



*As our country observes Memorial Day,
we pause to remember all departed veterans
who served in the armed forces of the USA.*

*As a parish community, we also remember
our departed clergy and parishioners
during our annual Panachida in the Cemetery.*

Eternal Memory! Christ is Risen!

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BULLETIN FOR MAY 26-JUNE 8, 2024



CALENDAR OF SERVICES & EVENTS

- *SUN 5/26/2024** **FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Memorial Day Panachida at the Cemetery Cross
- WED 5/29/2024** **MID-PENTECOST – HALFWAY BETWEEN PASCHA AND PENTECOST**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- *SUN 6/2/2024** **FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN**
8:00 AM Pro-Liturgy Service (*Obidnitsa*) at Our Church
10:00 AM Family Day Divine Liturgy
 at Camp Nazareth's Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church
- WED 6/5/2024** **AKATHIST SERVICE TO THE RESURRECTION**
6:00 PM Akathist Service to the Resurrection
With Prayers of Special Intention for the Living
- *SUN 6/9/2024** **SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for June 9-15:

EVERETT, Marjorie & Helen

BOUSLOUGH, Harold E.

FELTOVICH, John Sr., Mary and Jack, George, Steven, Carol

PACINDA, Joseph

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Day at Camp Nazareth is Sunday, June 2

This is a GREAT event for ALL ages! Enjoy the surroundings and amenities of Camp Nazareth, which is “our slice of Paradise” as Metropolitan Gregory likes to call it. **Divine Liturgy at Camp Nazareth will begin at 10:00 AM. All are encouraged to attend Liturgy at Camp. This year will also feature the unveiling of the newly-remodeled “Polanichka Wing” of the Lodge.**

As in past years, we will not have Divine Liturgy at our church on Sunday, June 2. For those unable to go to Camp Nazareth, we will offer a “Pro-Liturgy” (*Obidnitsa*) Service at our church at 8:00 AM on June 2nd. This is a service of hymns, Scripture readings and prayers, but *will not* include Holy Communion.

Akathist Service to the Resurrection and Prayers for the Living/Sick

On Wednesday, June 5, we will offer a special Akathist Service to the Resurrection at 6:00 PM. This is a joyful, celebratory service which focuses on Our Lord’s Resurrection. In conjunction with this, we will offer prayers for the health and salvation of the LIVING, especially those who are ill. Forms are available for you to fill out.

***Related:** When filling out prayer lists, you do NOT need to list last names. Also, it is customary to use the full first name rather than nicknames when offering prayers (for example “Thomas” instead of “Tom”, etc.).*

Send Your Kids to Camp Nazareth This Summer

Our Diocesan camping program is incredible and helps strengthen our children in their Orthodox faith. Our parish will cover 100% of tuition for all parish youth to attend. Parents, if you need the registration code, please speak with Fr. David.

Sponsorships

There are many sponsorship opportunities that are still available for 2024. Stop by the church office if you would like to sponsor the Eternal Lamp, the Candelabrum, or the Bulletin!

Thoughts on Stewardship

by Dan Hromyak

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone." - 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

All of us are blessed, regardless of our own individual circumstances. God has given each of us many gifts. How we use those gifts is our gift back to God. For God's plan to work, each must do what we are called to do. Guess what? We are not all called to do the same thing! For God's plan to work you have to do what God is calling you to do and I have to do what God is calling me to do.

"The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ..." - Romans 8:16-17

If we are heirs to the kingdom of God, shouldn't we work to build up His kingdom? Shouldn't we be good stewards of our inheritance, using our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to care for the Church that God has left to us? Our Church is a treasured heirloom from God. Do we treat it that way?



To my church family -

Thank you Fr. David, Deacon John and those parishioners who joined me to celebrate my 90th birthday! Thank you for the many cards and enclosed gifts! It was a beautiful day for me!

God bless my church family with love and prayers, always!!

Margie Trompke

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Day at Camp Nazareth: Sunday, June 2, 2024

Father's Day and First Confession Sunday: Sunday, June 16, 2024

Pentecost: Sunday, June 23, 2024

Nativity of St. John (Our Parish Holyday): Monday, June 24, 2024

Graduate Sunday: Sunday, June 30, 2024

Saint John's 5K: Saturday, July 27, 2024

Golf Scramble: Saturday, August 17, 2024

Clarification about the New “Western Orthodox Church” on Todd Avenue

Recently, some parishioners brought to my attention that St. Paul’s United Church of Christ on Todd Avenue in Hermitage is closed, and that the building now bears a sign identifying it as “St. Gregory the Great Church—Orthodox Western Rite.” After looking at their website and Facebook page, I want to offer some clarification for the benefit of our members.

For several years, the pastor of St. Paul’s UCC has been the Rev. Ericjon Thomas. Prior to becoming a pastor in the UCC (which is a mainline Protestant denomination), Rev. Thomas was a bishop in one or more uncanonical/independent groups which identify as Catholic or Orthodox. *He was not affiliated with any mainstream Orthodox or Catholic jurisdiction.*

I do not know the details of the closure of St. Paul’s or how it transitioned into this new church. However, from the content posted on their website, it appears that Rev. Thomas has now reverted to his previous denominational identification and goes by the name “Metropolitan Joseph.” (If you want more information about his personal character, Google “Ericjon Thomas” and read the news stories which come up!)

It is important that our parishioners and all local Orthodox Christians understand that Rev. Ericjon Thomas/ “Metropolitan Joseph” is not a clergyman in any mainstream, recognized Orthodox jurisdiction and that St. Gregory the Great Church is not a canonical Orthodox church. Our parishioners are not to receive the sacraments there. I do not share this information to disparage anyone, but to help our members understand the ecclesiastical situation.

For those who may be curious about the term “Western Rite Orthodox,” this refers to Orthodox Christians who use a Western style of worship similar to what one would find in the Roman Catholic or Anglican churches. There are a number of *legitimate* Western Rite Orthodox churches in the United States, but they are associated either with the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese or with the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR). If you are traveling and come across an Orthodox church, be sure to check that church’s jurisdiction before participating in their services. If you are unsure, please ask me!

Thank you for your attention!

Fr. David

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.

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

Happy Birthday!

Paula Kudelko	May 29
Victor Ristvey	May 29
Doane Bailey	May 30
Kathy Baronowsky	May 30
Amy Ristvey	June 1
Emilie Maurer	June 2
Kelly Hellmann	June 3

Happy Anniversary!

May 31 John & Christine Frejik

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

■ **Our Sponsors** ■

Eternal Lamp: Week of May 26, 2024

*In Memory of Irene Shaffer,
by Jim, Karen, Katie, & Brent Hynes*

Candelabrum on Sunday, May 26, 2024

In Memory of All Departed Veterans of Our Country

Eternal Lamp: Week of June 2, 2024

For All Parishioners

Schedule of Men to Hold Candles During the Gospel

May 26, 2024

Matt Fabian
Chad Fette
Dave Firster
Jim Hynes
Steven Lukac

June 2, 2024

*Family Day
at Camp Nazareth*

June 9, 2024

Steve Lukac
John Lenhart
Ken Maceyko
Emil Maurer
Randy Martin