

GENERAL & SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Regarding the Temple: In our tradition, the church temple is a house of prayer. Upon entering it, please refrain from unnecessary conversation before, during and after church services, most especially during the Divine Liturgy. Prior to divine services, or during coffee hour in the Church Hall is the appropriate place to exchange personal greetings and converse with one another. May God bless your reverence and piety!

Sick/Emergency Calls/Institutional Visitations: are answered as requests are received. All visitations are by request. Call to schedule an appointment.

Confessions: Are heard one half-hour before every service at Holy Assumption, and once a month at Ss. Peter & Paul. Special arrangements by necessity, and thereby, appointment only.

Sacraments of Illumination: In the case of infants, Baptism, Chrismation, & Eucharist are administered on ordinary Sundays of the church year, preferably in the context of Divine Liturgy. At least one sponsor must be of the Orthodox Faith and in good sacramental standing. The newly baptized must have one name that is Biblical or Christian in its origin.

What is Church Membership? By regulation, active membership in the church consists not merely in the payment of a set sum, or by fulfilling a *minimum* sacramental obligation, but rather in participation in the life of the church (commensurate with your physical ability). This includes entering into the spirit of the faith through regular and frequent attendance, participation in the divine mysteries, sustained financial support (at a percentage that reflects your ability), and adherence to the parish, diocesan, and national church statutes.

Receiving Communion: while all are welcome to pray with us, we politely offer a reminder that the Orthodox Church maintains a closed communion. All are welcome to Antidoron bread following the Divine Liturgy, but only prepared Orthodox Christians may receive the Eucharist. Orthodox Christians do not commune in non-Orthodox churches, and the non-Orthodox are not communed in an Orthodox Church. Thank you!

Lapsed Members: You are always welcome home, and we need you! Generally speaking, sincere Confession, Communion, and regular attendance are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Elijah for specific details.

New Members/Adult Chrismation: new members are always welcome. In the case of interested adults seeking Chrismation, a period of catechesis prescribed by the pastor is necessary before the administration of Holy Mysteries. An Orthodox sponsor is required.

Weddings: A minimum six-month notice is requested. Either Bride or Bride-groom must be an Orthodox Christian, and a parishioner in good standing. Dispensations may be required for inter-faith marriages (the marriage of an Orthodox & any non-Orthodox person). Banns of matrimony published 3 weeks before ceremony. No Weddings performed during fasting seasons!!!

Burial in Church Cemetery: Burial in consecrated ground is reserved for the Orthodox and their spouses/children. Charity burials, or odd circumstances are at the rector's discretion. It is strongly encouraged to hold viewings and visitation of the reposed in the church.

Our Stewardship of the Church: "Lord Jesus Christ, Thou art the good steward, who redeemed Adam and Eve of their failed stewardship by offering Thyself for the life of the world. Thou didst teach us in the feeding of the multitudes that whatever we give to God is returned to us multiplied. Thou didst praise those good and faithful servants in the parable of the talents who returned to the Master their gifts. So help us to learn the joy of stewardship, remembering that everything we have comes from Thee and belongs to Thee. We know, Lord, that we often live in fear of the future and insecurity. Help us to remember the lilies of the field and so to trust in Thy providence. Grant to us a cheerful and generous spirit. Enkindle in the hearts of all Thy people a zealous love for Thee. For Thou art the Good Steward, and to Thee we give thanks, praise and glory, together with Thy Father who is from everlasting and Thine all holy good and life-giving Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen."

Prayer When Lighting A Candle: "Set our hearts on fire with love for Thee, O Christ our God, so that in this flame we may love Thee with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and with all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, so that by keeping Thy commandments we may glorify Thee, the giver of all good gifts. Amen."

HOLY ASSUMPTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

629 Sunshine Avenue • Central City, Pa. 15926

SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Tipple Road • Goodtown, Pa. 15530



Very Rev. Archpriest Elijah J. Bremer, Rector
412 Short Cut Road • Alum Bank, Pa 15521
814-977-7397 • otets.ilya@yahoo.com

1st Sunday Post-Pentecost, All Saints
15 June 2025

“And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

(Matthew 10: 38)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE: 15 – 22 JUNE 2025

**Sunday
15 June
Tone 8**
**1st Sunday Post-Pentecost
Sunday of All Saints**
Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2
Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30
8:40 am, Hours of Prayer (CC)
9:00 am, Divine Liturgy (CC)
Happy Father's Day!

**Monday
16 June**
Apostles (Peter & Paul) Fast (Petrivka) Begins!

**Sunday
22 June
Tone 1**
**2nd Sunday Post-Pentecost
All American & Slavic Saints**
Epistle: Romans 2: 10-16
Gospel: Matthew 4: 18-23
8:40 am, Hours (CC)
9:00 am, Divine Liturgy (CC)

~Important Considerations ~

All persons are present at their own risk. Please refrain from attending if you are currently sick, or if you were exposed to a contagious disease. Also understand that if you do not attend Church for more than three weeks without just cause, according to canon law you must go to confession prior to receiving Holy Communion.

TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, All Saints' Day (also known as the Synaxis of All Saints) is celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost, which typically falls in June or July. This day commemorates all saints, including those whose names are known and those whose names are known only to God. It is a day of honoring all those who have lived according to the teachings of Christ.

The Sunday of All Saints is always celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost, the feast celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit. This day is a time to honor and remember all saints, not just those whose names are known and celebrated, but also those whose lives of faith and service are known only to God. The commemoration of all saints began as a day to remember martyrs, but has evolved to include all those who have lived according to Christ's teachings. The timing of All Saints' Day after Pentecost is significant, as it highlights the work of the Holy Spirit in sanctifying and transforming individuals



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Father's Day: today is the secular celebration of Father's Day. To all of the men in our parish, we wish a Happy Father's Day, and many, blessed years +

Altar & Volunteer Society Meeting: the society would like to meet on 6/22 immediately following Liturgy. All are welcome!

Summer Travels: many people take advantage of the summer months to travel. Sadly, planning around church attendance is not always a consideration. You will be happy to know that there is a research tool available to locate an Orthodox Church anywhere in North America. If you are traveling, you can search for an Orthodox Church through the Assembly of Canonical Bishop's website: <https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/directories/parishes/>. Simply enter a location, and you'll never be able to claim ignorance as an excuse to miss church! Or, if you are not technologically equipped, ask Fr. Elijah and he can provide the information for you. If you plan to commune in another canonical Orthodox Church, it is appropriate to email or call the priest first to introduce yourself. Fr. Elijah provided introductions for parishioners travelling as close as State College, and as far away as Rome, Italy. Please don't hesitate to ask!

Cemetery Blessing: because of the rain last week, we postponed the cemetery blessing to today. Again, weather will dictate our ability to complete this service.. Thank you for your cooperation and flexibility!

Fr. Elijah's Schedule: this is a polite reminder that Fr. Elijah's doctoral residency begins on 6/9 and ends on 6/20. Father and family also have vacation plans for the 23-27 June. This will not affect Sunday Liturgy, but it will mean that Father is away from the parish during that week. Emergency contacts are published below. Thank you!

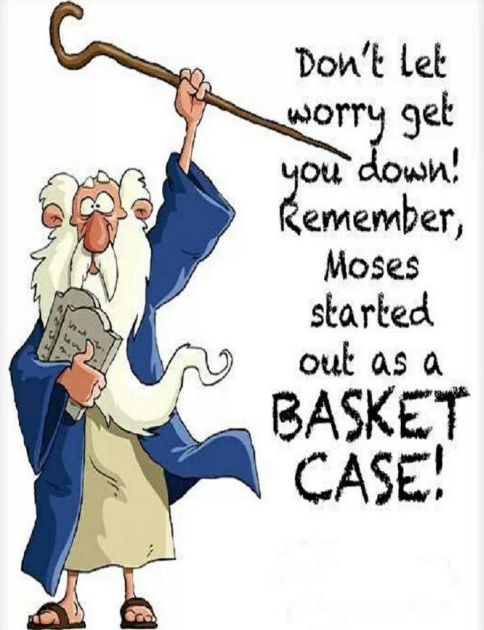
- Fr. George Johnson, St. John's, Conemaugh:
(814) 539-8613

- Fr. Dragan Vukovic, St. Nicholas, Johnstown:
(814) 244-4063

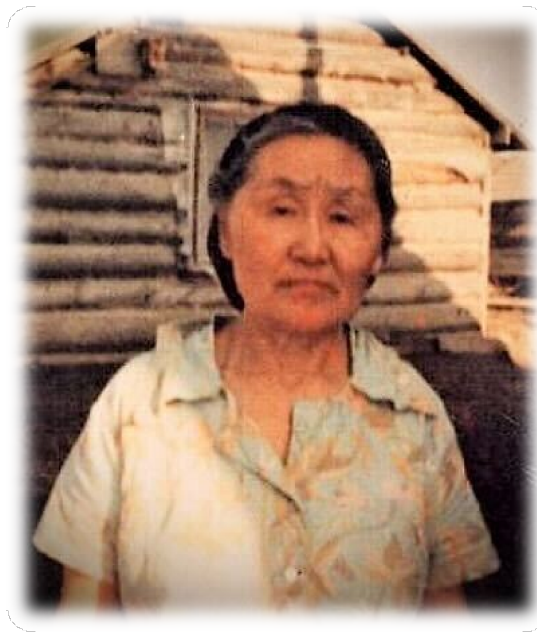
- Fr. Donald Shadid, St. Mary's, Johnstown:
(814)-255-2148

Flowers, Thank You: many thanks for the summer flowers on the Tetrapod. Please continue to bring them for Sunday and Holy Day liturgies. They truly beautify the temple and glorify God!

Quarterly Officers Meeting: the officers of Holy Assumption will meet for their quarterly meeting. The ideal day and time for this would be during coffee social on the 1st Sunday of July.



THE CANONIZATION OF RIGHTEOUS OLGA OF KWETHLUK (OCA.ORG)



The services celebrating the canonization of Matushka Olga Michael of Kwethluk, AK, will take place June 19 -22, 2025, in Kwethluk and Anchorage, AK. In November 2023, Matushka Olga was numbered among the saints by act of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, making her the first North American woman and the first Yup'ik person to be glorified as a saint in the Orthodox Church.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon will preside over the canonization services, concelebrating with other hierarchs and clergy of the Orthodox Church in America as well as delegations from other jurisdictions.

The canonization proper will take place in Matushka Olga's home village of Kwethluk, AK

Please note that, due to overwhelming interest, registration for the glorification events in Kwethluk

and Anchorage has been closed. The faithful are encouraged to participate with their prayers and by attending any local commemorations in their parishes. Please see the website of the Orthodox Church in America and the website of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska for further updates. Righteous mother Olga, pray to God for us!

Matushka Olga Michael, wife of the departed Archpriest Nikolai O. Michael from the village of Kwethluk on the Kuskokwim River in Alaska, as described in Fr. Michael Oleksa's book, Orthodox Alaska, was neither a "physically impressive or imposing figure." She raised eight children to maturity, giving birth to several of them without a midwife. While her husband was away taking care of many other parishes, she kept busy raising her family and doing many things for other people. One is reminded of the story of Tabitha in the book of Acts (9:36-ff) when hearing that "[i]n addition to sewing Father Nikolai's vestments in the early years and crafting beautiful parkas, boots and mittens for her children, she was constantly sewing or knitting socks or fur outerwear for others. Hardly a friend or neighbor was without something Matushka had made for them. Parishes hundreds of miles away received unsolicited gifts, traditional Eskimo winter boots ('mukluks') to sell or raffle for their building fund. All the clergy of the deanery wore gloves or woolen socks ...[which she] had made for them" (p. 203). While fulfilling many of the other tasks (like preparing the eucharistic bread) that are often assumed by other priests' wives, she also knew the hymns of many feast days, including Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha in Yup'ik (her Eskimo language) by heart. After, miraculously surviving an initial bout with cancer when it seemed that nothing could be done, she eventually succumbed to a return of the disease, preparing herself for death which took place on November 8, 1979 with great courage and faith.

"Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save him, the Lord shall raise him up" – James, 5: 14-15

Abp. Nathaniel Mat. Sasha	Abp. Melchisedek Mat. Laryssa	Abp. Michael Fr. Jim	Fr. Michael Mat. Sarah	Mat. Valeria	
Allison	Elaine	Charles	Katie	Mike	Pat
Sandi	Stephanie	Sophie	Nancy	Chrystyna	Damian
Noah	Emma	Henry	Natalia	Peter	Ashley
Mary-Evelyn	Bryan	Gregory	Debbie	Nancy	Mike
Donna	Kevin	Nick	Anne	Nick	Agnes
Robert	Mary Etta	Cory	Sharon	Kara	Michelle M.
Helen	Sandy	Kenneth	Scott	Jon	Rhonda
Bill	Sam	Betty	Jerry	Allan	Julie
Charles	Dakota	Kathy	Sue	Debbie	Ruth
Mary-Elizabeth	Darcel	Jennifer	Mary	Karis	Jeremiah
Lisa	Thelma	Shane	Mary Ann	Peter	Lawrence
Jonathan	Tammy	Kathie	Chris	Larry	Matthew
Betty Lou	Renée	Alexandra	Roxanne	Alexis	Gordon
Izzy	James	Curtis	Lita	Suzanne	Shirley-Ruth
George	Jean	Dale	Allen	Steven	Jim
Mitch	Johnnie	Charles	Nancy	Annette	Darren
Johnnie-Mac	David	Agnes	Barbara	Katherine	Joseph
Jan	Larry	Daniel	Monica	Dwain	Michael
Magdalena	Dorothy	Francesca	Kara	Andrew	Tim
Taissia	Daniel	Barbara	Mary Ann	Dave	Ashley
James	Eric	Mary-Louise	Barbara	Denise	Rachelle
Andy	Andrea	Amanda	John, Jr.	Mike	Jean
Ann	Mark	Samantha	Susan	Mary	Maria
Robert	Tim	Don	Mary Ann	Judith	Roxanne
Phyllis	George	Mary	Heidi	Dee Ann	Christine
Jeanne	Tim	Samantha	Bernie	Gene	Kim
Eleanor	John	Dave	Chuck	Anna-Sophie	Betty
Ray	Helen	Maryann	Julia	Jim	Antoinette
Shirley	Greg	Megan	Bob	Ann-Marie	Marie
Walt	Edward	Shaun	Hayes	Sue Y.	Donna
Betty	Robert	Jennifer	Ron	Linda	Gloria
Judy	Richie	Ray	McKenzie	Brady	Betty
Richard	Josephine	Shirley	Sandy	Karl	Gail
Janet	Tammy	Donna	John S.	Paige	Michelle B.
Pastor Dave	Keith	Johannes	Marcella	Linda	Gladys
Tammy	Jodi	Nancy K.	Rod	Larry	Ansley
Marsha	George	Louise	Jessica	Matthew	James
Mike	Hannah	Mike	Lubomyr	Tom	Lilly
Emerson	Cairo	Toni	Gary	Cindy	

Do you have prayer intentions? Remember you may add or remove intentions at any time. You do not have to be members of our parish, or even Orthodox to be placed on the list!



Feast of All Saints: PRIORITIES

Published by Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis

If you were to list out the things you love, where would God be on the list?

Take a moment and list all the things you love. My list would include The Lord, my wife, our son, my mom, my brother and his family, a couple of close friends, celebrating Liturgy, other aspects of my ministry, summer camp, and mowing the lawn.

Then take a moment and write down the top ten ways you spend your waking hours. If I give an hour a day to watching TV (so seven hours a week) but have no time to spend with my family, what does that say about my family as a priority? If I take time every day to read the newspaper but never open the Bible, what does that say about my relationship with God as a priority?

I mean where does reading the newspaper rank in relation to reading the Bible in your life? How about number of hours in front of the television compared with hours in worship? How about the amount of money spent on coffee compared to how much we give to the church or to charitable causes? Do what we SAY about our relationship with the Lord actually match what we are DOING?

If we line up our priorities as they really are, and list how we spend our time as we really spend it, I think it is safe to say that there is probably a significant gap.

Jesus is very clear in the Gospel lesson today that those who love things or people more than Him are not worthy of Him. For to be “worthy” of God means to put Him first in all things.

One can argue that no one is worthy of God. For to be worthy of God would be a statement of supreme arrogance. However, no one is worthy of God because God is not truly the first for us. Every time we sin, we fail to put God first. And we all sin. If we could actually keep Him first at all times, we would be worthy of Him. Because we all sin, we will never achieve “worthiness” of God, but making a lifelong pursuit of holiness will stand us in good stead to be made worthy by Him of His Kingdom.

So what is the meaning of the Gospel today? We are all hopeless failures? The lesson is that in the ideal life, God comes first. He comes before marriage, before children, before family,

before job, before sports, before temptations, before everything. The challenge of life is to not only love God but to put Him in the first place of our lives.

Again, if you took two scales and tried to balance them, placing your relationship with the Lord on one side and anything else on the other side, which side would have more weight, the side with the Lord, or the side with your family, your friends, your hobbies, sports, reading, etc? Weigh out your words—are there more words of prayer in a given week, or words of criticism, curse words, words of anger? Christ tells us that those who have made Him the priority of their lives, those who have left everything to follow, these are the ones who “*will receive a hundredfold and inherit eternal life.*” So, we have a challenge, but also a reward. And each day we should embrace the challenge, so that as life goes by, we can anticipate with joy the reward. Those who do not embrace this challenge have genuine fear as the time of life ebbs away. Those who have made God first greet the end of life with less fear and more joy.

There is one piece of good news I want to leave you with today and that is, if you haven’t made God a priority, it’s not too late. You can make Him a priority at any time. And today is as good a day as any to pray, worship, and love others. So, if your spiritual life is stalled, restart it today!

Your Church is arrayed in the holy blood of Your Martyrs who witnessed throughout the world, as though in purple and fine linen. Through them she cries to You, Christ our God, “Send down to Your people Your tender love, grant peace from above to Your commonwealth, and to our souls Your great mercy.

(Apolytikion of All Saints, Trans. by Fr. Seraphim Dedes)

