



# 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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September 6, 2020

Volume VI

## 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Hieromartyr Maxim Sandovič of Gorlice (1914)

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Tone 4

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24; Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

*Panachida for Father's grandma, +Irene Kurtz (23-year) the newly departed*



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

**Friday, Sept. 11 – 9:30 am** **Divine Liturgy** for the Feast of the Beheading of St John the Baptist at St. John's; **Panachida** for those who lost their lives from the attacks on 9/11; a day of **strict-fasting** from meat and dairy

Additional services can be viewed online from our Cathedral at: [www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/).

A schedule can be found each week in the Cathedral bulletin: [www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/bulletins/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/bulletins/)

|             |  |                          |                      |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Monday      | St. Menas, patriarch of Constantinople (6th c.)  | 2 Corinthians 12:10-19   | Mark 4:10-23         |
| Tuesday     | Martyrs Adrian & Natalia of Nicomedia (4th c.)   | 2 Corinthians 12:20-13:2 | Mark 4:24-34         |
| * Wednesday | Venerable Poemen the Great (450)                 | 2 Corinthians 13:3-13    | Mark 4:35-41         |
| Thursday    | Venerable Moses the Black of Scete (400)         | Galatians 1:1-10, 20-2:5 | Mark 5:1-20          |
| * Friday    | New Martyr Anastasius of Bulgaria (1794)         | Galatians 2:6-10         | Mark 5:22-24, 35-6:1 |
| Saturday    | St. Alexander (340), patriarch of Constantinople | 1 Corinthians 4:1-5      | Matthew 23:1-12      |

*The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service AND by appointment.*

*\* Weekly Fasting Days: Let Us Imitate Christ & The Saints & Fast As They Did!*

September 13 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; New Hieromartyrs Michael & Myron priests (1937)

9:30 – Reader's Service

Tone 5

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4; Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

*Father will be in attendance at St. Nicholas for the Ordinations of Father Deacon Marc Wisnosky to the Holy Priesthood and Nicholas Ditmore and John Fedornok to Reader*

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### A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

**Glory be to Jesus Christ!** (*responded with: 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 Father 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:***

*For Health and Wellbeing of  
Timothy Martin, Reader,  
for his Birthday (9/2).*

*May God Grant Him  
Many Years!*

### SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*"Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures." +Saint John Chrysostom*

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

**Gospel:** Matthew 21:33-42

#### **Final Messages and Greetings**

<sup>13</sup>Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. <sup>14</sup>Let all that you do be done in love.

<sup>15</sup>Now, brethren, you know that the household of Steph'anas were the first converts in Acha'ia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; <sup>16</sup>I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. <sup>17</sup>I rejoice at the coming of Steph'anas and Fortuna'tus and Acha'icus, because they have made up for your absence; <sup>18</sup>for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men.

<sup>19</sup>The churches of Asia send greetings. Aq'uila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. <sup>20</sup>All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

<sup>21</sup>I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. <sup>22</sup>If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! <sup>23</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. <sup>24</sup>My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.



#### **The Parable of the Wicked Tenants**

<sup>33</sup>"Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. <sup>34</sup>When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; <sup>35</sup>and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. <sup>37</sup>Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup>And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" <sup>41</sup>They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." <sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

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## PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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**Remembering the Feast of the Beheading** – Saint John was a holy prophet and an innocent man (see Mark 6:14-30). His beheading was a preview of the crucifixion of Our Lord; the Innocent Lamb Who is greater than all the prophets. **A Strict Fast from meat and dairy** is observed on this day, **September 11<sup>th</sup>**, in commemoration of the murder of the man Jesus called, “the greatest man born of woman.” Also, in commemoration of the way that St. John was martyred, pious Rusyn Orthodox will not eat from a plate but only from a bowl, will not use knives to eat with, and will not eat foods that are round or come as a ‘head’ (cabbage, lettuce, etc.). Use these as teaching tools for those around us.

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**A Weekday Service Returns** - At this time, we will return to having a weekday morning service on the North Side. (Research on Covid-19 living on surfaces has been downplayed as long as people are properly washing their hands and not touching their face.) If a Feast Day does not fall during the week, then a morning moleben (also called a service of intercession or service of supplication) will be offered. This is a devotional service in honor of either our Lord Jesus Christ, the Mother of God, or a particular saint or martyr for healing. (The front door will remain locked so please come in through the side door by the alley.)

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**LAST CALL** - Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are now collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [Formerly FOCUS Pittsburgh (who provide Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter to those who are in need)]. We will collect the clean coats on the coat rack in the hall through August.

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**Pittsburgh Forerunners** – Thank-you to our local OCMC Trek 4 Missions team members:

Gina Fall, Larry Martin, Tim Martin,  
Renee Mirilovich, Rich Mirilovich,  
Cindy Pavilonis, Liz Radomsky, Melanie Shuster,  
Fr. Dave Urban, and Patty Watson  
(More information about Trek-4-Missions is in the section below.) If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Fr. Dave.

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**Annual Meeting / “Floor is now open”** – As previously noted, our Annual Meeting is canceled this year, BUT the “floor is now open” for questions, comments, or concerns to be addressed in the reports that will be shared later this month. Please contact Matt Peifer or Larry Martin with any of your thoughts. *Please continue to pray for our parish community and our future as we continue to look to grow Orthodoxy!*

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## ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

**2020 Virtual Trek-4-Missions!** The Orthodox Christian Mission Center invites you to take up your cross for our virtual fundraiser which runs through **September 14**.

Did you know that the Apostles were the first Christian missionaries? The Holy Apostle St. Andrew, the First-Called, traveled to where the city of Kiev now stands in Ukraine. That's 2,262 miles from Jerusalem, where he began his ministry!

### Our Stewardship Gifts To God

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Stewardship:                  | \$ 330 |
| Candles/Eternal Lamp:         | \$ 130 |
| Envelopes/Stewardship:        | \$ 770 |
| In Memory of +Anna Mae Gogal: | \$ 575 |
| Community Outreach:           | \$ 200 |

**Total Collections: \$ 2005**

**Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 50**

**Relocation Fund: \$ 510**

*We must give in trust that God will use it to produce fruit: “He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your sowing (resources) and increase the harvest of your righteousness (benevolence).”*

*2 Corinthians 9:10*

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### August Financial Report:

**Donation Income = \$ 5937.46**

**\*Expenses = \$ 4090.00**

**Net Deficit = \$ 1847.46**

*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

**Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 23**

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Lawrence Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Olga Radick; John Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mirilovich Family; 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 Melanie Piascki, in Memory of Mother, Catherine. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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**Weekly Offerings to God** – During this time, if you are not coming to the church, we request that all weekly donations be mailed to:

Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)  
For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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**“The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins.”**

**+St. John Chrysostom**



### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✱ **Monday, September 14** – Ecclesiastical (Church) New Year
- ✱ **Monday, September 21** – Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
- ✱ **Sunday, September 27** – Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

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To support our team, please visit [http://secure.ocmc.org/goto/Pittsburgh\\_Forersunners](http://secure.ocmc.org/goto/Pittsburgh_Forersunners). If you would like to join (*it is not too late*), use the team password “SJBPh2020”.

**Help us share the faith!**

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ordained priest was arrested for serving an Orthodox Divine Liturgy his first action on being freed was to immediately return to his flock and resume his priestly ministry. The Lord's words in the Book of Revelation apply well to Saint Maxim: "Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). In my many years working as a hospice chaplain I have often been summoned by doctors and nurses to the bedside of a terminally ill patient who is fearful of his approaching death. These medical professionals assume, rightly so, that it is primarily an active faith that can help a person face this fear. The promise of the Lord Jesus to us is that if we believe in Him and our lives are joined to His we have nothing to fear in death. But while the death and resurrection of our Savior have removed our fear of death, Jesus does not desire that all of our fears vanish. He does want us to be afraid of something! He wants us to be afraid of the right things, to be fearful of things that should be fear: "...fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). The life of Saint Maxim Sandovich, faithful priest shines forth this truth!

by Father Edward Pehanich

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

A Reader

(first in a series on the Orders of the Church)

A reader, also called a Lector (Greek: anagnostis; Slavonic: chtets), Cantor, or *Psalti*, the Reader is the first order comprising participation in the Priesthood of Christ, and is the second-highest of the minor orders of the Orthodox Church. It is a sub-clerical order to which a man is tonsured and ordained, setting him apart as blessed by the bishop to read in services and in the Divine Liturgy. Women may not be tonsured or ordained as readers in the Orthodox Church.

Ordination

Immediately before ordination as a reader, the candidate is tonsured as a sign of his submission and obedience upon entry into the clerical state. This is a separate act, making a layperson into a clergyman, and occurs immediately prior to his ordination as a reader. The ordination itself is, like that of the subdiaconate, through *Cheirothesia* – literally, "to place hands" – as opposed to *Cheirotonia* – "to stretch out the hands" – which is practiced at the ordination of bishops, priests and deacons. After being tonsured, the reader is vested in a short phelonion, which he wears while reading the Epistle for the first time. This short phelon is then removed (and never worn thereafter) and replaced with a sticharion, which the reader generally wears thereafter whenever he performs his liturgical duties. A reader is usually tonsured by the bishop, though in some traditions, an archpriest or archimandrite may do the tonsure with the bishop's blessing if he is not available. In monastic communities, the ruling archimandrite may tonsure those monks over which he rules.

Terminology

It is through ordination – not the tonsure – that one is made a reader or subdeacon; this is highlighted by the

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### How to benefit from liturgy

1) Attend early

2) Sing passionately

3) Be reverent

4) Pray the prayer before and after Holy Communion


5) Listen carefully to the readings

6) Enjoy the sermon

7) Pray the Jesus prayer

8) Have faith in the liturgy

9) Choose quality over quantity



fact that the tonsure is performed only once and is not repeated before the ordination of a subdeacon. The confusion has arisen by the common reference to a man being "tonsured a reader" which, while widespread, is not technically correct.

Vestments

All degrees of clergy, beginning with Reader, wear the sticharion (Greek: sticharion (singular) / sticharia (plural); Slavonic stikhar / stikharii; Latin: dalmatic). The sticharion is a long-sleeved tunic that reaches all the way to the ground. It reminds the wearer that the grace of the Holy Spirit covers him as with a garment of salvation and joy. A reader can be distinguished from an acolyte because the reader will wear an undercassock under his sticharion, and (generally) because a reader's sticharion will be joined together by buttons on the side of the garment, where an acolyte's will be sewn up the sides.

Duties

- An ordained reader has the following duties:
- 1 Read Old Testament readings during services,
  - 2 Read the epistle during the Divine Liturgy and other services,
  - 3 Chant psalms,
  - 4 Chant the verses for prokeimenons, the alleluia, the antiphons,
  - 5 Sing other appointed hymns during the divine services.
- In addition to this, the reader will usually:
- Construct the services according to the typicon.
  - Sing in the choir.

As a member of minor clergy, a reader – according to his abilities – might be entrusted with the duties of:

- Cantor
- Catechist
- Other leadership roles in the community.

Source: <https://goodguyswearblack.org/holy-orders/minor-orders/reader/>

"He who wishes to talk about love is committed to talk about God Himself; for holy love is man's way of imitating God and His resemblance within his human limitations." +St Gregory the Theologian



## 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(s). Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver him/her/them from sickness and bitter pain. Heal him/her/them so that he/she/they may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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**For the Health of...** Douglas, Thomas, James, Sean, Michael, Wendy, Anthony, Julia, Theresa, John, Susan, John, Alexandra D., Pañi Marie, Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Lino, June, for all those battling viruses ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.

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**For the Special Intentions of...** Metropolitan Gregory, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Thomas, John, Daniel and Dylan *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Anthony, Mary Jane, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Margaret, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

"Pay respect to your neighbor without distinction of age, gender, or class, and holy love will gradually begin to appear in your heart."  
+Holy Righteous John of Kronstadt

### Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):

(please contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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**Birthday Prayers for...** Pañi Deborah Zak (9/7), Tina Scherer (9/11) ...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaya I Blahaya L'ita!

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### For our Catechumens & Inquirers...

Dustin, Stephen, Daniel, Susan ...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.

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**For those preparing for Marriage...** Lauren & Corey, Ashley & Derek ...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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**Anniversary Prayers for...** Marianne & Steven Kubis (9/6), Glenn & Meghan Labas (9/6), Father's sister, Suzanne & Brian Verbanick (9/8) ...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Brittany (due in October), Elaine (November) ...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.

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**For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...** Thomas R. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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### For the souls of the newly departed...

+Dolores Smoley (8/22), +Ruth Metil (8/5), and those who have passed from the coronavirus ...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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\* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the case of answered prayers*) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another**. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to only Orthodox Christians.*

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## DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:



### A Prayer to Saint John the Baptist

O Baptizer of Christ, Holy Forerunner, last of the prophets, first of the martyrs, instructor of fasters and desert-dwellers, teacher of purity and close friend of Christ! I pray you; I run to you. Do not reject me from your protection, but lift me up who am fallen in many sins; renew my soul by repentance, as by a second baptism. Purify me, corrupted by sins, and compel me to enter therein where no corruption can enter: into the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

Rejoice, O John, Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of the Lord!

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### A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS (AND OUR SEMINARY)

O Lord, the High Priest of God's people, You have shown us that it is Your will that men be called to the service of Your Holy Church. From the ranks of fishermen, You called Andrew and Peter and James and John, and made them and their successors in every age to be the "fishers of men." We, your people in this age, call upon Your great love to inspire for our churches, young men to be Your future priests. Touch their lives with Your Holy Spirit; give them the courage to answer Your call and the strength to work all the days of their life for Your service.

Continue to shower upon our Diocesan Seminary Your choicest blessings and make us aware of her needs so that it may continue to be a place where the souls of those called to Your service may be trained and prepared to teach and preach, to pray and labor, to forgive and heal - to care in every way as priests of Your fold, O Good Shepherd. You told us with Your precious lips, "Without me, you can do nothing." As we call upon Your Name for more vocations, O Great High Priest, hear us and have mercy. Amen.