



WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH
August 30, 2020

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 3

The Martyr Myron

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Weekly Schedule of Services/Events

Sunday, August 30

9:00AM Divine Liturgy-blessing of flowers and herbs

Epistle: Hailey McKane

+ Bepko Family

Wednesday, September 2

9:00AM Divine Liturgy for the sick

Thursday, September 3

7:00PM Board Meeting

Friday, September 4

9:00AM Moleben to the Mother of God

Sunday, September 6

9:00AM Divine Liturgy

Epistle: L. Goetz

The sign that you love God, is this, that you love your fellow; and if you hate your fellow, your hatred is towards God. For it is blasphemy if you pray before God while you are wroth. For your heart also convicts you, that in vain you multiply words: your conscience rightly judges that in yours prayers you profit nought.

St. Ephraim the Syrian

ON ADMONITION AND REPENTANCE.

Service Schedule

Divine Liturgy 9am

Weekday Eve Service 7pm

General Information

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Diocesan Resources

Diocesan Website

www.acrod.org

Camp Nazareth

www.campnazareth.org

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/acrod-](https://www.facebook.com/acrod-diocese)

[diocese](https://www.facebook.com/acrod-diocese)

Twitter

[www.twitter.com/acrod-](https://www.twitter.com/acrod-news)

[news](https://www.twitter.com/acrod-news)

YouTube

[www.youtube.com/acrod-](https://www.youtube.com/acrod-diocese)

[diocese](https://www.youtube.com/acrod-diocese)

Weekly Announcements

THIS WEEK: We will celebrate Divine Liturgy for the sick on Wednesday at 9am and the Moleben to the Mother of God on Friday at 9am.

ICON SHRINES: Since members of our community were unable to participate in the Appalachian Service Project due to the pandemic, Lynne Goetz and Hailey McKane are spearheading a project to put Icon shrines on our church property. The shrines have been planted on the parking lot side of the Church. They will be blessed on Sunday, September 20th following Divine Liturgy. We will leave the Church in procession and stop to bless each shrine. It is hoped all will be a part of this blessing.

FOOD BANK: Our food bank for September will take place on Sunday, September 20th. As always, you may bring non-perishable food items in at any time, including that day. You may also make a monetary donation to help cover the cost of grocery store gift cards, most useful during this pandemic. Please see Holly Mesavage to donate.

Scripture Readings for Sunday

Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 18:23-35

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall

not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

The Dormition of the Mother of God



Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at

once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate

body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.

These things has the Church received from the traditions of the Fathers, who have composed many hymns out of reverence, to the glory of the Mother of our God

From our Sexton - Greg Babey

Dear St. John's parishioners,

I am writing this note to inform everyone that I have resigned my position as Sexton, at St. John's. Effective Sept. 30th..... I would like to say "Thank You", for the opportunity and privilege of being the sexton for these past years.

This parish has been my home since being Baptized here in 1959... I have Many MANY fond memories here. From singing in the choir to playing basketball to Golf tournaments. Dances. 1st Communion. "Ikey" in the role of St. Nicholas --> All the way to ----->> ME playing the role of St. Nicholas !

However, life moves us forward. Many of you know, I've wanted to get to Florida "FullTime", for quite some time now. My wife, Rose Marie, has been offered (and has accepted) a position in southwest FL (Cape Coral). Rose is already there and has begun her new position as Director of Religious Education for St. Katherine Drexel Parish. She will be returning (hopefully) in late Sept., to retrieve me (& my sidekick Domino).

My time as the sexton has been very enriching. I would like to thank Fr. David and Cantor John Galpin for helping me deepen my knowledge and understanding of our Beautiful Faith. In addition, I would like to thank Carol Feduick, David Skirkanich, David Chernak, Dennis and David Kaputa for their support. Along with many others (too numerous to recall). I would especially like to thank my wife Rose, for all her help and encouragement.

Whenever I am back in the vicinity, I will make sure to stop in for Sunday Divine Liturgy. Or, perhaps you'll see me when the aroma of Fresh Baked Pagachi fills the basement air!

Please keep Rose and I in your prayers while we embark on this journey during these uncertain CoVid19 times. We will continue to keep you ALL in our prayers.

I Love you All, VERY Much.

GOD Bless,

Greg Babey



Office of the Metropolitan
312 Garfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15906

August 27, 2020

Protocol No. 32/2020

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Very Reverend Protopresbyters, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, and Diocesan Faithful,

As individuals, families, parishes and a Diocese, not to mention as States and a country, we continue to live in a time of uncertainty and adjustments. As Diocesan Priests and faithful, you are keenly aware of the adjustments we have had to make in our parishes. As families with school-age children, you are keenly aware of the adjustments your children have had to make as they return to school this Fall. As individuals, we are keenly aware of the adjustments we have had to make in the basic fabric of our day-to-day living.

For the Spring and Summer, of necessity, we either postponed, cancelled or switched our Diocesan Events to an online format. We were looking forward to a Fall Season that would not require us to make these same adjustments.

However, the Fall Season is just around the corner, and unfortunately, there are still differences in how each State is responding to the Coronavirus. This directly impacts not only our family and parish events, but also our Diocesan Events. We are required to adjust our plans accordingly.

Please be advised that the following Diocesan Events are either postponed, cancelled or switched to an online format. The ones postponed and/or switched to an online format have the date of the new event listed next to them.

All Diocesan Parental Workshops – Postponed and Switched to an Online Format –

New Date: To be determined

This includes the following Workshops:

Binghamton, NY – September 12, 2020

Manassas, VA – October 3, 2020

Pittsburgh, PA – November 14, 2020

These Parental Workshops will be combined into ONE online Event.

Diocesan Panis Retreat, October 9-11, 2020 – Switched to an Online Format –

New Date: October 10, 2020

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Diocesan Seniors Retreat, October 13-15, 2020 – *Cancelled*

Fall Young Adults Retreat, October 16-18, 2020 – *Switched to an Online Format* –
Same Date: October 16-18, 2020

Diocesan Clergy Convocation, October 20-23, 2020 – *Switched to an Online Format* –
Same Date: October 20-23, 2020

OISM (Orthodox Inter-Seminary Movement), October 23-25, 2020 -- *Cancelled*

Information about the events postponed and/or switched to an online format will be sent to our parishes in the coming weeks. Please mark the dates of these events on your calendars.

I look forward to the time when we will gather in person. In the meantime, we will make the necessary adjustments to continue our God-given work. Please know that I am praying for you, for our Diocese, and for our world. I ask you to join me in those prayers.

With blessing I remain

Working in His Vineyard,



+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

A Note from Marlene Bojarski

Our own Marlene Bojarski will be leaving us soon, relocating to Wisconsin to live with family. While she will be missed, she offers the following furniture for anyone who is interested:

- A table with a map of the world on it. It measures 3'4" x 20" x 30".
- A neat wooden desk one can use as a business desk. Chair included. 3 deep pull out drawers on the right, one longer slim drawer in the middle. 3'4" x 27" x 30"
- A white painted book shelf. 3' x 10" x 3'.
- A dresser. White with gold trim. No mirror. 3 drawers. Top two regular size drawers, bottom drawer double depth. 3' x 16" x 32".
- A bedroom set. Twin bed frame, no mattress or box spring included. Matching chest with full mirror on top. 3'4" x 20" x 30"

If the person picking anything up would like to donate to the church, that would be fine by me. That's payment enough for me.

Parish Announcements

Luck 52 Winners for August:

8/2 Gary Adzima #1

8/9 Eleanore Dugan #27

8/16 Nancy Gulash #8

8/23 Eleanore Demchak #28

8/30 Cindy Maltais #21

Please note: As we enter August, we are getting closer to the start of a new round of LUCKY 52. Due to the pandemic and the fact that we are not seeing each other as much as normal, now would be a good time to reserve your Lucky number. Please contact Pani Andrea at andreaec62@gmail.com to keep your current number and reserve it. New people are always welcome! Checks should be made payable to St. John's R Club and mailed to 40 Beaver Dam Road, Stratford, CT 06614

Food Bank: Sunday, September 20th

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy September Birthday to:

Caroline Hall 1	Julia DeManche 1
Mary Hritz 1	Pat LeBelle 1
Davey Tvardzik 6	Shaun Forizs 7
Mary Hall 8	Leona Strich 13
Pani Andrea 14	Marianne Hendren 14
Jennifer Morrison 17	Kathy Stolz 20
Ken Grennhill 22	Tom Adzima 29

Happy Anniversary to

John and Helen Kopchik 1
Dave and Nicole Semanchik 3
Bill and Sandy Masikiewicz 16

Imitating the Virgin Mary



“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” These words offer a summary of the life of the Virgin Mary, because they show how she lived a life totally dedicated to serving God and proclaiming the Good News of the Savior of the world.

We have completed the period of a 14 day fast and today celebrate one of the biggest feast of the year in honoring the Mother of God, the Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary on August 28 (August 15). Since we place so much emphasis on the Virgin Mary within our Church, it is important to take a moment and meditate on her life; to discover exactly who she is and what she has to

teach us.

First and foremost, the Virgin Mary is the Mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She is actually the Mother of God, the one chosen to give birth to God here on earth! She is unique because of this relationship with Jesus Christ. She is the one woman in all of history to be chosen as the woman to give birth to God-become-man, the one who would bring God into the world in a very special way. The Bible says she is “full of grace,” a woman so pure and blessed by God that all future generations would honor her and called her blessed.

She is not, however, a god. She is a human being like you and me. She is one of us! This is why we sometimes call her not only the Mother of God, but the Mother of All Humanity. The only difference between her and us is that she dedicated her life to Christ in an absolute way, she gave up her own will and accepted completely the will of God in her life.

Of course all the saints of our Church are examples for us to imitate, but the Virgin Mary is the first among the saints. When the Archangel Gabriel told Mary that she was the chosen one, she had the free choice to either accept or reject his words. God never imposes his will on anyone. The greatest gift He has given man is freedom, freedom to choose to follow and obey Christ, or freedom to follow the ways of the world. The Virgin Mary used her freedom to say “Yes” to God in the most complete way.

Think a moment about the Virgin Mary. She was a young girl – a simple, unassuming, pious, faithful young virgin, who despite her youth, willingly dedicated her whole life to God. She could have thought about the trouble that she would have – the ridicule for being pregnant outside of marriage, the difficulty of not having people believe in her explanation of a miraculous visitation from an angel, the threat of even being stoned to death (because Jewish law stated that

women who became pregnant out of wedlock should thus be punished). The Virgin Mary could have said that she was not ready yet to make such a serious and life-changing decision. She was only 14 or 15 years old. "I am too young to decide," she could have said. "Please, choose someone else, because I want to live a normal life like everyone else."

Instead of these excuses, we see her COURAGE to accept the word of the Lord. She humbly responded, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And from this humble yet faithful response, God used Mary to carry the message of hope and salvation to the whole world. In one way, we could call Mary one of the first missionaries. She was the first person to proclaim the coming of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, and to share His Good News of hope to all creation. Before all else, her life teaches us about COURAGE, OBEDIENCE, and the JOY to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.

How many of us today can imitate her example and say to God, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; do to me whatever you want according to your word." How many of us even understand that God is also calling us to serve him in a unique way. The desire of Christ is for everyone to live a holy life which will radiate light onto others. It doesn't matter what we do, or what position we hold, or how old we are. Most of us are older than 14 or 15 years old, therefore we're older than the Virgin Mary when she made her life-changing decision. God seeks from all of us, just as he sought from the Virgin Mary, to totally commit our lives to Christ and obediently follow the path of the kingdom of God.

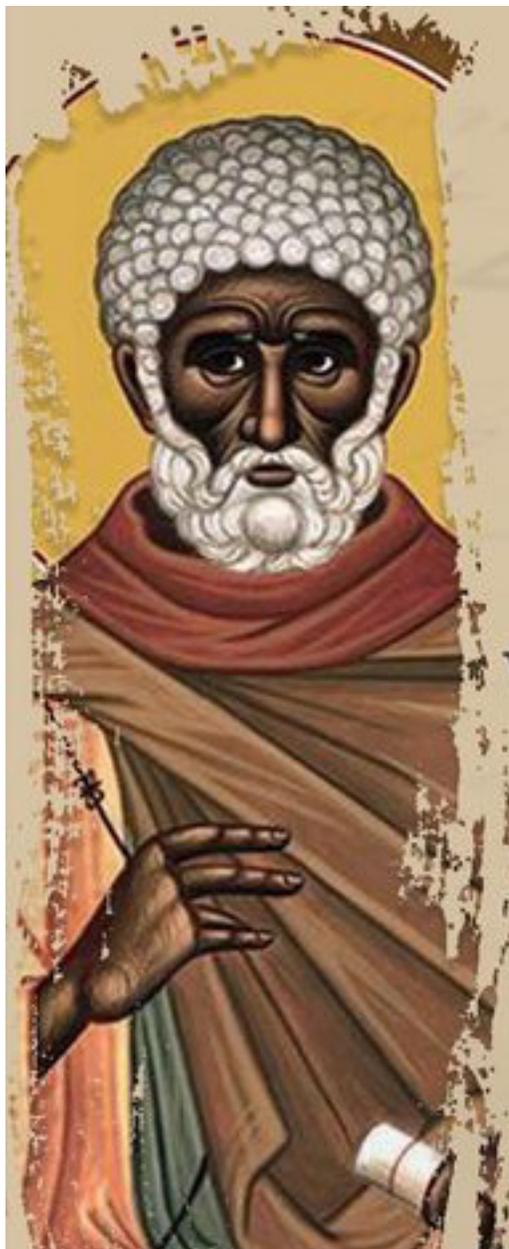
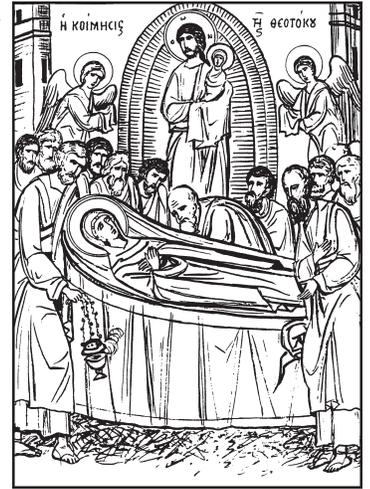
Another virtue we learn from Mary is HUMILITY. She didn't seek to glorify herself. When people would come to her, she would direct them towards Jesus. We even see this in many of the icons that depict her. Mary opens her hands and points to Jesus, inviting the whole world to come to him and embrace him. In like manner, we also must live our lives in a way which will draw attention and bring glory to God. Like Mary, we must remain HUMBLE and realize that any good which we possess is a gift from God, and should be used to bring more glory to His holy name.

One other aspect, among many others, of Mary's life we can learn from is her example of PRAYER. Our Church realizes that not only was she a person who prayed in the temple from a young age, but even now she continues to pray to God on our behalf.

This is why we prayed the Paraclesis/Supplication Service to the Virgin Mary every night throughout this Fast. In this beautiful service we ask the Theotokos to continually intercede on our behalf, and to ask her Son to help us in our times of need and distress. But we should not only ask her for prayers; we ourselves should imitate her example and pray ourselves constantly to God. We

should lift up our voices to God in praise, thanksgiving, supplication, and worship as she did. Just as the life of the Theotokos became a prayer in itself, our life also should become a living prayer to God.

In conclusion, let us remember in the Virgin Mary's life not only a person who is to be highly honored, but a person from whom all Christians can learn. I hope we journeyed through this Fasting Period and will continue each and every day thinking about the example which the All Holy One gives us, and seeking to live a new life according to the model of the Theotokos.



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God will not hear
our prayers unless
we acknowledge ourselves
to be sinners.
We do this when we ponder
on our own sins alone,
and no those
of our neighbor.

Venerable Moses the Ethiopian