172, [father.david@stjohnacroc.org](mailto:father.david@stjohnacroc.org)).

Confessions will also be heard before the services on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday. **Confessions will NOT be heard on Holy Thursday, Holy Friday, Holy Saturday or on Pascha Sunday, so plan accordingly.** All Orthodox Christians are expected to go to Confession during Lent.

- **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. *Remember: medications and any food/drink associated with them should be taken as usual, per doctor's orders.* (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.)

- **Preparation of Palms and Willows**

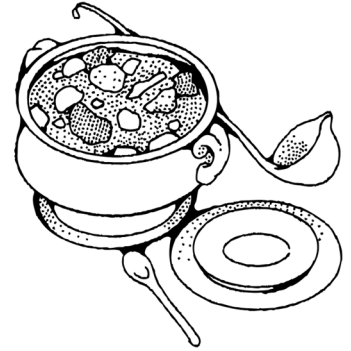
This will take place on Lazarus Saturday, April 27, after Divine Liturgy. We will have some light refreshments available before we get to work.



## *Fasting & Feasting: Some Food Related Announcements!*

- **Lenten Pot-Luck Dinners**

Following our Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgies on April 17 and April 24, we will have a pot-luck/covered dish meal in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to bring a Lenten dish or baked good 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.



- **Holy Thursday Soup and Bread: Please Sign Up!**

We will again have a light meal of Lenten vegetable soup and bread following the Holy Thursday Vespers Liturgy on May 2. In order to help us plan accordingly, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the hallway.

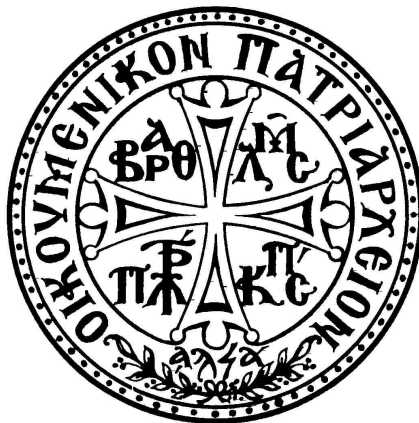
- **Blessing of Baskets**

More information about this wonderful tradition will be in the Palm Sunday bulletin. Easter Food Baskets will be blessed after Resurrection Matins on Saturday, May 4 and a second time after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 5.

- **Save the Date: Bright Wednesday Vespers and FAST-FREE Potluck**

Our Wednesday evening meals during Lent have been wonderful—so let's gather one more time after Pascha! This year, we are going to try something new: Paschal Vespers and Pot-Luck on **Wednesday, May 8** at 6:00 PM. The service is a special kind of Vespers only done during Bright Week which consists mainly of Resurrectional hymns and lasts approximately 30 minutes. Since it is a fast-free day, you are invited to bring in a **NON-FASTING** food or dessert item to share. Please plan to join us for this special gathering to extend our celebration of the Resurrection as a community.

**PATRIARCHAL PENCE** envelopes are included with this bulletin. This is our annual contribution to the work and ministry of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Please return your donation by **Pascha Sunday, May 5**, so that we can return it to the Diocese in a timely manner.



## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

*By Dan Hromyak*

*"Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' But they were startled and frightened..." - Luke 24:36-37*

Throughout the day we have many opportunities to "see the face of Jesus" in others and to "be the face of Jesus" to others. Do we take that opportunity to provide "peace" to those we encounter or are we afraid of what others will think of us and do nothing? Pray for the strength and courage to live a "God-centered" life and not a "self-centered" life.

*"I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice." - John 10:14-16*

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Jesus what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times Jesus responds in "quiet whispers" that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice.

– Notes of Gratitude –

To our church family,  
Our deepest appreciation  
for everyone's continued prayers  
throughout Henry's illness.  
Your condolences were comforting  
and has shown us how  
much he is loved by you.  
Your sister in Christ,  
Susan Van Zanten + family

Thank you to our church family from the bottom of our hearts. Your generosity and out pouring of love during this difficult time have meant more to us than we can put into words. +Debbie loved this church and all of you so much, and what you all have done for us and in memory of her has been incredibly thoughtful. We just wanted to express our love and thanks for everything you've done.

Fr. Deacon John and Emily

# SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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*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](http://stjohnacroc.org)  
**Our YouTube Live Stream:** [youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon](http://youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon)  
**Our Facebook Page:** [facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA](http://facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA)  
**Our Diocesan Website:** [acrod.org](http://acrod.org)

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

## **Happy Birthday!**

Archon Steven Lukac	April 17
Roxanne Marks	April 17
Matthew Fabian	April 19
Judy Ference	April 19
Christine Frejik	April 19
Scott Riddle	April 19
Karsten Baker	April 21
Pauline Koval	April 23
Deborah Moon	April 27

## **Happy Anniversary!**

Tom & Melinda Ristvey      April 24

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

## ■ Our Sponsors ■

**Bulletin Sponsor: Week of April 14, 2024**  
*In Memory of John Jisko Jr. on His Birthday,  
from daughter Jennifer Jisko*

**Candelabrum on Sunday, April 14, 2024**  
*In Memory of the Repasky Family:  
Mildred, Steve, Mary, John & Helen  
by Katie Hartley and Family*

**Eternal Lamp: Week of April 14, 2024**  
*In Memory of mother Catherine Pavlick  
on the 20th Anniversary of Her Repose,  
by Debbie & Greg Cross*

**Bulletin Sponsor: Week of April 21, 2024**  
*In Loving Memory of husband Joseph Blasko,  
by Mary Blasko*

**Candelabrum on Sunday, April 21, 2024**  
*In Memory of the Repasky Family:  
Mildred, Steve, Mary, John & Helen  
by Katie Hartley and Family*

**Eternal Lamp: Week of April 21, 2024**  
*In Loving Memory of father Joseph Blasko,  
by Helen Blasko*

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

**April 14, 2024**  
Chad Fette  
Jim Hynes  
Bob Kapusta  
Steven Lukac  
Steve Lukac

**April 21, 2024**  
John Lenhart  
Ken Maceyko  
Emil Maurer  
Randy Martin  
Paul McMahon

**April 28, 2024**  
Robert Miller  
John Moon  
Dan Ristvey  
Joel Ristvey  
Matt Ristvey