



# St. Mary's Orthodox Church

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**Rev. Daniel Mahler**  
Presiding Priest  
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## Services Schedule

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

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Under the Protection of the Birth-Giver of God (Theotokos)

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## Scheduled Services

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Sunday November 26, 2017

Divine Liturgy

Coffee Social

### **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday November 27, 2017

5th Anniversary of Consecration and Enthronement of His Grace, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa as Diocesan Hierarch. Father and Pani will be in Johnstown as the Diocese honors His Grace.

Tuesday November 28, 2017

### **Nativity Fast (Philip's Fast) BEGINS TODAY**

Saturday December 2, 2017

Vesper/Confession

Sunday December 3, 2017

Divine Liturgy

Coffee Social

**12:00 NOON** Great Vespers/Litya Feast of the Entrance Mother of God

Monday December 4, 2017

9:00am Divine Liturgy Feast of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple

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## Gospel and Epistle Readings

### Epistle Reading

**The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2**

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

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### Gospel Reading

**The Reading is from John 10:9-16**

The Lord said, "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd."

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## Hymns of the Day

### Tropar and Kondak in the 8th Tone

*You came to earth fro heaven, O Gracious One. You allowed Yourself to be in the grave for three days, that we might be freed from our passions. O Lord, our life and our resurrection: Glory to You!*

## Kondak

*You raised the dead when You arose from the grave. You restored Adam, and Eve rejoices in Your resurrection. Since You have risen from the dead, O Merciful One, there is celebration throughout the world.*

# Saints and Feasts



**November 13**

## **John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople**

This greatest and most beloved of all Christian orators was born in Antioch the Great in the year 344 or 347; his pious parents were called Secundus and Anthusa. After his mother was widowed at the age of twenty, she devoted herself to bringing up John and his elder sister in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. John received his literary training under Anthragathius the philosopher, and Libanius the sophist, who was the greatest Greek scholar and rhetorician of his day. Libanius was a pagan, and when asked before his death whom he wished to have for his successor, he said, "John, had not the Christians stolen him from us." With such a training, and with such gifts as he had by nature, John had before him a brilliant career as a rhetorician. But through the good example of his godly mother Anthusa and of the holy Bishop Meletius of Antioch (see Feb. 12), by whom he was ordained reader about the year 370, he chose instead to dedicate himself to God. From the years 374 to 381 he lived the monastic life in the hermitages that were near Antioch. His extreme asceticism undermined his health, compelling him to return to Antioch, where Saint Meletius ordained him deacon about the year 381. Saint Meletius was called to Constantinople later that year to preside over the Second Ecumenical Council, during which he fell asleep in the Lord. In 386 Bishop Flavian ordained John presbyter of the Church of Antioch. Upon his elevation to the priesthood his career as a public preacher began, and his exceptional oratorical gifts were made manifest through his many sermons and commentaries. They are distinguished by their eloquence and the remarkable ease with which rich imagery and scriptural allusions are multiplied; by their depth of insight into the meaning of Scripture and the workings of God's providence; and, not least of all, by their earnestness and moral force, which issue from the heart of a blameless and guileless man who lived first what he preached to others. Because of his fame, he was chosen to succeed Saint Nectarius as Patriarch of Constantinople. He was taken away by stealth, to avoid the opposition of the people, and consecrated Patriarch of Constantinople on February 28, 398, by Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who was to prove his mortal enemy.

At that time the Emperor of the East was Arcadius, who had had Saint Arsenius the Great as his tutor (see May 8); Arcadius was a man of weak character, and much under the influence of his wife Eudoxia. The zealous and upright Chrysostom's unsparing censures of the lax morals in the imperial city stung the vain Eudoxia; through Theophilus' plottings and her collaboration, Saint John was banished to Pontus in 403. The people were in an uproar, and the following night an earthquake shook the city; this so frightened the Empress Eudoxia that she begged Arcadius to call Chrysostom back. While his return was triumphant, his reconciliation with the Empress did not last long. When she had a silver statue of herself erected in the forum before the Church of the Holy Wisdom (Saint Sophia) in September of 403, and had it dedicated with much unseemly revelry, Saint John thundered against her, and she could not forgive him. In June of 404 he was exiled to Cucusus, on the borders of Cilicia and Armenia. From here he exchanged letters with Pope Innocent of Rome, who sent bishops and priests to Constantinople requesting that a council be held. Saint John's

enemies, dreading his return, prevailed upon the Emperor to see an insult in this, and had John taken to a more remote place of banishment called Pityus near the Caucasus. The journey was filled with bitter sufferings for the aged bishop, both because of the harshness of the elements and the cruelty of one of his 310 guards. He did not reach Pityus, but gave up his soul to the Lord near Comana in Pontus, at the chapel of the Martyr Basiliscus (see May 22), who had appeared to him shortly before, foretelling the day of his death, which came to pass on September 14, 407. His last words were "Glory be to God for all things." His holy relics were brought from Comana to Constantinople thirty-one years later by the Emperor Theodosius the Younger and Saint Pulcheria his sister, the children of Arcadius and Eudoxia, with fervent supplications that the sin of their parents against him be forgiven; this return of his holy relics is celebrated on January 27.

Saint John was surnamed Chrysostom ("Golden-mouth") because of his eloquence. He made exhaustive commentaries on the divine Scriptures and was the author of more works than any other Church Father, leaving us complete commentaries on the Book of Genesis, the Gospels of Saints Matthew and John, the Acts, and all the Epistles of Saint Paul. His extant works are 1,447 sermons and 240 epistles. Twenty-two teachers of the Church have written homilies of praise in his honour. Besides his feasts today and on January 27, he is celebrated as one of the Three Hierarchs on January 30, together with Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory the Theologian.

*It should be noted that, because September 14 is the Exaltation of the Cross, the Saint's memory has been transferred to this day.*

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## Wisdom of the Fathers

David also in the second Psalm, and in many other places connects these two ... His death was a removal; for the light of the sun is not destroyed, but having retired for a while, appears again.

### ***St. John Chrysostom***

*Homilies LXVII, 2, and LXVIII, 1, on John XII., 4th Century*

## Parish and Ladies Altar Society Announcements

### **2018 Lots of Luck Calendars**

*The ACRY 2018 Lots of Luck Calendars are now available. Get yours from Pani Joan during coffee social after Liturgy or call 962-5285 and let her know you want to purchase one or more at \$25.00 each. Each week, played straight on the Pick 3 Pennsylvania Lottery you have a chance to win. Hurry, get yours now as they go fast!*

### **Christmas Family**

Every year we assist a local family during the Christmas season. This year we will purchase Aldi gift cards with your monetary donations. The cards will be given to a Social Service agency to be distributed to families in need. A donation basket will be in the hall until December 10th, in order to deliver them to the agency by Friday, December 15. Please be generous and contribute to this worthy cause. If you have questions, please see Carole Herrlich.

## **Christmas Cards!**

Don't get caught up in the commercial holiday sales. Avoid those secular symbols and corporate vendors. Beautiful, Orthodox style Christmas cards will be available again for purchase. Witness your faith to friends and family while benefiting our community. Sales begin soon at only \$1.50 each. *See Helen R.*

## **Old Shoe Drive to Benefit Rainbow of Hope Animal Shelter**

*The drive to collect Old Shoes to benefit the Rainbow of Hope Animal Shelter will continue through the end of the year hoping to collect 20,000 pairs of shoes as their goal to raise funds in their quest to help dogs in need of medical attention.*

## **Coffee Social**

*Over the years Saint Mary's has enjoyed a great coffee social after Divine Liturgy on Sundays. There is always great food and desserts to enjoy while socializing with our friends, family and visitors. Families have always volunteered to sponsor, set-up and clean-up every quarter during the year to make the Coffee Social for all to enjoy.*

*Unfortunately, this task has been left to one or two individuals this past year and it's time to "stand up" and help out. In the coming weeks, a 2018 calendar will be available for you to sign up at least once each quarter during the year and help out.*

*Remember, this is a form of STEWARDSHIP and a way to use the talents our Lord has given you.*

# Stewardship



## On Stewardship and the Orthodox Life - Part 124: The Best Thanksgiving is Giving

*"If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs.." Rudyard Kipling*

Fr. Robert Holet in his book, *The First and Finest*, states that "Stewardship is a response to God in thanksgiving." We hear the aphorism "it is better to give than to receive."

Research has shown that people that practice giving, are reported to have greater health, more happiness and joy and less feeling of stress. Another recent study indicated that giving a meaningful gift to one in need provides much more satisfaction than giving to masses. Mother Theresa once said, "If I look at the mass, I will never act. If I look at an individual, I will."

Archpriest George Morelli, Chairman of the Antiochian Archdiocese Department of Chaplain and Pastoral Counseling, in one of his many articles, tells us that "The Christian theology of giving is profound." It is the imitation of God. God gives continually and equally to all according to their needs. Are we not to imitate God? Are we not to give to others in need, in love and thanksgiving for what God has given us? "The lesson for giving is for us to see God in individual persons,' Morelli tells us.

During this Advent season, when most of the secular world looks to giving insignificant gifts, why not give the gift of the Gospel, Orthodoxy. Archimandrite Zacharias in his book, *Remember Thy First Love*, tells us that the Fathers of the fourth century, a time when the Church blossomed greatly, states that Christians in the last times will neither have strength to endure ascetic hardship nor be able to perform the godly works of the fathers of old but those "who succeeded simply in keeping the faith would be more glorified in heaven than those Fathers who worked miracles and even raised the dead to life."

As the Archimandrite states, "We see that God judges us with respect to the generation in which we live." Let our generation be the one that preserves and expounds the faith of our Fathers when all around us exhibits apostasy. Let us use our gifts that God has given us to preserve the fullness of our faith that our Fathers have given us.

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

## From Father's Desk

### **From Father's Desk**

- **If you** would like to meet with Father, please call him at 962-5285.
- **Emergency Sick Calls:** Father is available for emergencies at any time. Please call him at 962-5285 or 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 Service 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 962-5285.

***The Church does not permit Cremation!***

# Archpastoral Letter For The Nativity Fast 2017



Nativity Fast 2017 - Protocol N. 13/2017

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Dear Beloved Faithful Clergy and Laity of our God-Protected Diocese,

It is hard to believe that this month marks the fifth anniversary of my Consecration and Enthronement as your Bishop. During my visits to the parishes you have heard me preaching on the state of affairs, locally and globally. Conflicts, wars and senseless violence continue to inflict pain and suffering and spill blood everywhere. I am deeply saddened that peace continues to elude us. Recent events continue to reveal that demonic forces are fighting us, that evil continues to exist in the world. So many innocent people killed and wounded at a concert in Las Vegas. So many innocent killed and wounded in a small church in Texas. Everyday people are dying needlessly in our towns and cities. For what? Can someone please explain it to me? This lack of peace is the direct result of increased selfishness and hatred throughout the world. Whatever we as inhabitants of this planet are doing it is not working, somehow it is not enough. Obviously we as humans cannot achieve peace on our own. We need the help of someone and that someone is the Lord.

As we once again enter the Season of the Nativity Fast, I ask you, actually I plead with you, the good faithful people of our Diocese, to join me on a journey to meet the new born King. During these 40 days leading to the Nativity of our Lord let us increase our efforts in church attendance, in prayer, in fasting, in scriptural reading, in almsgiving, in repentance and confession, in receiving the Eucharist.

This year, just like the last two years, I am challenging everyone, clergy and laity, to offer a special prayer for peace during evening prayers. During the Litany of Fervent Supplication at each Divine Liturgy a special petition is also to be included. The text of these prayers will be provided to the Clergy for distribution. Each household should have sufficient copies so that each young person that can read has one by their bed to use nightly and those who are too young to read may say the prayer with their parents before they go to bed. Of course all the adults should also participate.

To assist with this challenge, [a special web page has been created on the Diocesan Website, Praying for Peace](#), which contains downloadable texts of the special prayers. Other postings will be made on various social media outlets to encourage maximum exposure and participation.

With all of us united in prayer and laboring for peace this Nativity Fasting Season, I am convinced that we will help to make our lives and that of others throughout the world more peaceful, even if only in a small way.

Working in His Vineyard with much love,



BISHOP GREGORY OF NYSSA

## 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; Deacon Charles Ellis; Deacon Donald Koch; Mother Raphaela; Pani Joan; Pani Connie Miloro; Pani Kathleen Dutko; Pani Patricia Duranko; 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; Art Gallant; Karen Kluchonic; Nancy Murphy-Teed; Timothy Wenck; Joyce Nisson, Chelsea Roman; Timothy Davis*

*Please remember Jonathan Share who is serving in the United State Navy and Tyler Colburn who is serving in the United State Army as well as all the Men and Woman serving our Country at home and abroad.*

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

### **BIRTHDAYS**

*November 25, 2017 John McKane*

*O God, grant to your servants good health, happiness, and salvation for many blessed years!*

## Bulletin/Eternal Light Sponsorship

*Bulletin and Eternal Light for this week was sponsored by*

**Father Dan & Pani Joan**

*in memory of*

**Michael Mahler**

**Michael Sovich**

*in observance of the Feast of the Archangel Michael*

*Memory Eternal! Vichnaja jem Pamjat!*

**Calendar**

November 25 to December 20, 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						1:00PM Trip to Myrrh-streaming Icon in Buffalo
26	27	28	29	30	DEC 1	2
9:30AM Divine Liturgy	5:00PM Bishop's anniversary dinner	Nativity Fast Begins				4:00PM Vespers / Confession
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30AM Divine Liturgy 11:00AM Birthdays	Theotokos Entry into the Temple 9:00AM Divine Liturgy - Theotokos Entry into Temple					4:00PM Vespers / Confession
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30AM Divine Liturgy 11:30AM Ladies Altar Society mtg.						4:00PM Vespers / Confession