

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Rev. Fr. Dave Urban, Pastor
Very Rev. Fr. John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus
Timothy Martin, Reader
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors
Matthew Peifer, Church Council President
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June 4, 2017 Volume III

The Feast of Pentecost (Rusalja) / Trinity Sunday

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy Tone 7 Liturgical Color: **Green**
Epistle: Acts 2: 1– 11; Gospel: John 7: 37– 52; 8: 12

SERVICES AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Pentecost Monday, June 5 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for *Holy Spirit Day* with Gospel Procession
Wednesday, June 7 – 9:30am Akathist to St John the Baptist on the 3rd Finding of the Head of St John
Friday, June 9 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy

Monday	Ephesians 5:9-19	<i>All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. – 1 Tim.3:16-17</i>	Matthew 18:10-20
Tuesday	Romans 1:1-7,13-17		Matthew 4:25-5:13
Wednesday	Romans 1:18-27		Matthew 5:20-26
Thursday	Romans 1:28-2:9		Matthew 5:27-32
Friday	Romans 2:24-29		Matthew 5:33-41
Saturday	Romans 1:7-12		Matthew 5:42-48

A FAST FREE WEEK ** Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and feast (in moderation) as they did.

Sunday, June 11 – 1st Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of All Saints
9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy Tone 8 Liturgical Color: **Green**
Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2; Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30
Add'l collection for Capital Improvement Fund / Panachida for Fr. +William George / Family Day at CN
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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)
Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na v'iki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! Please join us downstairs for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon! If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!


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This Bulletin is offered...

In memory of
+Ann Hudak.

May her memory
be eternal!

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY




Monday, June 12 – Apostles Fast (Peter & Paul Fast) Begins
Tuesday, June 13 – 7pm Akathist to the Icon of the Inexhaustible Cup
Saturday, June 17 – 11am Baptism and Initiation of Christopher Kubis
Sunday, June 18 – YOUTH Sunday / Father's Day

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions for this section to Father by Wednesday.)



Return to Kneeling in Prayer – At the Vespers service Sunday evening on Pentecost, the kneeling prayers are recited. (We started them this morning after the Divine Liturgy.) The Orthodox community now returns to kneeling in prayer.

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Calendar Party that was schedule for **TODAY, Sunday, June 4th** at St Michael's in Rankin has been **CANCELLED**.

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House Blessings to Resume – For those who did not have their house blessed prior to the Great Fast, please contact Fr Dave to arrange a time over the next couple weeks.

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Akathist to St John the Baptist – On Wednesday the church commemorates the Third Finding of the Head of St John the Baptist. That morning, at 9:30am, we will have an Akathist to St John, the Patron Saint of our parish, as we honor him in prayer.

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Holy Fire from Jerusalem for your home - If you would like to take the Holy Fire home, one option is to purchase a 6-day candle (that fits nicely in car cup holders) and take the Light home. (It's not recommended to drive with the windows open.) When the candle is out, we'd appreciate it if you brought the empty glass back to church with you the following week. (Purchase multiple candles and keep the flame going!)

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Joanne Nelson; Pani Brancho; Melanie Paieski; Cindy Pavilonis; Patty Watson.

***"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* - John 8:12**

The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by John Gaydos, Jr., In Memory of Mother, Catherine; and Viola Peifer, In Memory of Parents. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Thank You! to our ACRY members who sponsored our Coffee Social each week from October through May! **Thank You!** to the ACRY organization who provide some of the supplies for the coffee socials! And **Thank You!** to all those who support this great ministry of our Church!

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Coffee Social Stewards Are Needed! The ideas are being kicked around for changing our format for the weekly coffee social. Starting next week we are going to ask every household to bring something small for a pot-luck surprise spread for the community to enjoy each week! The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. Lets keep this critical ministry alive in our parish! (Don't over think the menu - Plan to *keep it simple* ☺)

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

June 11: "Pot-Luck"

June 18: Kathy Schrmack

June 25: "Pot-Luck"

Thank you to all those who support this critical ministry of our Church!

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Faith Night at PNC Park – is **Thursday, August 17th** at 7:05 vs the St Louis Cardinals. Please contact **Wendy Martelotti** (martelotti11@verizon.net) if you are interested in getting a ticket. *More details coming in the near future... and Let's Go Bucs!*

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Slavjane Folk Ensemble Concert – This year's dinner-theater concert will be held at St. Elias Social Hall (4200 Homestead Duquesne Rd., Munhall, PA 15120) on **Saturday, June 10th**. Doors open at 5:00 pm; concert begins at 6:00 pm. Adult tickets are \$5 and youth under 16 are free. Please contact Dean Poloka at 412-877-9351 to order your tickets or for further information.

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Upcoming Greek Food Festivals:

- June 5-10 - All Saints (601 West McMurray Rd., Canonsburg)
- June 12-17 - Koimissis (2111 Davidson St., Aliquippa)
- June 13-16 - Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh)
- June 23-25 - Holy Dormition (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont)

Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church hall for times and more information or visit <http://www.holytrinitypgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide>



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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 786
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 194
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special	\$ 210
Community Outreach:	\$ 50
Loose Money:	\$ 2

Total Donations: \$ 1242

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 100

Collection for the Saints:

"On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper." 1 Cor 16:2

May Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 3,940.85

***Expenses = \$ 5,054.97**

Net Deficit = \$ 1,114.12

**details listed on the bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 43

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Icon Cards – Please consider repurposing your greeting cards. The collection box is in the vestibule for *Holy Transfiguration Monastery*. What we currently have collected will be delivered with the items collected this month. Thank you for giving back!

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Family Day - Plan now to attend Family Day at Camp Nazareth on **June 11th**. Either attend Liturgy on the North Side and drive up to camp for lunch and a relaxing afternoon (*it takes about an hour and 10 minutes to make the trip*) or go to camp for Liturgy at 10am. The flyer is hanging in the church hall with additional details for the day!

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Visit Our Parish & Diocese On-Line

St John's: www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org

Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org

FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese

Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews

You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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FEAST DAY FEATURE: Tropar from the Feast of Pentecost

Blessed are You O Christ our God. You filled the fishermen with wisdom, sending down upon them the Holy Spirit. Through them You have caught the whole world in Your net. O Lover of mankind, Glory to You.

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ST JOHN’S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration. This drive is in preparation for their patronal feast day celebration later this summer. Please place your physical donations on the bar in the Church Hall. We will also take up our monthly community outreach monetary collection at the end of the month for them. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

2017 Requested Donations List from The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration

Monastery Supplies:

Paper napkins
Toilet tissue
Facial Tissues
Tall Kitchen White
Trash bags
Black Trash Bags
Plastic forks (individual
boxes, not in sets)
Plastic knives
Plastic spoons
dessert size **paper** plates
9in and 12in **paper** plates
Paper cups for cold drinks
(approx 10oz size)

Paper cups for hot drinks
(approx 10-12oz size)
Cases of water bottles
Laundry detergents
Fabric softeners, liquid and
dry sheets
Postage Stamps

Cleaning Supplies:

Clorox Bathroom Cleaner
(not wipes)
Clorox Bleach Cleaner
409 Cleaner
Old English Lemon Oil
Simple Green Cleaner

Window Cleaner
Toilet bowl cleaners
Air fresheners

Food Items:

Mixed salted nuts
(without peanuts)
Small cans of tuna

Kitchen items:

Sandwich bags
Freezer bags
Paper towels
Wax paper

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

From: <http://www.acrod.org/ministries/stewardship/stewardship-blog/>

Why Should I be a Good Steward? “One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer: another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.” (Proverbs 11:24)

I hear this question all the time, “Why should I be a good steward?” My answer usually is, “Why shouldn’t you be a good steward?” It is about this time that I receive a stern and sarcastic look! Each week this blog is written to help you understand just how important stewardship is to your salvation. There have to date been 147 blogs giving you and at least 147 reasons to be a good steward. Let me approached this a little differently this time using three quotes from the scripture.



- 1. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”
- 2. John 13:34, “A new commandment I give you ‘that you are to love one another as I have loved you. By this all will know that you are my disciples.’”
- 3. Matthew 25:14, the parable of the Talents.

So there it is, your salvation wrapped up in three quotes from scripture. Let’s look again at what these say and how to apply them.

In John 3:16, we learn that we shall live forever. You cannot say that you don’t want to live forever, it has been decided by Christ. You will live forever. Two points to bear in mind here, the first is that forever is a long, long time. We have lived a very



short life here on earth compared to the relatively long time we will live after the second coming of Christ. The second point is that God has given you free choice as to whether or not you want to enjoy eternity, smoking or non-smoking!

In Matthew 25:14, we hear the parable of the talents (gifts). God gives us gifts much like the talents the Master (God) gave his three stewards. Two of the stewards took the gifts that the Master had given them using them in such a way as to bring increase to the Master. These two were reward with stewardship over even more (Kingdom of Heaven). The thirds steward did nothing with his talent and received his reward of being placed as a slave (Gehenna). The point being that God intends you to use the gifts He has given you to aid you in reaching Theosis as well as helping others in their journey, thereby returning to God with increase.

John 13:34 tells you that you should be “in communion” with God and with each other. As images of God you are to know yourself as a person in communion with God and with others. The Trinity knows themselves as persons in communion and you being in the image of God must know yourself as a person in communion. The Trinity shares a kenotic, self-emptying, love that is unlike the love that we know. We are to obtain that kenotic love

on our journey to Theosis by developing and maturing into the “likeness of God.” Without stewardship, without the sharing of the gifts God has given us, we will never experience the kenotic love necessary to be “in communion.” Thus our salvation will be in jeopardy.

It is never too late to start. Start today and return in proportion to what God has given you!

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Ways to Celebrate Pentecost Source: <http://www.orthodoxmotherhood.com/ways-celebrate-pentecost/>

The Church will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost this Sunday. Though perhaps not as well known as Pascha (*Easter*) or Nativity (*Christmas*), the Feast of Pentecost is one of the major feasts of the Church year. On this day we remember, enter into, and celebrate the events of the first Christian Pentecost.



The disciples had gathered in the upper room—following Christ’s command to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and observing the Old Testament Pentecost which remembered the giving of the Law. While they were together “in one accord,” the Holy Spirit came upon them in dramatic fashion (Acts 2:1).

They heard the rushing of a mighty wind that filled the entire house. They saw flames of fire sitting upon each one’s head. And then they were filled with the Holy Spirit, who enabled them to speak in various languages they had never spoken in before. **This caused such a disturbance that others in Jerusalem heard and drew near in shock as they listened to the disciples speaking in their own language.**

Indeed the disciples’ behavior was so unusual that they were assumed to be drunk! However, Peter preached the good news of Christ’s death and resurrection as fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, causing three thousand to repent and be baptized.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the nations separated by language after the sin of the tower of Babel were now brought together as one Body. People from various nations, backgrounds, and languages were able to become part of Christ’s Church.

As the Kontakion says, “When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; But when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the all-Holy Spirit!

The feast of Pentecost is also the feast day of the Holy Trinity, for on this day the world came to know God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Now God is truly among his Church, with his people, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Ways to Celebrate Pentecost

1. Attend Divine Liturgy and Learn the Tropar

Attending Divine Liturgy on Pentecost is far easier than for many other feasts, as Pentecost is always celebrated on a Sunday. The service is a particularly joyful one where we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is also the first time that we kneel after the Paschal period. Many

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Take one of the coffee social weeks
- Bring in a lightly used coat for FOCUS
- Join the ACRY
- Attend additional services
- Bring in items for the Garage Sale
- Donate to our parish
- Donate to our Monthly Community Outreach

churches include the prayers known as the Kneeling Prayers in the Divine Liturgy. Other churches may have a separate Vespers service. If possible, try to participate in the Kneeling prayers and enter into the spirit of repentance, forgiveness, and strength for our journey. (*The troparion for the feast is found in the Feast Day*

Feature section of the bulletin.)

2. Wear Green to Liturgy

The liturgical color of Pentecost is green. You can dress your family in green to help your children notice this change, and point out the new life found when the Holy Spirit comes upon us.

3. Decorate the House with Greenery

In keeping with the theme, you can also decorate your house with greenery. These may include potted herbs that you can later plant in an herb garden. We had a lovely bouquet of fresh basil, parsley, and rosemary that we placed in a vase before our festal icon last year. The fragrance filled the house and reminded us of the birth of the Church all week.

4. Learn to Say Hello in Different Languages

The story of Pentecost is filled with many interesting and exciting things (tongues of fire, a rushing wind—how cool is that to a child?!). **One of these is the fact that the Apostles were able to speak in languages they hadn’t learned before.** The Holy Spirit gave them a gift so that they could preach the Gospel to people of all languages visiting Jerusalem at the time.

Parents can help children understand this concept of different languages by teaching children how to say “hello” in multiple languages. Look online to find out how to greet others in Spanish, Russian, Greek, Arabic, and Japanese. You can teach them to say “hello” in languages that people in their area might use. Is there a large Korean population in your town? Do you have people from Bulgaria in your church? Do you live by a Native American reservation? Have fun learning new languages!

5. Fill the House with Candles & Tell the Story

In remembrance of the tongues of fire that descended upon the apostles, fill your house with candles. Then, tell, read, or listen to the story of Pentecost.

6. Orthodoxy Around the World Activity

Finally, help children appreciate the diversity of the Church by learning about churches around the world. See if you can find websites for churches on all seven continents. Or, look for

and print out pictures of churches from every continent. You can make a collage by pasting the pictures, church names, and locations on a posterboard.

On the Feast of Pentecost, let us rejoice because God Himself is with us in his Church!

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Third Finding of the Head of St. John the Forerunner

The third discovery of the venerable head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John occurred in about the year 850. The head of St. John the Forerunner was found in the city of Emesia during a time of unrest at Constantinople connected with the exile of St. John Chrysostom. In about 820 the head was transferred to Komana during the Saracen raids, and it was hidden in the ground during a period of iconoclastic persecution. When the veneration of icons was restored, Patriarch Ignatius (847-857)

saw in a vision the place where the head of St. John was hidden. The patriarch informed the emperor, who sent the delegation that found the head. The head was transferred to Constantinople, and on May 25 it was placed in a church at the court. Part of the head is on Mt. Athos. The account of the first and second discoveries of the head of St. John the Forerunner are remembered by the Church on February 24.

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK



POSTURE IN PRAYER: KNEELING - as it is used in the english language, is also practiced by some Orthodox in their services. The bending of one's knees is also known as the lesser penance (*metanoia mikra*). Genuflection, or the bending of the right knee, is practiced in the Roman Catholic Church. In some church buildings, pews are equipped with kneelers in front of the seating bench, so that members of the congregation can kneel on them instead of the floor. Although kneelers are less common in Orthodox Church buildings, they do appear in some. They often appear where there are pews in the building or when the building was purchased from Roman Catholic or liturgical Protestant churches.

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PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & Other Needs **



A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her* so that *he/she* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Helen R., Ann, Eleanor D., Julie, Jane, Mildred, Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Teresa, David, Larry, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Lawrence, Fredrick, Donald, Iris, Helen B., Sharon, Dustin, Dan, Herb ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Great-Martyr & Healer.*

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Birthday Prayers for... Pañi Eleni Stagon (6/5), Lindsey (Winkler) Kovats (6/6), Justin Winkler (6/7), Gina Mercurio (6/8) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace & love all the days of their lives & may He grant them many & blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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Anniversary Prayers for... Stephen & Jennifer Brancho (6/6), Sharon & Scott Robinson (6/6), Stelian & Alexandrina Popescu (6/9)...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Amee, Andrea, Christopher, Ryan, Marianne, Jason and our Church Council and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Jane, Sharon, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, John, Richard, John, and Margaret ...*through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Sgt. Walter Dylan Mushinsky, Maj. Michael Repasky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Nicole, Jessica, Sharon, Roxanne, Pañi Katie, Pañi Kristina ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

O Heavenly King

O heavenly King, the Comforter; the Spirit of Truth, Who are in all places and fill all things; Treasurer of blessings and Giver of life, come and dwell within us and cleanse us from every blemish and save our souls, O blessed One.