



# 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 2, 2018

Volume IV

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (within the Feast of the Dormition) / Prophet Samuel (6<sup>th</sup> c. B.C.)**

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 5

Liturgical Color: **Blue**



Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4; Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14  
*Blessing of Flowers and Herbs / Panachida for +Andrew Gogal (40<sup>th</sup> day) /  
Garage Sale cleanup begins during coffee social*

## SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Wednesday**, September 5 – 9:30am Akathist in Honor of the Dormition of Theotokos on the Leave-Taking of Feast / 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy (in Wexford)

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

Monday	Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy (44)	Galatians 2:11-16	Mark 5:24-34
Tuesday	Martyr Gorazd of Prague and Bohemia (1942)	Galatians 2:21-3:7	Mark 6:1-7
* Wednesday	Martyr Lupus (306)	Galatians 3:15-22	Mark 6:7-13
Thursday	Hieromartyr Maxim Sandovič of Gorlice (1914)	Galatians 3:23-4:5	Mark 6:30-45
* Friday	St. Menas, patriarch of Constantinople (6th c.)	Galatians 4:8-21	Mark 6:45-53
Saturday	Martyrs Adrian & Natalia of Nicomedia (4th c.)	1 Corinthians 4:17-5:5	Matthew 24:1-13

*\* Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did.*

**Sunday**, September 9 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Venerable Poemen the Great (450)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 6

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

*Additional collection for our Capital Improvement Fund /*

*“All-Hands-On-Deck” Garage Sale Clean-Up during Coffee Social*

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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 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 Good Health  
for Brother  
Tim Martin, Reader,  
on his Birthday!  
Many Years!*

### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

**Tuesday**, September 11 – A Day of Strict Fasting –

9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist and Panachida

**Wednesdays** through October 10<sup>th</sup> – 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy Discussions at Eat ‘n’ Park in Wexford

**Friday**, September 14 – 9:30am a service for the Ecclesiastical New Year

**Sunday**, September 16 – YOUTH Sunday / Parish Annual Meeting following the Divine Liturgy

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## PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

**Thank You!** for your prayers as we travelled to Romania to visit Pani’s family. The trip went really well. Father was blessed to have the opportunity to go on a Monastery Tour of Bucovina, Romania and everyone had a wonderful time visiting with the family! Thank you again for your messages!

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**Thank You!** to everyone who assisted in any way with the Garage Sale. Big thanks to Theresa Sharpless, Kathy Schrmack, and Olga Radick (and this list could continue...). The next step is still ahead, packing up and boxing the remainder of the items. Please contact Theresa for details.



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**Axios! Axios! Axios!** With great joy, the Diocesan Chancery has learned that the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople at its monthly meeting on August 29, 2018 voted to elevate His Grace, Bishop Gregory to the rank of Metropolitan. Learn more at:

[www.acrod.org/news/2018-press/bg-elevation](http://www.acrod.org/news/2018-press/bg-elevation)

Eis Polla Eti Despota! Mnohaja L’ita Vladika!  
Many Years, Master!

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**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered the last week two weeks by Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Barbara Kirish; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Joanne Nelson; Patty Watson; Rich Milirovich; Cindy Pavilonis; Tim Martin; Pani Brancho; Lawrence Martin; Theresa Sharpless

***"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 the last two weeks by John Gaydos, Jr., in Memory of Mother, Catherine. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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**Exploring Orthodoxy Returns!** –

**Beginning Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**

from 7 to about 8:15pm we will meet at the Eat 'n Park off of the Wexford exit of 79 (2650 Brandt School Road, Wexford, Pa 15090 / 724-940-3270) for our Exploring Orthodoxy Discussions. We will continue our examination of the priestly prayers of St John Chrysostom's Divine Liturgy. There will be 6 sessions total this fall (*ending on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>*). We hope and pray that everyone is able to attend these tangent oriented discussions about Orthodoxy! Come for a bite to eat and learn about your faith! (*If you need a ride, please contact Fr. Dave.*)

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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 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.).

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Official Notice** – Our Parish Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** following the Divine Liturgy. **New Proposals** for the Annual Meeting need to be submitted to *Matt Peifer* or *Tim Martin*. All proposals are much appreciated! **In addition**, if you are unable to attend the meeting but interested in holding a Church Council position, please give your letter of acceptance to Matt or Tim.

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**Inaugural Deanery Family Picnic** – A food sign-up sheet is in the hall for pot-luck items that will be brought to the picnic on **Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**, in Schenley Park from Noon to Dusk (*i.e., form after church till the start of the Steeler Game*). Plan to come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with our brothers and sisters from our sister Deanery Parishes. Get together with old friends and family! Make new friends! Enjoy one of the best park in Pittsburgh! More details to come...

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**Our Stewardship Gift To God**

**August 19**

Stewardship/Dues: \$ 415  
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 131  
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special: \$ 570

**Total Collections: \$ 1116**  
**Relocation Fund: \$ 220**

**August 26**

Stewardship/Dues: \$ 329  
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 196  
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special: \$ 588  
Community Outreach: \$ 88

**Total Collections: \$ 1201**  
**Relocation 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*

**In Memory** – Donations that have been offered in memory of +Andrew Gogal (over \$400 to date) have been included over the past few weeks in the "Stewardship" line above. An additional Thank You is offered to the Gogal family for asking that donations be made to St John the Baptist Church following his passing. May his memory be eternal! Vičnaya Jemu Pamjat!

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**Relocation Fund** – This restricted fund is for the future of our parish. It may be used as part of our Phase 1 research or Phase 2 of an opportunity that we pursue. The important goal is for this fund to grow so that our parish has a chance to grow. As a reminder, *monies that are donated towards this fund will strictly be used towards our relocation*. In the event that we do not relocate, the monies will be distributed between Camp Nazareth or Christ the Saviour Seminary. *Your kind generosity is greatly appreciated!*

**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

September 9: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**  
September 16: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**  
September 23: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**

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**Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD)**

– We invite you to join with other St John's faithful in giving to the annual DDD program. This program greatly supports our ministry at Camp Nazareth and other programs in our diocese. Those who give \$100 (& up) are invited to the Annual Banquet, which this year will be held on **Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** (**A change for this year: Doors open at 4 / dinner at 5**) at the Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pgh, PA 15235). Please see Father or Larry Martin, our local ambassador, for more information.

**Parish Stewardship Opportunities...**

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

- Assist with the garage sale clean up
- Pray for our parish and it's future
- Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Last Call to Donate towards our coat drive

**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](http://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](http://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](http://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

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## ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH



### Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **August 29-September 2** – Holy Trinity (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **September 15-16** (Noon to 5pm) – St Andrew (56 Glenn Way, McKees Rocks) *Romanian*

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**Irish Whiskey Tasting to benefit IOCC** – will be held on **Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** from 7-10pm at Leaf and Bean (3525 Washington Rd., McMurray, PA 15317). Cost is \$50 and includes a gift from Leaf & Bean, 3 whiskey samples, & light hors d'oeuvres. Please register at [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org) by **Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup>**.

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**Love & Marriage, But No Baby Carriage: New Reproductive Technologies in Light of Orthodox Christian Beliefs and Ethics** – First comes love and then comes marriage, but what happens when there is no baby carriage? The grief and sadness of the barren womb, infertility, has been with us since the beginning of time. With the advent of new, assisted reproductive technologies, how are we to view them in light of Orthodox Christian beliefs and ethics? This presentation will be held on **Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm at St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral (8290 Thompson Run Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237). Join us and hear from our panel: Jennifer Lahl (*President Center for Bioethics and Culture Network, Pleasant Hill, CA*), Dr. Albert Rossi (*Dir. of Counseling and Psychological Services, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY*), and V. Rev. George Johnson (*Rector, St. John the Baptist Church, Conemaugh, PA*). Visit [www.sanocpgh.org](http://www.sanocpgh.org) for more details.

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**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk For Missions** – will be Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. More details coming soon...

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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 Christian Fellowship (OCF)**. The OCF is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the [Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America](http://www.oca.org). OCF is charged with connecting Orthodox college students — and those interested in the Orthodox Christian faith — to Christ and His Church. OCF realizes this mission by:

- Supporting fellowships on college campuses, whose members experience and witness to the Orthodox Christian Church through community life, prayer, service to others, and study of the Faith;
- Providing a variety of thoughtful and innovative programming including College Conference and Real Break domestic and international service projects; and,
- Training lay and clergy volunteers as well as our students for leadership roles on campus and beyond.

Visit <http://www.ocf.net> for more information. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings later this month!*

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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

<sup>21</sup>But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; <sup>22</sup>he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

<sup>23</sup>But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. <sup>24</sup>Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. **2** <sup>1</sup>For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. <sup>2</sup>For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? <sup>3</sup>And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. <sup>4</sup>For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

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### **Gospel:** Matthew 22:1-14

#### **The Parable of the Wedding Banquet**

**22** And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, <sup>3</sup>and sent his servants to call those

who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ <sup>10</sup>And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’ <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.”





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## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### THE DAUGHTER OF THE KING

From Coffee with Sister Vassa on August 28

“Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear; and forget your own people and your father’s house. And the king shall greatly desire your beauty, for he himself is your Lord, and you shall worship him. And him shall the daughters of Tyre worship with gifts; the rich among the people shall entreat your countenance. All the glory of the daughter of the king is within, with goldfringed garments is she arrayed, adorned in varied colors... I shall commemorate your name in every generation and generation.” (Ps 44: 9-12, 16)

Today, as those of us on the Older Calendar celebrate the great feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, our Church showers praise, gratitude

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### Don't React - to outside negative stimulus

Each day brings on new challenges regarding the health of your soul. Those moments when a family member or coworker makes a remark that are meant to anger you, are those times you need to guard your heart. When those around you are gossiping about someone, that is an opportunity for you to keep silent. The driver who’s just cut you off on the freeway; the woman who pushes her way in front of you in the check out line; the rude neighbor; all are moments in time when you can take control and grow stronger spiritually.

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and love upon “the daughter of the king.” She did, indeed, “incline her ear” to God’s call from an early age, growing up not in “her father’s house” but in the Temple, and became “arrayed” with a unique beauty “within.” It wasn’t any bland or one-dimensional kind of beauty, but one “adorned in varied colors.” Thus “in every generation” we “entreat her countenance” in the many and varied holy icons of the Mother of God.

Thank you, most-holy Mother of God, for not abandoning us in your Dormition, and blessing us daily with your loving countenance. “You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death.” (Troparion-hymn of Dormition)

Blessed Feast to all!

Trials and temptations, when confronted with a peaceful heart, bring forth healing and make the soul that much stronger and healthier. Reacting does nothing but bring forth paralysis of the soul, binding us to our fallen nature. Receiving all these temptations with a peaceful heart and not reacting to outside negative stimulus, helps strengthen you for the next round of trial and temptation. Little by little, you will find that the Peace of Christ fills your every waking moment, bringing on a joyful spirit and a peaceful heart.

Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: [www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar) © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

### The Prophet Samuel

Commemorated on Sept. 2 / Aug. 20

The Prophet Samuel was the 15th and last of the Judges of Israel, living more than 1146 years before the Birth of Christ. He was descended from the Tribe of Levi, and was the son of Elkanah from Ramathaim-Zophima of Mount Ephraim. He was born, having been besought of the Lord through the prayers of his mother Anna (wherefore he received the name Samuel, which means "besought"), and even before birth he was dedicated to God. When the boy reached age 3, his mother went with him to Shiloh and in accord with her vow gave him over to the tabernacle in care of the high-priest Eli, who at this time was a judge over the Israelite nation. The prophet grew in the fear of God, and already at 12 years of age he had the revelation, that God would punish all the house of the high-priest Eli, because he did not restrain the impiety of his sons.



glory is gone out from Israel, for the Ark of God is taken away" (1 Sam. [1 Kings] 4: 22).

Upon the death of Eli, Samuel became the judge of the nation of Israel. The Ark of God was returned by the Philistines on their own initiative, and after their returning to God, the Israelites returned to all the cities, which the Philistines had taken. Having gotten up in years, the Prophet Samuel made his sons –

Joel and Abiah – judges over Israel, but they followed not in the integrity and righteous judgement of their father, since they were motivated by greed. Then the elders of Israel, wanting that the nation of God should be "like other nations" (1 Sam. [1 Kings] 8: 20), demanded of the Prophet Samuel that a king be established for them. The Prophet Samuel saw in this a deep downfall of the people, which until this time God Himself had governed, announcing His will through His chosen saints. Resigning the position of judge, the Prophet Samuel asked the people, whether they consent in his continued governance, but no one stepped forward for him. After denunciation of the first king, Saul, for his disobedience to God, the Prophet Samuel anointed as king Saint David, to whom he had offered asylum, saving him from the pursuit of king Saul. The Prophet Samuel died in extreme old age. His life is recorded in the Bible (1 Sam. [1 Kings]; Sirach 46: 13-20). In the year 406 A.D. the relics of the Prophet Samuel were transferred from Judea to Constantinople.

