



600 Silver Lane, Stratford, CT 06614
www.stjohnsilverlane.net

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Pastor:
Very Rev E. Michael Macura
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Subdeacons:
Joseph Laput & Joel Pleban
Cantor:
Subdeacon Christopher Gombos
Parish President:
Carole Krochta
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**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!
GLORY FOREVER!**

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2017

Sunday, July 2nd

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 4th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 3
Readings: Romans 6:18 - 23; Matthew 8:5 – 13
Panahida: In Memory of Irene Babey (40th Day of Repose) offered by the Babey Family

Thursday, July 6th

7:00 p.m.: Great Vespers and Litiya for *Nativity of St. John the Baptist-Patronal Feast Day-Joint service here at Saint John's on Silver Lane*

Friday, July 7th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – *Nativity of St. John the Baptist-Patronal Feast Day-Joint Celebration of the Divine Liturgy at Saint John's on Mill Hill Avenue*



Sunday, July 9th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 5th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 4
Readings: Romans 10:1 – 10; Matthew 8:28 – 9:1
Panahida: In Memory of Robert & Georgiana Weldon (57th Wedding Anniversary) offered by Roger & Robert Weldon

Tuesday, July 11th

7:00 p.m.: Great Vespers and Litiya for the *Feast of the Apostles Peter & Paul*

Wednesday, July 12th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – *Feast of the Apostles Peter & Paul*

Sunday, July 16th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 6th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 5
Readings: Romans 12:6 – 14; Matthew 9:1 – 8
Panahida: In Memory of Georgiana Burr Weldon (7th Anniversary of Repose) offered by Roger & Robert Weldon

Sunday, July 23rd

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 7th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 6
Readings: Romans 15:1 – 7; Matthew 9:27 – 35
Panahida: In Memory of Cousin Elizabeth Betsy Hetherington offered by Carole Krochta

Sunday, July 30th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 8th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 7
Readings: I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 14:14–22
Panahida: In memory of Terry Young offered by the Samilenko Family

Sunday, August 6th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 9th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 8
Readings: I Corinthians 3:9–17; Matthew 14:22–34

FOLLOW OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website:

<http://www.acrod.org>

Camp Nazareth:

<http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

You Tube:

<https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

FROM FATHER MICHAEL

CONTACTING FATHER

You may call me at either of the following numbers: 203-386-8888 or my cell phone at 203-218-1627. Contact me at any time and especially in the event of any emergencies, hospitalizations or problems that may arise.

FACEBOOK/WEBSITE

Follow and "like" us on Facebook to keep up to date. Search "St. John's Orthodox Church of Silver Lane" on your Facebook search engine to find our site or visit our church website at www.stjohnsilverlane.net where there is a link you can click to our Facebook site. Add these to your favorites and visit us frequently!

NICEAN CREED CHANTER SCHEDULE

The following groups and/or individuals are scheduled to chant the Nicean Creed on the following dates:

7/2 Chris Gombos	7/23 Chris Gombos
7/9 Pete Samilenko	7/30 Pete Samilenko
7/16 Congregation	8/6 Congregation

ALTAR SERVERS

All Altar servers are expected to be in the sanctuary at least five minutes before the beginning of any Liturgical service. Please try to arrive on time. The following altar servers are responsible for the altar on the following dates:

7/2 David P	7/23 David P
7/9 Stephen O	7/30 Stephen O
7/16 Magnus O	8/6 Magnus O

Stewardship

SUMMERTIME STEWARDSHIP OFFERING

Summer time is here and with it the idea of taking a vacation...even from church! However, church services continue, bills pile up and offerings drop due to the lack of people coming to church. Don't forget your financial obligations to the church during the summer months. Make your offerings before you leave on vacation! We are seven months into the year 2017! Hopefully, we all have made a commitment to participate in our church stewardship offering for the year and to put aside at least our "dollar-a-day", or whatever we are able to, in order to help support the work of our church

especially during the summer months. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless all of you with health and happiness as you continue to participate during these very difficult times! Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

CANDLE DONATIONS

July 2nd

- Eternal Candle offered by Carole Krochta in memory of Irene Babey. Memory Eternal!

July 9th

- Altar Taper Candles offered by Subdeacon Joel Pleban in memory of Paul Rosenthal. Memory Eternal!

July 16th

- Eternal Candle offered by Carole Krochta in memory of husband Walter Krochta. Memory Eternal!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The people listed below who are in need of our special prayers: Michael Andrenyak, Ann Balasa, Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Fr. Larry Barriger, Judy Berard, Fr. Thomas Blaschak, Lena Bobko, Lenny Booth, Andrea Bower, Dean Bradford (Mer. Marine), Penny Briganti, Andre Briganti, Melissa Brock, Rosemary Brown, Kimberly Calhoun, Shirley Canaan, Jean & Joseph Candela, Michael Capuano, Joyce Cayer, Protopresbyter David Cochran, Burton Cornell, MaryAnn Damato, Ray Davidson, Jeff Delvecchio, Laura DeMayo, Karen Dobosz, Joan Dumas, Fr. John & Pani Patricia Duranko, Noreen Ehnot, Marie Eichler, Fr. John & Pani Anna Jane Fencik, Carol & Bob Ferik, Bill Forth, Fr. John Gido, Chris, Eileen, Sarah, Nicholas & Annie Gombos, Ryan Gombos, Ken & Marie Hegyi, Tom Hetherington, Bruce Hultgren, Gus Jarosko, Maya Joyner, Pani Katherine Jula, Jessica Keane, Peter Kepchar, Bettie Kerpchar, Barbara Kolaric, Sarah Kotos, Pani Anne Kozar, Michele Krochta, Subdeacon Joseph Laput, Marcia Laput, Gregory Laput, Thomas Laput, Mark Lawruszko, Irene Lombard, Elsi Lotufo, John Lovell, Fr. Robert Lucas, Arthur Macura, Fr. Daniel Mahler, Irene Maty, Don Maxton, Peter McGinnis, Frank Meyernick, Lillian Mierzejewski, Protopresbyter Luke Mihaly, Megan Morrissey, Fr. Ted Mozes, Philip Murphy, Merle Palmer, John Papa, Raymond Peterson, Verna & Michael Pistey, Roseann & John Plavnicky, Adriana Pleban, Sandy Pleban, Betty Pollman, Pani Eleanor Pribish, Fr. Michael Psenechnuk, Judy Restieri, Linda Rosinsky, Pani Helen Shutack, Cheryl Schultz, Josephine Sinatro, Pani Anna Slovesko, Pani Donna Smoley, Barbara Susi, Susanne Talley, Sarah Tartaglio, Pani Peggy Teklinsky, Daniel & Sebastian Tomy, Gary Wolff, Karen Ann Yuschak, Fr. John Zboyovski, Michael, Paula, Daniel, Holly, Tiffany, Lynn, Susan, Betty, Ann, Carol, Greg,

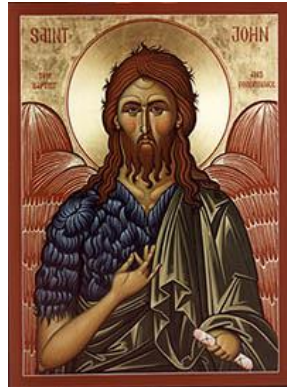
Jackie, Savannah, Rekha & Our US Military Personnel

John the Forerunner

The glorious Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist is also referred to as John the Forerunner because he was the forerunner of Christ. He was an ascetic and great prophet, who baptized Christ and became one of the most revered saints in the Orthodox Church.

John is a cousin of Christ through his mother

Elizabeth who was the daughter of Zoia. Zoia is the sister of Christ's grandmother. He was later beheaded by Herod in the first century to satisfy the request of Herod's stepdaughter, Salome, and wife Herodias. Because he baptized Christ, he is the patron saint of godparents. He is sometimes called the *Angel of the Desert*; because of this title, he is sometimes depicted with wings.



Isaiah 40:3-5 is commonly read as a prophecy of John. His father, Zacharias, was a priest of the course of Abia (1 Chr. 24:10), and his mother, Elizabeth, was of the daughters of Aaron (Luke 1:5). John held the priesthood of Aaron, giving him the authority to perform baptisms of God.

His birth took place six months before that of Jesus and according to the Gospel account was expected by prophecy (Matt. 3:3; Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1) and foretold by an angel. Zacharias lost his power of speech because of his unbelief over the birth of his son, and had it restored on the occasion of John's circumcision (Luke 1:64).

John was a Nazarite from his birth (Luke 1:15; Num. 6:1-12). He spent his early years in the mountainous tract of Judea lying between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea (Matt. 3:1-12). He led a simple life, wearing rope (gamla) fiber clothing and eating "locusts and wild honey" (Matt. 3:4).

As an adult John started to preach in public, and people from "every quarter" were attracted to his message. The essence of his preaching was the necessity of repentance and turning away from selfish pursuits. He denounced the Sadducees and Pharisees as a "generation of vipers," and warned them not to assume their heritage gave them special privilege (Luke 3:8). He warned tax collectors and soldiers against extortion and plunder. His doctrine and manner of life stirred

interest, bringing people from all parts to see him on the banks of the Jordan River. There he baptized thousands unto repentance. The fame of John reached the ears of Jesus in Nazareth (Matt. 3:5), and he came from Galilee to Jordan to be baptized by John, on the special ground that it became him to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15). John's special office ceased with the baptism of Jesus, who must now "increase" as the King come to his kingdom. He continued, however, for a while to bear testimony to the Messiahship of Jesus. He pointed him out to his disciples, saying, "Behold the Lamb of God." His public ministry was suddenly (after about six months probably) brought to a close by his being cast into prison by Herod, whom he had reproved for the sin of having taken to himself the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19). He was shut up in the castle of Machaerus, a fortress on the southern extremity of Peraea, 9 miles east of the Dead Sea, and here he was beheaded at the instigation of Herodias; later tradition also implicates Salomé. His disciples, having consigned the headless body to the grave, went and told Jesus all that had occurred (Matt. 14:3-12). John's death occurred apparently just before the third Passover of Jesus' ministry.

Jesus himself testified regarding John that he was a "burning and a shining light" (John 5:35). John was the last of the Old Testament prophets, thus serving as a bridge figure between that period of revelation and Jesus. They also embrace a tradition that, following his death, John descended into Hell and there once more preached that Jesus the Messiah was coming. (orthodoxwiki.org)

Subdeacon Joel Pleban to Participate with the 2017 Kenya Youth Work Team December 6 - 16

Nairobi, KENYA – There is an urgent need to safeguard 'our children' in and out of school surrounding the Makarios III Patriarchal Seminary in Nairobi. Make a difference in the lives of the youth by participating in a Youth Mentorship Program. This initiative is geared to help teens with life skills while sharing the Orthodox Faith. The 2017 Kenya Mission Team has been invited by His Eminence Archbishop MAKARIOS of Kenya to participate in a mentorship program for youth and teens. The "Teen & Youth Mentorship Program" of the Orthodox Archdiocese of Kenya will take place at by the St. Clement of Alexandria Primary School, located near the Makarios III Patriarchal Seminary.

This mentorship program shall incorporate children, teens and youth from the greater Kawangware community and other parts of Nairobi. This program hopes to: cultivate an atmosphere for self awareness and self confidence; help teens and youth to appreciate education; equip teens and youth with life skills beyond academics; and impart a positive approach and attitude to life for teens and youth from destitute backgrounds. There will be different activities for each "target" group. The activities day will be led by facilitators for each target group, and include indoor and outdoor activities.

Orthodoxy arose in East Africa without the influence of foreign missionaries. The Church was founded by two charismatic African men searching for truth and 'orthodoxia' in the 1920's. The Orthodox Church in Kenya was received into canonical Orthodoxy in 1946, and the Makarios III Patriarchal Seminary was opened in the 1980's to train indigenous priests from Africa. OCMC has supported the work of the Orthodox Church in Kenya for over 30 years and continues to provide support for theological and catechetical training, and works with church leaders to address issues of self-sufficiency for the church. Presently, the Church in Kenya has three hierarchs, His Eminence Archbishop MAKARIOS of Kenya, Bishop NEOPHYTOS of Nyeri and Mount Kenya, and Bishop ATHANASIOS of Kisumu and Western Kenya.

Share the teachings of the Orthodox faith and be a part of laying the foundation of the Faith for the youth. Be a part of this mentorship program of the Church in Kenya. Participants should be well-grounded in the basic teachings of the Church and prepared to offer basic Orthodox catechism and religious education. Social workers, peer counselors, career advisers and spiritual leaders needed.

Traveling From: 12/6/2017 to 12/16/2017;
Team Cost: \$1070*

Fund raising – Each Team member is responsible for the participant cost and airfares. Team members raise funds to cover the cost of their participation. Participants are encouraged to let others know that they will be sharing in the work of missions through their tax-deductible donations, and invite others to participate through prayer and financial support. The cost includes room and board, local transportation, orientation costs, ministry expenses, excursion and materials.

OCMC relies solely on gifts and offerings from churches and individuals for support. If you would

like to contribute to this ministry mission project – facilitators, fees, materials – we welcome you to do so and are grateful for your support. This is optional and for that reason it is **not** included in the participant cost.

Share in a journey of faith... *Orthodox Mission Team members are challenged to view the world with God's eyes and seek how He wants to use them to fulfill His plans. This cross-cultural experience, combined with outreach, offers participants a life-changing learning experience. This experience is about people, culture and missions. It is also about prayer, for you and others; it is about God, those you serve, and about yourself, as you serve Him.*

Team Members

Mr. Joel F Pleban
Richard a Winkel
Kyle Sterner
Eleni Karamatskos

Subdeacon Joel has asked for your prayers for a safe and fruitful trip. Anyone who would like to be a part of this outreach and mission is invited to sponsor and support Subdeacon Joel to help defray the cost of this mission trip and outreach to Kenya. You may do so by going to the OCMC site: https://www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx or by talking with him directly over the next several months. This is an opportunity for all of us to be participants in Orthodox Missions on a world wide scale and to be the good stewards we are called to be.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9th: Sharon L
30th: Melissa T

16th: Emilia O

DON'T FORGET

- **If you or a family member goes into the hospital**, please have someone contact Father Michael immediately. Hospitals no longer give out patient information when priests call to ask if a parishioner is a patient.
- **If you are at St. John's Cemetery in Stratford**, take a moment to visit Metropolitan Orestes and Pani Yolanda's gravesite near the chapel to say a prayer and water the flowers.
- **If you would like to request a panahida service** on a Sunday, please add it to the panahida listing on the back table in church.

- **If you would like to have Altar Candles, Eternal Light, or side Iconostas Candles lit in honor of or in memory of family or friends**, please register on our signup sheet in the back of the church. A donation of \$5.00 is appreciated.
- **Please refrain from texting and phone calls during church.** There's a time and place for that ... and it's not during church services. If you must take a call, we ask that you step downstairs so as not to disturb everyone else.
- **You can help beautify our church by donating live flowers for the tetrapod for the health of or in memory of family or friends.** Simply sign up on our weekly listing in the back of the church. You can either: purchase the flowers and bring them on Saturday evening or Sunday morning (by 8:00 a.m.) to put into the vases – or – you can give a donation in advance for flowers to be purchased and placed on the altar. You can take the flowers home after services if you would like.
- **Annual Dues** has been raised to \$170.00 per adult to adjust for the diocesan increase.

OFFICERS MEETING

The monthly meeting of our church officers will take place on Monday, July 24th at 7:00 pm in the church hall. All officers are asked to attend.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Keep in touch with the following people by sending a card or note, calling or visiting them. Let them know they are being prayed for and that they are missed and thought of often!

- Mike Andrenyak, 425 California Street, Stratford, CT 06614
- Pani Helen Shutack, 229 Walnut Street, Apt 1, Royersford, PA 19468

THANK YOU TO

- ❖ To Chris Gombos & family, John & Mary Kamenitsky, Carole Krochta, Sharon Lawruszko, Fr. Michael, Joel Pleban, Ben Porco & Yan Ling, and the Samilenko family who donated towards our John Street Project so that we could provide a nourishing lunch to our friends on John Street in June. They truly appreciate all that we bring them.
- ❖ Our donors in memory of the newly departed Irene Babey: Marge Kerpchar, Elsi Lotufo, Dorothy Marson, Sandy Pleban, Samilenko family, Teecia Sorrentino
- ❖ Our donors in memory of the newly departed John Sabol: Anonymous
- ❖ All who attended and worked at our Food and Tag Sale ... we sold out of Stuffed Cabbage, Halushki, Roast Beef and Burgers before closing!

- ❖ **Our Stewards, God's Gardeners, grounds and church cleaners!**

WEDNESDAY BINGO

Come down to our weekly Wednesday Night BINGO in the Church Hall. BINGO begins at 6:45 p.m. with a "Winner Take All" game at 6:30 p.m. for early arrivals! We have free coffee and soda available during BINGO along with snacks. Hot dogs are for sale from 5:00 pm to the start of BINGO.



ALL STAR BREAK DINNER AND BINGO

Come on out for our All Star Break Dinner at 4:00 pm on Sunday, July 16th in our air-conditioned church hall. Join us for a roast beef meal sure to fill everyone! Cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. We will also have Bingo games starting at 5:30 pm if you would like to stay and participate in those as well. Admission is \$1.00 for Bingo. Take out meals are available for \$11.00 and can be picked up after 5:30 pm. Contact Carole K if you would like to make a reservation to eat in or take out before the 10th so we can make sure we have enough food to feed everyone. Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve and clean up at the meal.



OUR GRADUATES

Congratulations to our 2017 graduates! Help us wish them well in their next steps!

Elementary School Graduates:

Nicholas and Anne Gombos were promoted from McKinley Elementary School and will be attending Tomlinson Middle School next!



High School Graduates:

Emilia Ordner graduated from Bunnell High School and will be attending Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, Maine this fall where she will participate in NROTC.



Melissa Tartaglio graduated from Trumbull High School and will be attending the School of Visual Arts in New York City, NY this fall to study Film and Animation.



College Graduate:

Kristen Grabarz graduated summa cum laude with department honors in economics majoring in economics and cognitive psychology and a minor in statistics from University of Pennsylvania. She will begin working for Facebook in September.



SUMMERTIME FOOD TO GO SALE

We will be selling our delicious stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, and homemade halushki to eat in or take out on Sunday, August 6th from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon in the church hall. Stop by to pick up some ethnic "soul food" so you don't have to cook! Containers cost: stuffed cabbage \$6.00, mashed potatoes \$1.50, and halushki \$5.00. If you can help sell food items that day, please let Carole Krochta know.

LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER DINNER AND BINGO

Join us on Sunday, August 13th for our Dinner and Bingo. Dinner starts at 4:00 p.m. and will feature Pasta and Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert for \$10.00 per adult (\$5.00 for children under 12). Bingo will follow at 5:30 p.m. and admission is \$1.00 per person. Please contact Carole by August 6th to make reservations to attend or get a take out dinner made for you. Help is also needed serving food and washing dishes.

HELPING OUR FRIENDS ON JOHN STREET

We are looking for some help to provide assistance to our friends who live on the streets of Bridgeport by providing a nourishing lunch (sandwiches, bottled water, snack bags, fruit) and some personal items (socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, etc.). Can you reach into your heart and help by donating the personal items or snack bags, fruit, bottled water, etc. or make a monetary donation so someone could shop for these items? Could you be one of 13 volunteers to go down to John Street on August 20th after church to distribute these items? See Debbie S by July 31st to sign up!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO ALASKA

Please keep in your prayers those youth and advisors who will be traveling to Alaska in July to work on the building of a church as part of their Youth Mission Trip. Our Melissa Tartaglio is part of this amazing team of people helping to make a difference!

JOHN STREET VOLUNTEERS IN JUNE



CHURCH SHOPPING WISH LIST

Donations of the following new items would be greatly appreciated for church:

- Paper Towels
- 2 liter Bottled Soda & Bottled Water
- Regular & Decaf Coffee (please no dark roast)
- Large Bags of Pretzels or Chips
- White Luncheon Napkins

Thank you to everyone who donated items this past month!

NATIONAL ACRY CONVENTION

St. Nicholas Church ACRY in Homestead, PA, will be your hosts for the 2017 National Senior and Junior ACRY Conventions over Labor Day Weekend! Information on the weekend events (meetings, services, social events) are available on the ACRY web-site (www.acry.org). See Peter Samilenko to register for meals so we can send in one form and to purchase patrons/boosters in support of the event before July 23rd.

GODS GARDENER PROJECTS

Please support these projects that parishioners sponsor for the benefit of our parish operating fund:

Recycle Used Cell Phones & Printer Cartridges:

Drop off unwanted cell phones & ink jet cartridges in the labeled boxes in our church hall instead of

having it pollute our landfills. The Gombos Family will recycle them for us!

Recycle Your Cans:

Bring your recyclable deposit cans, soda & water bottles to church or contact Subdeacon Joel Pleban to pick up your clean recyclable cans/bottles. He'll redeem them for the church. What a great way to help keep the earth a little cleaner!

Pampered Chef:

Stock up on favorite must have kitchen items & seasonings from Pampered Chef. 15% of the sales price goes to St. John's. Free shipping for purchases through God's Gardener. Free Pampered Chef product for any order over \$75.00. Earn even more for St. John's and yourself if you collect \$200 in orders from your friends and family. See or call Mercury @ 203.449.0115 for the new catalog with fabulous new Pampered Chef products!

Recycle Clothes, Linens, Shoes and More

Bring your useable clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillow cases, blankets, curtains, towels, & stuffed animals to our St. Pauly Textile Drop-Off Shed to help our church. St. Pauly send it to people who need it here in the United States & all over the world

THIS MONTHS SCHEDULE OF COLLECTIONS & VOLUNTEERS

Envelope (Curators):

07/02: Maintenance/Repairs & Weekly Offering (Wendy & Sharon)

07/09: Dues & Weekly Offering (Melanie & Mercury)

07/16: Weekly Offering (Kim & Wendy)

07/23: Air Conditioning & Weekly Offering (Sharon & Melanie)

07/30: Weekly Offering (Mercury & Kim)

Note: There is only one collection basket after the sermon. All envelopes for the day can go in that basket.

Bingo Workers:

07/05: Chris, Carole, Debbie

07/12: Mary, Carole

07/19: Carole, Sharon, Debbie

07/26: Chris, Mary, Carole

08/02: Chris, Carole, Debbie

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

07/02: Debbie S

07/09: Michelle T

07/16: Carole K

07/23: Sharon L

07/30: Wendy P

08/06: Elle H

08/13: Melanie O

08/20: Teecia S

08/27: Kim P