



# Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church



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

Father Dave Urban, Pastor  
Very Reverend Father John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus  
Timothy Martin, Reader  
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors  
Matthew Peifer, Church Council President  
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June 3, 2018

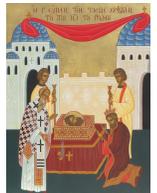
Volume IV

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of All Saints

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 8 Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2; Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30

Family Day at Camp Nazareth



### SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, June 4 – Apostles' Fast (*Peter and Paul Fast*) Begins

Wednesday, June 6 – 9:30am Akathist to St Xenia with holy anointing

Thursday, June 7 – 7pm Akathist to St John the Baptist on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Finding of the Head of St John

Saturday, June 9 – 11-1 Mystery of Holy Confession offered

*The Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.*

* Monday	St. John-Vladimir, martyr and ruler of Serbia (1015)	Romans 2:28-3:18	Mt 6:31-34,7:9-11
* Tuesday	Venerable Michael the Confessor (818)	Romans 4:4-12	Matthew 7:15-21
* Wednesday	Venerable Symeon Stylites (the Younger) (596)	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 7:21-23
* Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist (850)	Romans 5:10-16	Matthew 8:23-27
* Friday	Apostles Carpus of the Seventy and Alphaeus (1st c.)	Romans 5:17-6:2	Matthew 9:14-17
* Saturday	Hieromartyr Therapon, bishop of Sardis (259)	Romans 3:19-26	Matthew 7:1-8

\* *The Apostles' (Peter & Paul) Fast - Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did.*

Sunday, June 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of Carpatho-Rusyn (Regional) Saints

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16; Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

*Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund*

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### A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

**Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)**

**Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava Na Viki!)**

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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### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Wednesday, June 13 – 7pm Moleben to St Nectarios with Holy Anointing

Sunday, June 17 – YOUTH Sunday / Father's Day Panachida

Thursday, June 21 – 9:30am Moleben to the Theotokos with Holy Anointing

Saturday, June 23 – 11-1 Mystery of Holy Confession offered

Sunday, June 24 – 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Prayers for Dave and Andrea Urban following Liturgy

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### BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

**F** **Faith Night at PNC Park** – is Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 as the Buccos battle the New York Mets. Ticket price for our Pittsburgh Deanery outing is TBD (to be determined). Please contact Wendy Martellotti to reserve your ticket. *Let's Go Bucs!*

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**Bibles for Babies** – It was decided at last week's Church Council Meeting to purchase a Bible appropriate for babies for the little ones as they are baptized. The Bible that Father chose is \$10 each. (20 have been purchased.) Please feel free to make an additional stewardship donation to the church to help cover the cost.

**Landscaping Stewards Wanted!** If you would be willing to periodically cut the grass around the parish house and church, please contact Fr Dave to join the *Landscaping Crew*.

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**Garden Blessings** – A new opportunity this year – Father will come and bless your garden if you wish! The format of the blessing is very similar to our annual house blessing. Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested.

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

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

***"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. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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**Young Women's Encounter** – The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Young Women's Encounter will be held from **July 1-4** in Windber, PA. Any young woman aged 12-18 is encouraged to go. For more information please talk to Fr. Dave or email Pañi Eleni Stagon at: acrodywe@gmail.com.

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**Altar Boy's Retreat** – The 2018 Diocesan Altar Boy Retreat will be held **July 1-4** in Johnstown, PA. If you are interested in attending, please see Fr. Dave for more information.

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**Annual Church Picnic** – Just a reminder that our annual picnic to be held at *The Cabin* in North Park will be on **Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>** from Noon to about 5pm.

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**Parish Stewardship Opportunities...**

*As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Lk. 6:31)*

- Pray for our parish
- Attend additional services
- Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Donate towards Bibles for Babies

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**Our Stewardship Gift To God**

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 46
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 155
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 603
Community Outreach:	\$ 70

**Total Collections:** \$ 874

**Capital Improvement Fund:** \$ 20

*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*

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**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

June 10: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

June 17: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

June 24: **Ditmore / Urban / Verbanick**

*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. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!*

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**Visit Our Diocese On-Line**

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
 Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
 FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)  
 Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
 You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](https://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

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**ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH**

**Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:**

- **TODAY June 3** – St Andrew (56 Glenn Way, McKees Rocks) *Romanian*
- **June 4-9** – All Saints (601 West McMurray Rd., Canonsburg) *Greek*
- **June 11-16** – Koimissis (2111 Davidson St., Aliquippa) *Greek*
- **June 12-15** – Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **June 22-24** – Holy Dormition (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont) *Greek*



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

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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. *This is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Monastery!* 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!*

**2018 Requested Donations List**

**Monastery Supplies:**

- Toilet tissue
- Facial Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Paper napkins
- Tall Kitchen White Trash Bags
- Dessert size **paper** plates
- 9 in. and 12 in. **paper** plates

**Cleaning Supplies:**

- Clorox Bathroom Cleaner (not wipes)
- Clorox Bleach Cleaner
- 409 Cleaner
- Dish washing liquid (refill)

**Food Items:**

- sugar & creamers containers for coffee hour
- powdered sugar
- canola oil
- cooking spray
- salted canned nuts
- honey – large jars
- honey bear jars – small
- granola bars – snack bars
- small cans of chick peas (plain not seasoned)

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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle:** *Hebrews 11:33-12:2*

<sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—<sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

<sup>39</sup>And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

### The Example of Jesus

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set

before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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**Gospel:** *Matthew 10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30*

<sup>32</sup>So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

<sup>37</sup>He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

<sup>27</sup>Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" <sup>28</sup>Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup>And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup>But many that are first will be last, and the last first.

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: <https://www.goarch.org/-/sunday-of-all-saints>

### Sunday of All Saints

The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives.

### Background

Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the Apostle Paul, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in

manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

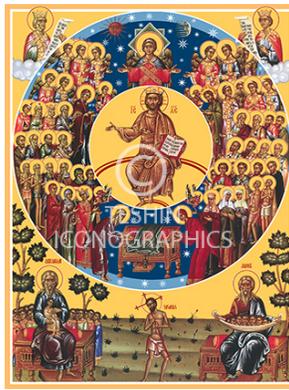
Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we honor all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Savior" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxastikon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and

especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor on this day, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

**Icon of the Sunday of All Saints**

The icon of the Sunday of All Saints depicts our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ seated above the throne of heaven surrounded by the Saints. The rows of Saints included the Archangel Michael and other



Angels, the Theotokos and John the Baptist, the Apostles, Bishops, Great Martyrs, Ascetics and Monastics. To the side of the throne are Adam and Eve, bowing in reverence to Christ. They are joined by the Saints, who are lifting their hands in worship to the King of Glory. At the lower left of the icon is the Patriarch Abraham who has a righteous soul in his bosom, as told in the story of Lazarus and the rich man in the Gospel. At the lower center is the Good Thief who was crucified with Christ. On the lower right is the Patriarch Jacob.

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**LIVING ORTHODOXY**

**The Apostles’ Fast**

*By: Andreas Houpos*

*Modified from: goannun.org/the-apostles-fast/*

Every year, the question pops up: “Apostles’ Fast? What Apostles’ Fast?” Indeed, you may be reading this and not have an idea what you’re getting yourself into right now. For many of us, the idea of fasting at this time of year may seem strange. After all, we only recently were chanting “Christ is risen,” and just celebrated Pentecost — to say nothing of the weather becoming more pleasant, school ending, and vacations pending — so doesn’t the idea of fasting seem out of place? These are good and fair questions. Still, we might consider a better and more pertinent question to be: “What can I learn about the Apostles’ Fast?”

**What is the Apostles’ Fast?**

The Apostles’ Fast is so called because it is attributed to the Apostles of Christ. From the Resurrection of Christ until one week after Pentecost, the Church does not prescribe any extraordinary fasting. Following the festal period of Pentecost, however, the action of the Church reflects what was happening with Christ’s Apostles: after celebrating the resurrection of Christ, and the reception of the Holy Spirit, it was time for them to get to work. As prayer and fasting are indispensable to the mission of the Gospel, we know that the Apostles dedicated some time to this. Very early in the history of the Church, a formal fasting period was established to honor this preparatory period of the Apostles and the resulting glory of their accomplishments. The earliest evidence available to us of this fast is found in the homilies of Pope Leo I (d. 461), though it was certainly established much earlier.

**When is the Apostles’ Fast Observed?**

The Apostles’ Fast is unique among the fasts of the Church in that its length is variable. It is observed from the second Monday after Pentecost until the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul on July 12/June 29. Because the date of Pascha (and, therefore that of Pentecost) is variable, the length of the fast can vary greatly. In fact, in 1923, when some Orthodox Churches adopted the “New” Gregorian calendar, yet others refused to do so and continued to use the Church’s traditional “Old” or Julian calendar, one of the main arguments against the change was that the Apostles’ Fast would be severely

diminished or even omitted entirely. In fact, this phenomenon of the diminishment of the Fast may explain why so many people not attuned to the liturgical life of the Church are not familiar with or are surprised by the Apostles’ Fast.

**Why Do We Observe this Fast?**

As was mentioned above, this fast was instituted to honor the preparations of the Apostles after Pentecost and before setting off on their missionary journeys. We could say that there are three purposes for this fast in particular.

**1) Temperance**

This fast gives us a chance to slow things down a bit and to be mindful of self-control. Fasting is an indispensable element of our Christian calling, in part because it helps us stay focused on our apostolic mission: to make disciples of all nations.

**2) Remembrance**

We take this opportunity to honor the faith, preparation, sacrifice, hard work, and success of the Apostles of Christ. In fact, we honor them in two ways: by depriving ourselves on their behalf, and by emulating them.

**3) Participation**

Coming out of the season of Pascha, Ascension, and Pentecost, this is our reminder and opportunity to recommit to our Lord’s command to go and make disciples of all nations, and that we must also prepare for this work in our own lives by practicing self-discipline.

If you are new to this fast and were not expecting and prepared for it, and if you are concerned about honoring the teachings and prescriptions of the Church, the answer is **not** to say “Oh, well—maybe next year,” but to do what you can. As with any type of fasting, the Church offers very clear prescriptions in terms of what foods are to be avoided, which are permitted, and when the fast is to be observed and for how long. However, the point of fasting is never to simply follow rules or to check something off a list. The point of fasting is to strengthen our resolve and to complement the virtue of prayerfulness. Of course, this means obeying the Church’s teachings goes hand-in-hand. Still, if you are unsure of fasting guidelines or your ability to meet them, or if you think you have an extenuating circumstance that would prevent you from following a fast as it is prescribed, then simply ask Father Dave.

