



St. Mary's Orthodox Church

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Rev. Daniel Mahler
Presiding Priest
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Services Schedule

Services:
Sunday Divine Liturgy: 9:30am
Weekday/Holy Day Liturgy: 9:00am
Saturday/Holy Day Vespers: 5:00pm
Winter Vespers: 4:00pm

Commemorating the Feast of the Beheading of John the Baptist

Scheduled Services

SCHEDULE

Sunday September 10

Divine Liturgy FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Special Collection for Potter's Hand Foundation in memory of Pastor Tom Kuehner

Prayers for New School Year

Panachida for +Barbara, +Anna, +Edward, +George Brudnak offered by Helen Verno

Coffee Social

Thursday September 14

CHURCH NEW YEAR BEGINS

Saturday September 16

Great Vespers/Litya for Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Sunday September 17

Divine Liturgy Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR IOCC HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORT

Coffee Social

Saturday September 23

Great Vespers/Litya Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Sunday September 24

Divine Liturgy Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Coffee Social

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

The Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 13:25-33

IN THOSE DAYS, as John was finishing his course, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie." Brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning him. Though they could charge him with nothing deserving death, yet they asked Pilate to have him killed. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus.

Gospel Reading

Beheading of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

The Reading is from Mark 6:14-30

At that time, King Herod heard that Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod had sent and seized John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; because he had married her. For John said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his

courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias' daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant it." And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." And she went out, and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the baptizer." And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. The apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

Parish and Ladies Altar Society Announcements

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HURRICANE RELIEF:

There will be a **Special Collection on Sunday September 17, 2017** to support the hurricane relief efforts of the International Orthodox Charities (IOCC). Below is the Diocesan Appeal request from His Grace, Bishop Gregory as well as well as IOCC Response for the Relief effort. Please be as generous as possible in helping the relief effort in the area's affected in the hurricane's path of destruction.

In Christ,

Father Dan

Diocese To Offer Assistance to Hurricane Victims

JOHNSTOWN, PA [Diocesan Chancery] --- In an archpastoral letter issued on September 7, 2017, His Grace Bishop Gregory has called upon the parishes of the Diocese to support the hurricane relief efforts of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). All parishes of the Diocese have been directed to take a special collection for IOCC at their earliest possible opportunity, giving whatever they are able to help those in need. [Read Letter Here.](#)

In addition, His Grace has called upon the faithful of the Diocese to support a special Diocesan outreach project which is being coordinated by the National Sr. ACRY. Parishes are being asked to assemble Emergency Clean-up Kits for IOCC. Full details of this project will be sent to the parishes of the Diocese and posted on www.acrod.org.

May Almighty God strengthen and protect those who have been impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

IOCC Responds To Humanitarian Needs In The Wake of Hurricane Harvey

BALTIMORE, MD [IOCC] -- [International Orthodox Christian Charities](#) [IOCC] is closely

monitoring the progression of Hurricane Harvey as it affects South Texas. IOCC staff members remain in contact with partners, including members of national and local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster [VOAD] and expresses concern for the well-being of the people in the path of the storm.

IOCC staff is reaching out to partners along the path of the hurricane, including in Texas and Louisiana. Additionally, IOCC is activating its Emergency Response Network Frontliners to stand at the ready to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

How can you help?

IOCC invites you to continue praying for the safety and well-being of those threatened by this storm. In addition, your on-line gift to [IOCC's US Emergency Response Fund](#) helps IOCC react quickly and respond effectively when emergencies like this strike. Your help will provide immediate relief, as well as long-term support through the provision of emergency aid, recovery assistance, and other support to help those in need.

Established in 1992, IOCC is the official humanitarian agency of the [Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America](#). In 2017, IOCC celebrated its 25th year of global philanthropic outreach.

Schools are NOW back in session: *Our students are returning to the classrooms this coming week. Please drive carefully and keep our children safe. We will have prayers and a special blessing for the beginning of a new school year Sunday, September 10th.*

Special Collection: *There will be a special collection on Sunday September 10, 2017 for the Potter's Hand Foundation of Corning, whose mission is to serve survivors of human trafficking in memory of Pastor Tom Kuehner who fell asleep in the Lord last month.*

The Ladies Altar Society will hold a meeting after Liturgy **TODAY!** All members are urged to attend and ladies interested in joining in on the Society's good works are cordially invited to attend.

Up Coming Events

2nd ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RETREAT will be held at Camp Nazareth on September 22-24, 2017.

THRIVING IN OUR LIVES - A retreat with author and professor Dr. Philip Mamalakis Friday evening and an all-day Saturday, September 22-23, 2017! God created us to thrive, as human beings, in intimate relationships with Him and others. However, it is hard to live in peace with one another in the home, in the family, and in the community. Join our conversation and discussion with Dr. Phillip Mamalakis as he shares with us how Christ, through His Church, invites us to thrive in our homes, relationships, marriage, and parenting. For more information, contact goholyspirit@gmail.com or 585-244-1976. Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit 835 South Avenue Rochester, NY 14620.

SOUTHERN TIER DDD DINNER will be held in a beautiful new Banquet Hall in Endwell, NY on Sunday **October 22, 2017. Complete information will be forthcoming soon!**

DIOCESE WILL HONOR BISHOP GREGORY on the 5th Anniversary of his ordination to

the Episcopate on **Monday, November 27, 2017** in Johnstown. Complete information will be provided at a later time.

Saints and Feasts



August 29

Beheading of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

The divine Baptist, the Prophet born of a Prophet, the seal of all the Prophets and beginning of the Apostles, the mediator between the Old and New Covenants, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, the God-sent Messenger of the incarnate Messiah, the forerunner of Christ's coming into the world (Esaias 40: 3; Mal. 3: 1); who by many miracles was both conceived and born; who was filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb; who came forth like another Elias the Zealot, whose life in the wilderness and divine zeal for God's Law he imitated: this divine Prophet, after he had preached the baptism of repentance according to God's command; had taught men of low rank and high how they must order their lives; had admonished those whom he baptized and had filled them with the fear of God, teaching them that no one is able to escape the wrath to come if he do not works worthy of repentance; had, through such preaching, prepared their hearts to receive the evangelical teachings of the Savior; and finally, after he had pointed out to the people the very Savior, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (Luke 3:2-18; John 1: 29-36), after all this, John sealed with his own blood the truth of his words and was made a sacred victim for the divine Law at the hands of a transgressor.

This was Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Galilee, the son of Herod the Great. This man had a lawful wife, the daughter of Arethas (or Aretas), the King of Arabia (that is, Arabia Petraea, which had the famous Nabatean stone city of Petra as its capital. This is the Aretas mentioned by Saint Paul in II Cor. 11:32). Without any cause, and against every commandment of the Law, he put her away and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his deceased brother Philip, to whom Herodias had borne a daughter, Salome. He would not desist from this unlawful union even when John, the preacher of repentance, the bold and austere accuser of the lawless, censured him and told him, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife" (Mark 6: 18). Thus Herod, besides his other unholy acts, added yet this, that he apprehended John and shut him in prison; and perhaps he would have killed him straightway, had he not feared the people, who had extreme reverence for John. Certainly, in the beginning, he himself had great reverence for this just and holy man. But finally, being pierced with the sting of a mad lust for the woman Herodias, he laid his defiled hands on the teacher of purity on the very day he was celebrating his birthday. When Salome, Herodias' daughter, had danced in order to please him and those who were supping with him, he promised her -- with an oath more foolish than any foolishness -- that he would give her anything she asked, even unto the half of his kingdom. And she, consulting with her mother, straightway asked for the head of John the Baptist in a charger. Hence this transgressor of the Law, preferring his lawless oath above the precepts of the Law, fulfilled this godless promise and filled his loathsome banquet with the blood of the Prophet. So it was that that all-venerable head, revered by the Angels, was given as a prize for an abominable dance, and became the plaything of the dissolute daughter of a debauched mother. As for the body of the divine Baptist, it was taken up by his disciples and placed in a tomb (Mark 6: 21 -

29). Concerning the finding of his holy head, see February 24 and May 25.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the 5th Tone

We the faithful proclaim and worship the Word,* eternal with the Father and the Spirit.* He was born of the Virgin for our salvation.* He willingly ascended the Cross in the flesh and suffered death.* He raised the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Tropar for the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist in the 2nd Tone

The remembrance of the Just is worthy of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner, for it has shown that you are indeed more worthy of honor than the Prophets. You were found worthy to baptize the Lord Whom you foretold. Thereafter, you suffered for the truth and rejoicing, also announced the good news to those in the abyss that God had appeared as man taking away the sins of the world and granting to all of us the abundance of mercy.

Kondak for the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist in the 5th Tone

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen. The glorious beheading of the Forerunner was part of God's saving plan that the coming of the Savior might be announced even to those in the abyss. Weep then, Herodias, that you asked for a wicked murder, because you loved neither God's law nor eternal life, but only the passing pleasure of life.

Wisdom of the Fathers

"He gave His Only-begotten Son," not a servant, not an Angel, not an Archangel. And yet no one would show such anxiety for his own child, as God did for His ungrateful servants ... He who giveth life to others, much more to Himself doth He well forth life ... For He calls the Cross the fountain of life; which reason cannot easily allow, as the heathens now by their mocking testify. But faith which goes beyond the weakness of reasoning, may easily receive and retain it.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 27 on John 3, 4th Century

Our Redeemer and Maker, Who was Son of God before the ages, became Son of Man at the end of ages. Thus the One Who, through the power of His divinity, had created us to enjoy the happiness of everlasting life, might Himself restore us, through the weakness of our humanity, to recover the life we had lost."

St. Bede the Venerable

Stewardship



On Stewardship and the Orthodox Life - Part 125: Have We Discovered Our Gifts

But each has his own special gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.” (1 Corinthians 7:7 RSV)

We have talked a lot about the gifts God has given us. Have we unwrapped those gifts? I recently heard a sermon where the priest made the analogy of the gifts God gives us with those that may have been received at a wedding shower or marriage or some other celebration and forgot to open them until years later when they were discovered in the basement, still in the original wrapping. We say, “OH, that is where that has been!”

Do we do the same with the gifts that God has given us? Do we forget to unwrap them and wonder why God has forsaken us? I would submit that many of us are afraid to unwrap the gifts He has given us because we would then be committed to God, to do His will. Many of us do not want to do that, do we? We want to live our secular lives with all the luxuries that it brings and profess our religious life for two hours on Sunday or a feast day.

The gifts that God has so generously given to us is not for living in luxury. The gifts are to provide for the necessities of life and to use the excess to help those less fortunate. That means making a commitment to God! Isn't that what Orthodoxy is all about? I would challenge anybody to show me in Scripture or the writings of the Holy Fathers where it says, “Use all that God gives you to live in luxury and let the less fortunate worry about themselves!”

If you haven't discovered the gifts that God has given you to help others, dig deep into the

basement of your soul. There you will find those gifts and say, "OH, that is where you have been!"

This weekly series of brief thoughts on stewardship and Orthodox life is brought to you by your Diocesan Stewardship Commission.

From Father's Desk

- *If you would like to meet with Father, please call him at 607-962-5285 or on his cell phone 607-377-0587.*
- **Emergency Sick Calls:** *Father is available for emergencies at any time. Please call him at 607-962-5285 or on his cell at 607-377-0587.*
- **Our Mailing Address is:**
- *7 Chatfield Place East Painted Post, NY 14870*
- **Confessions** *are heard after Vespers on Saturday, after any weekday or Lenten Services or by calling Father for an appointment.*
- **Marriages** *are solemnized on Saturdays. Consult Father at least six months in advance and before plans have been made for the wedding reception. Marriages cannot be celebrated during the fasting seasons of the Church.*
- **Baptisms** *are normally scheduled on Saturday or Sunday. Consult Father for scheduling. Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith and the other a practicing Christian.*
- **Church Funerals** *are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their Spiritual and Financial obligations to the parish otherwise burial is from the funeral home.*
- *If you would like to schedule a Panachida (Memorial Service) for your loved one please call Father at 607-962-5285.*

The Church does not permit Cremation!

Please Keep in Your Prayers

His Grace, Bishop GREGORY; Protopresbyter Frank Miloro; Protopresbyter John Duranko; Protopresbyter Jim Dutko; Protopresbyter Luke Mihaly; Protopresbyter Lawrence Barriger; Protopresbyter Kenneth Bachofsky; V. Rev. Thomas Kadlek; V. Rev. Michael Kleban; V. Rev. Michael Psenechnuk; Rev. James Gleason; V. Rev. Jason Kappanadze; Father James Worthington and Family Deacon Charles Ellis; Deacon Donald Koch; Mother Ralphaela; Pani Joan; Pani Kathleen Dutko; Pani Patricia Duranko; Mat. Anna Kozar; Pani-Matka Julia Romanchak; Sally Ellis; Judy Koch; Michael & Jacqueline Banik; Helen Verno; Eleanor Adzima; Stan Lewek; Michael & Delores Kundrat; Lyudmyla Hayova; Helen Coons; Anna Soraparu; Mary Benyo; Anna Chudanic; Paul Rodrigues; George Officer; Michael Matzkevich; Marlene Wheet; Mae Mary Shonak; Helen Molson; Donna Blazosky; Tom Serdula, John & Florence Medvitz; Timothy Davis; Jim Cronk; Deb Kuehner & Family; Art Gallant; Tammy Pierson; Karen Kluchonic

To Jonathan Share who is serving in the United States Navy; Tyler Colburn serving in the United States Army; Douglas Linsey serving in the United States Army and to all of our men and women who are serving and protecting our country both at home and abroad.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

Birthdays:

September 1 Vlad Svyrydenko

September 2 Emily Quanortey

September 7 Joyce Merletti

September 9 James Mackiewicz

September 10 Jill Mertus

September 18 Ana Powers

September 27 Sam Powers

Anniversaries:

September 30 Father Dan & Pani Joan

ACROD News

08/10/2017



Second Annual Stewardship Retreat

<http://www.acrod.org/news/2017/stewardship-retreat-2017>

JOHNSTOWN, PA - [Diocesan Chancery] -- The 2nd Annual Stewardship Retreat will be held at Camp Nazareth from September 22-24, 2017. This Year's Theme is Igniting the Flame of True Stewardship.

On Friday evening, Mother Christophora, Abbess of The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, will be the presenter. On Saturday, Bill Marianes, Ancient Faith Radio contributor and Stewardship Evangelist from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, will be the day-long presenter. The Retreat is open to Coordinators, Clergy and members of Church Boards.

There is no charge and lodging will be provided by the Camp.

Schedule of His Grace, Bishop Gregory For September 2017

09/02/2017

<http://www.acrod.org/news/2017/10356>

JOHNSTOWN, PA -- The schedule of His Grace, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa for September 2017 has been released by the Diocesan Chancery.

Calendar

September 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	SEP 1	2
3 9:30AM Divine Liturgy 11:00AM Birthdays	4	5	6	7	8	9 5:00PM Great Vespers/Litya to observe Feast of Beheading of St. John the Baptist
10 9:30AM Divine Liturgy- Observe Feast of Beheading of St. John the Baptist and Forerunner 11:00AM Prayers for	11 Beheading of St. John the Baptist & Forerunner - Strict Fast	12	13	14 New Liturgical Year Begins	15	16 5:00PM Great Vespers/Litya for Feast of Theotokos Nativity
17 9:30AM Divine Liturgy- Observe Feast of Theotokos Nativity 11:00AM Pantry & Potluck	18	19	20 Listings for next month's calendar due to Helen R.	21 Nativity of Theotokos	22 Stewardship Retreat	23 Stewardship Retreat 5:00PM Great Vespers/Litya for Feast of Elevation of the Holy Cross
24 Stewardship Retreat	25	26	27	28 Elevation of the Holy Cross-	29	30 5:00PM Vespers/

9:30AM Divine Liturgy- Observe Feast of Elevation of the Holy Cross				Strict Fast		Confession
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