



WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH
Sunday October 7, 2018

Protomartyr Thecla, Equal to the Apostles

Epistle: **2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9**

Gospel: **Luke 5:1-11**

Weekly Schedule of Services/Events

Sunday, October 7

9:00AM Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Reader Gregory Morrison

Church School

1:00PM Church School Outing - Plasko's Corn maze

Monday, October 8

7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, October 9

12:00PM St. John's Seniors

Wednesday, October 10

9:00AM Pagach

7:00PM Hot Topics Discussion Group

Thursday, October 11

9:00AM Pagach

Friday, October 12

9:00AM Pagach

Sunday, October 14 Protection of the Mother of God

9:00AM Divine Liturgy - Epistle: Jennifer Morrison

Rescue Mission

The Decorated Cross for the Feast of the Exaltation was offered by Mary Ann Voytek in memory of her Parents, Stefan and Helen and Brother, Peter. May thier memory be eternal!

Service Schedule

Divine Liturgy 9am

Weekday Eve Service 7pm

General Information

www.stjohnsmillhill.com

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Bridgeport, CT 06610

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Diocesan Resources

Diocesan Website

www.acrod.org

Camp Nazareth

www.campnazareth.org

Facebook

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

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

Twitter

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

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

YouTube

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

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

Weekly Announcements

COLLEGE STUDENT SUNDAY: We will be taking a free will offering during the second collection NEXT SUNDAY to support the Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Please see the Bishop's letter in the bulletin for information about OCF and the good work it does.

FAIR BAKING: We will be making Pagach for the Fair this Wednesday, Thursday and possibly Friday. Any and all help is appreciated.

WEeping ICON FROM TAYLOR: The Weeping Icon of the Mother of God from our parish in Taylor, PA will be at our parish on December 7. Please mark your calendars now so that you may be there for this service.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE are presented for Stephen Tvardzik and Karissa Piedescalzo to take place on October 13, 2018.

WEDNESDAY EVENING: We will have our Hot Topics Class this Wednesday at 7pm. We will begin a discussion of social issues facing us today.

CHURCH SCHOOL OUTING: Our Church School will be visiting Plasko's Farm today. Please plan to meet at the Farm, 670 Daniels Farm Road, Trumbull, at 1pm.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Christmas Fair raffle tickets are available downstairs. Please stop down and pick up your tickets so they do not have to be mailed out. Also, please note the following needs:

- 1. Gift Cards for the North Pole raffle**
- 2. Lottery Tree ticket Donations**
- 3. Volunteers to do theme trees for the tree Raffle.**

Please bring your donations in as early as possible, If you can decorate a tree, please see Patti Labelle.

Scripture Readings for Sunday

Epistle Reading - 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven -- whether in the body or out of the body I do

not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise --whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows -- and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Gospel Reading - Luke 5:1-11

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Protomartyr Thecla, Equal to the Apostles



This saint was from the city of Iconium. When she was eighteen years of age, she was instructed in the Faith of Christ and the hope of the resurrection by the Apostle Paul, whom also she followed, forsaking her betrothed and espousing a life of virginity for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. Having preached Christ in various cities and suffered many things, she reposed in Seleucia of Cilicia at the age of 90.

On Stewardship: Theosis Without Stewardship



“For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, proud... ungrateful...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” (2 Tim. 2-4 OSB)

Theosis, the continuous communion with God, comes to us by the grace of God. As Orthodox Christians, it should be what we all strive for – with all our heart, soul, and might. It is the reason God gave us life, to pursue Theosis.

If we believe the preceding, what price would you pay to be illumined and in communion with God?

The Saints serve as living proof that when you love God with all your heart, keep His commandments and pray unceasingly, God blesses all with a pure heart, an illumined nous, and continuous communion with Him. The Saints lived their lives for God and only for Him, giving all – not only their hearts, but their time, talents and wealth. We can read of Saints that exhibited the attainment of Illumination and Theosis; from these Saints a light was emitted from their faces – a light so bright that their faces were no longer visible, as was the case with St. Seraphim of Sarov.

Orthodox Stewardship as defined by the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese states that we should “receive God’s gifts gratefully, cherishing and tending them in a responsible and accountable manner, sharing them in justice and love with all and returning with increase to the Lord.” The Saints gave everything to the Lord in thanksgiving; we are, however, only asked to share and return to the Lord a portion of what He has given us. This is but one example of God’s generosity.

What occurs if we do not practice Stewardship? The most common reason for not practicing Stewardship is greed, one of the eight basic thoughts which leads to a darkening of the nous, sin, and passions as taught by St. John of Damascus and also Evagrius, a third-century anchorite monk. Not practicing stewardship may mean that we want to please ourselves, self-love, with material things more than we want to please God and obtain communion with Him. In other words, we are making a choice between God and self, with self the object of our choice. Unless we cleanse ourselves by sincere repentance and prayer, our nous will remain darkened, preventing communion with God. If we do not sincerely repent we, not God, place our salvation in jeopardy.

The path to salvation is before us! Living a life with Christ, of Stewardship as the Church directs, places us on the path to Illumination and Theosis. We should only seek that which leads to our eternal salvation. Give generously of your time, talent and resources, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” (Mathew 6:19-20, RSV). One cannot obtain Theosis without true Stewardship.



Office of the Bishop

*312 Garfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15906*

Protocol No. 13/2018
September 22, 2018

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Reverend Fathers,

On Sunday, October 7, 2018, Orthodox parishes across the United States, of all Orthodox jurisdictions, are being asked to celebrate College Student Sunday – recognizing our college students and bringing awareness to Orthodox campus ministry that is taking place through the efforts of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), an endorsed agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.

As I have pointed out on numerous occasions, statistics show us that more than 6 out of 10 of all young adults, including Orthodox, leave the Church after graduating from high school and college. To help counteract this trend, OCF is on the frontlines of over 350 college campuses engaging our students in the Orthodox faith through fellowship, education, worship, and service. Through this four-tiered approach, college students who participate in OCF make their way from schools to parishes spiritually stronger and ready to serve.

As your Diocesan Bishop and as the Episcopal Liaison for the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, I am calling upon your parish to support the good works of the OCF on College Student Sunday. In particular I am asking each parish of our Diocese on **October 7, 2018** to take a special collection for the benefit of OCF. Parishes may also choose to augment the collection with additional funds.

While it is preferable that parishes observe College Student Sunday on this day, those parishes with scheduling conflicts (maybe you will be collecting for IOCC hurricane relief or something else), please make the collection on an alternative Sunday during the month of October. **The proceeds of the collections are to be sent to the Chancery no later than November 16, 2018. Please make the check out to ACROD with OCF in the memo line.** Grateful for your assistance in this important matter, and assuring you of remembrance in prayer.

Working in His Vineyard,

+ Bishop Gregory of Nyssa

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Parish Christmas and Easter Card

Each year the Jr. R Club/ACRY sends a Christmas and Easter card to all of the parishioners of the church. Sign up now to have your name included in both cards.

A \$20 suggested donation. Checks made payable to St. John's Church.

Name: _____

Donation: _____

Deadline: October 14, 2018.

Christmas Fair Raffle

Christmas Fair raffle tickets are ready and can be picked up in the church auditorium. Please support the raffle by selling to your friends, neighbors and family.

The Christmas Fair is our biggest fund raiser.

Your help and support are greatly appreciated!

1st Prize: \$1,000.00 Cash 2nd Prize: \$500.00 Cash

3rd Prize:\$300.00 Cash 4th Prize:\$100.00 Cash

5th Prize:\$100.00 Cash

Monthly Pirohi Friday October 19

Name _____ Phone _____

How many dz. Potato? _____ How many dz. Cabbage _____

How many dz. Prune _____

Email _____

To place orders: Leave this form in the Church Office; Call Church office and leave message:(203) 334-5932; Call Carol Feduik (203) 520-0904 or E-mail: carolcfeduik@yahoo.com. Orders must be placed Sunday prior to sale.



AS THE HOLIDAYS COME AND GO THE

CHRISTMAS FAIR

WILL BE UP UPON US BEFORE YOU KNOW!!!

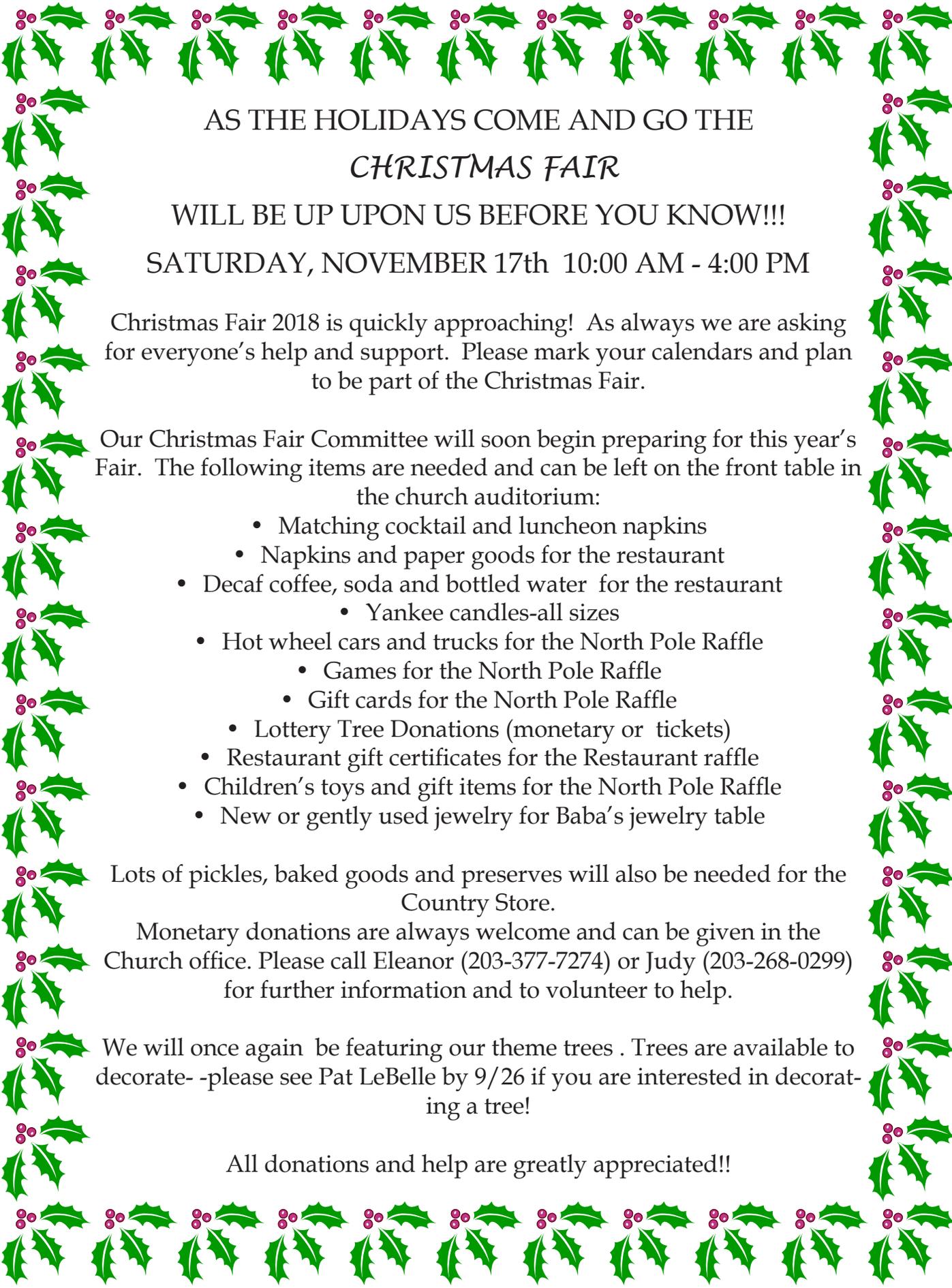
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17th 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Christmas Fair 2018 is quickly approaching! As always we are asking for everyone's help and support. Please mark your calendars and plan to be part of the Christmas Fair. This year's baking schedule is as follows:

- October 4 and 5 - Nut, Poppy and Prune Rolls
 - October 10, 11 and 12 - Pagach
 - October 26,27,28 - Pagach
- October 18 and 19 - Monthly Pirohi
- November 1 and 2 - Fair Pirohi

Please note that dates may change or be added as needed. Please watch the bulletin or visit the Church calendar on our website at <http://www.stjohnsmillhill.com/2.html>

All donations and help are greatly appreciated!!



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Christmas Fair 2018 is quickly approaching! As always we are asking for everyone's help and support. Please mark your calendars and plan to be part of the Christmas Fair.

Our Christmas Fair Committee will soon begin preparing for this year's Fair. The following items are needed and can be left on the front table in the church auditorium:

- Matching cocktail and luncheon napkins
- Napkins and paper goods for the restaurant
- Decaf coffee, soda and bottled water for the restaurant
 - Yankee candles-all sizes
- Hot wheel cars and trucks for the North Pole Raffle
 - Games for the North Pole Raffle
 - Gift cards for the North Pole Raffle
- Lottery Tree Donations (monetary or tickets)
- Restaurant gift certificates for the Restaurant raffle
- Children's toys and gift items for the North Pole Raffle
- New or gently used jewelry for Baba's jewelry table

Lots of pickles, baked goods and preserves will also be needed for the Country Store.

Monetary donations are always welcome and can be given in the Church office. Please call Eleanor (203-377-7274) or Judy (203-268-0299) for further information and to volunteer to help.

We will once again be featuring our theme trees . Trees are available to decorate- -please see Pat LeBelle by 9/26 if you are interested in decorating a tree!

All donations and help are greatly appreciated!!