



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

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Pastor:
Very Rev E. Michael Macura
Phone: 203.386.8888 - Cell: 203.218.1627
Email: frmichael@optonline.net
Subdeacons:
Joseph Laput & Joel Pleban
Cantor:
Subdeacon Christopher Gombos
Parish President:
Carole Krochta
Phone: 203.375.2621
Email: cwkrochta@optonline.net

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR JULY 31 and AUGUST 2016

Sunday, July 31st

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 Theresa Young on her
birthday offered by brother John Sabol

Tuesday, August 2nd

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy for the *Feast of the
Prophet Elias* at St. John's on Mill Hill Ave. in
Bridgeport

Sunday, August 7th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 7th Sunday after
Pentecost - Tone 6

Readings: Romans 15:1 – 7; Matthew 9:27 – 35
10:30 a.m.: Blessing of Cars and Other Modes of
Transportation

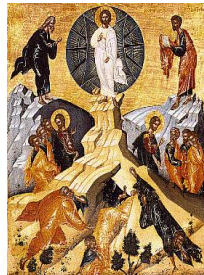
Sunday, August 14th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 8th Sunday after
Pentecost – Tone 7- *Dormition Fast Begins*

Readings: I Corinthians 1:10 - 18; Matthew 14:14
– 22

Thursday, August 18th

7:00 p.m.: Great Vespers and
Litiya for the *Transfiguration of
Our Lord – Blessing of Fruit*



Friday, August 19th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy -
*Transfiguration of Our Lord
Jesus Christ - Blessing of Fruit*

Sunday, August 21st

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 9th Sunday after
Pentecost - Tone 8 – *Blessing of Fruit and Blessing
of Students & Teachers*

Readings: I Corinthians 3:9–17; Matthew 14:22–34

Saturday August 27th

5:00 p.m.: Great Vespers and

Litiya for the *Feast of the*

Dormition of the Mother of God - Blessing of Flowers

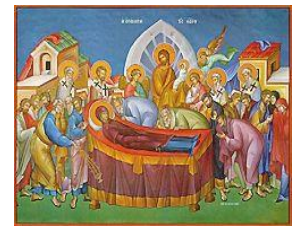


Sunday, August 28th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy -
*Feast of the Dormition of the
Mother of God- Blessing of
Flowers -10th Sunday after
Pentecost - Tone 1*

Readings: 1 Corinthians 4:9
– 16; Matthew 17:14 – 23

Panahida: In memory of Ann Karpinowich (1st
Anniversary of Repose) offered by Peter, Debbie &
Joe Samilenko



Sunday, September 4th

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 11th Sunday after
Pentecost – Tone 2

Readings: 1 Corinthians 9:2–12; Matthew 18:23–35



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.

CHURCH ATTIRE

While it is not absolutely necessary to dress formally for church, it is important, however, that we dress in a modest manner that shows respect for God. Our church is air conditioned and usually comfortably cool for church services during the summer months. So please remember it is NOT appropriate for men or women to wear short pants in church; this is also true for children ages 6 and up. Very short skirts and low cut/sleeveless blouses are also not appropriate. Be respectful of God and considerate of your fellow worshippers who are there to pray without distraction.

SUMMER VACATIONS

MY YEARLY REMINDER: Summer is the time for vacations and fun...it is also the time we sometimes forget about our financial stewardship to our Church. Let us not forget that the church still has to pay the bills, even when we are on vacation. Remember your stewardship obligations BEFORE you leave on vacation and DURING the time that you are away. Be thankful for and enjoy the blessings that our Lord has given to you, but also remember to be a good steward of your church! Be safe and may God bless all of you in your travels!!

NICEAN CREED CHANTER SCHEDULE

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

08/07 Joe Samilenko	08/28 Peter Samilenko
08/14 Subdeacon Joe	09/04 Subdeacon Chris
08/21 Congregation	09/11 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:

08/07 Magnus Ordner	08/21 Stephen Ordner
08/14 David Pleban	08/28 Joe Samilenko

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!

YOUR STEWARDSHIP

Food for thought...the Year 2016 is already into its eighth month! Are you being a good steward of your church? Time passes quickly...don't wait! Share your Time, Talent and/or Treasure!

CANDLE DONATIONS

August 7th

- Tetrapod Candles offered by the Samilenko Family in honor and for health of Andrew & Anastasia Koss on the occasion of their birthday. Happy Birthday! Many Years!

August 14th

- Tetrapod Candles offered by the Samilenko Family in honor and for health of Christian Samilenko on the occasion of his birthday. Happy Birthday! Many Years!
- Altar Candles offered by Sandy Pleban in honor and for health of daughter Lisa Pleban on the occasion of her birthday. Happy Birthday! Many Years!

August 21st

- Altar Taper Candles offered by Sandy Pleban in honor and for health of daughter Lisa Pleban on the occasion of her birthday. Happy Birthday! Many Years!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The people listed below who are in need of our special prayers:

Michael & Nina Andrenyak, Irene Babey, 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, Protospesbyter David Cochran, MaryAnn Damato, Ray Davidson, Jeff Delvecchio, Laura DeMayo, Karen Dobosz, Joan Dumas, Fr. John & Pani Patricia Duranko, Noreen Ehnot, Marie Eichler, Fr. John Fencik, Carol & Bob Ferik, Bill Forth, Fr. John Gido, Fr. Ronald Hazuda, Chris, Eileen, Sarah, Nicholas & Annie Gombos, Ken & Marie Hegyi, Fr. Paul Herbert, Betsy & Tom Hetherington, Bruce Hultgren, Gus Jarosko, Maya Joyner, Pani

Katherine Jula, Jessica Keane, Peter Kepchar, Bettie Kerpchar, Barbara Kolaric, Sarah Kotos, Protopresbyter Elias & 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, Kim Pollman, Pani Eleanor Pribish, Fr. Michael Psenechnuk, Liam Rice, Linda Rosinsky, John Sabol, Pani Helen Shutack, Cheryl Schultz, Josephine Sinatro, Pani Anna Slovesko, Pani Donnas Smoley, Diane Sorrentino, 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 & Our US Military Personnel

Taking a Vacation with God

Fr. Vasile Catalin Tudora

Everybody loves vacation. We all dream lying on a beach in the Mediterranean, or enjoying a majestic sunrise in a small hut lost in the mountains, or even savoring a week of just doing nothing but sipping a cold drink on the porch. So as soon as the school is off and people go out of town we start seeing more and more empty pews in church every Sunday.

Although this is normal occurrence, glancing at the unfilled seats brings this question to mind: Can we also take a vacation from God? Can we say one morning: for a week or a month I am not going to say my prayers, I will not fast nor attend Church services until I come back from holidays; I've prayed the whole year, let others pray for me during this time?

Looking into the Scripture for an answer we discover the words of St. Apostle Paul who recommends to "pray without ceasing" (1Th 5:17). We also find that Jesus Christ Himself urges that we "ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1). The Bible is full of such advice and there is really no place that advocates taking a spiritual "break". There is however enough evidence to say that every time man wanted to "break-away" from the relationship with God it eventually ended up in being sorry for it.

So how do we marry the two: resting our tired bodies and minds but also keeping intact our spiritual connection with God?

If we look closely at this quandary we realize that is actually a false one since we don't have to

flee from God to find rest. On the contrary by remaining in close contact with Him we are also in contact with the One that says: "Come to me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Mat 11:128). Who can comfort better our hurting souls and minds but the one that is the source of peace? Who can give us the love we miss in the harsh and insensitive work places, but our loving Father? Who can better soothe the fear of failure than He Who achieved all we could ever hope for, our salvation. "For I satisfy the weary soul, and I fill every sorrowful soul" (Jer 31:25).

Many people have the illusion that if they get far enough from their problems once they come back they will go away. They try to change the crude reality by numbing themselves with parties and drinks, hoping for a different outcome when they get home. But this is more often false than true, and coming back proves harder than it was before. Escalating our tolerance to sin and putting our conscience to sleep is not the answer.

Vacation time would be put to better use if, instead of trying to get away from our problems by hiding in a vacation resort like an ostrich in the sand, we sought resolution of our uncertainties in God by deepening our prayers. When we are freed from a demanding work schedule anymore, we can allow more time to prayer, more bonding time with our greatest Friend, wherever we may choose to be. God is everywhere, from the mountains to the sea; there is not a place where God is not and our prayers are not heard.

We need prayer especially in our dedicated time for rest because the only true place of rest is with God: "For he who has entered into His rest, he also has ceased from his own works" (Heb 4:10). By taking our problems to God we find out that in Him all the worries are gone, vanished, all the troubles that seem so impossible to pass cease to exist because in His presence we realize that our lives have a greater purpose than being slaves to our jobs. We do not live to work but we work to live, as the saying goes. In Him our priorities are shifted toward what really matters in this life and into eternity.

As you plan your vacation, pack a prayer book along with the sandals. Attend the closest Orthodox Church to your destination or make a detour at a monastery to get spiritual advice from one of the elders. And even if these suggestions won't work, take with you a short prayer that can be said wherever you are: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me!" This prayer, repeated whenever you will have some idle time, will be your best travel companion. It guides you to the destination not found on any tourist map: upwards, where worries end and peace lasts forever.

Fr. Vasile Tudora pastors St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Euless, TX, and edits the [Gladsome Light Dialogues](#) blog

The Humorous Side of Prayer

The Kindergarten Sunday School class was discussing prayer and the children seemed aware that the way you end a prayer was with the word "Amen."

"Does anyone know what 'Amen' means?" the teacher asked.

There was a long silence. Then one little boy piped up, with appropriate, computer-age gestures, and said, "Well, I think it means, like, 'Send'."

(good-clean-fun@yahoo.com)

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Please stay 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!

- Irene Babey, c/o Jewish Senior Services, 4200 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
- Ann Balasa, 218 Virginia Ave, Unit 2B, Bridgeport, CT 06610
- Pani Helen Shutack, 218 Virginia Ave, Unit 2B, Bridgeport, CT 06610



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2nd: Stephen V 26th: Melanie O
19th: Lisa P 31st: Karen D & Elle H

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

8th: Bill & Melanie O 10th: Tony & Teecia S

DON'T FORGET

- **When you are at St. John's Cemetery in Stratford** caring for a loved one's gravesite, please stop by Metropolitan Orestes and Pani Yolanda's gravesite to offer a prayer and water/prune the flowers. Thank you!
- **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.
- **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 would like to request a panahida service** on a Sunday, please add it to the panahida listing on the back table in church.
- **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 the call or text absolutely cannot wait, we ask that you step downstairs so as not to disturb anyone else.

- **Yearly parish financial obligations are traditionally taken care of during the Lenten season.** However, if circumstances prevent this from occurring you can pay them in monthly installments during the year (or use monthly offering envelope). To be a member in good standing, you must pay yearly dues of **\$165.00 per adult** plus all past yearly dues that you may be delinquent in paying. A portion of your annual dues goes to pay your diocesan yearly dues. Not sure if you are up-to-date? Please see Financial Secretary Debbie Samilenko to find out your financial status.

THANK YOU TO

- ❖ Those who made donations towards our tree removal expenses: Ann Ehnot, Carole Krochta, Fr. Michael Macura, Bill & Melanie Ordner, Robin Pasquino, Sandy Pleban
- ❖ **Northeast Tree Service LLC** (Bridgeport, CT) who did a very professional and thorough job of removing 2 large trees on our property that were rotting inside their trunks. We highly recommend them to anyone needing tree service!
- ❖ All who cooked and attended our Take Me Out to the Ball Game Dinner and Bingo
- ❖ **Our Stewards, God's Gardeners, grounds and church cleaners!**

OFFICERS MEETING

The monthly meeting of our church officers will take place on Monday, August 22nd at 7:00 pm in the church hall. All officers are asked to attend.

WEDNESDAY BINGO

Don't forget to 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. Prior to Bingo from 5:00 – 6:30 pm we will have hot dogs for sale.



ANNUAL FAMILY & FRIENDS PICNIC

Join us on Sunday, August 21st, on the church grounds with family and friends at our annual picnic from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. You, your family and friends are all invited to join us on our church grounds and enjoy good Christian fellowship. There will be many good foods to eat including the traditional hot dogs, hamburgers, roast beef sandwiches and other yummy picnic foods available for purchase. We will have games,



Chinese Auctions for adults and children and plenty of music to enjoy the day.

We need your help to set up/prep food on Saturday morning and in shifts on Sunday to do the following: set up, serve food, sell tickets, oversee games and clean up. We hope that everyone will pitch in at least two hours of time so that everyone gets some relaxing time too! Please let Carole know how you can help on Saturday and/or Sunday.

We would also appreciate donations of new, unused prizes for our Chinese Auction table. Please bring them to church prior to August 16th so they can be arranged and displayed.

BLESSING OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

We will have a special blessing for all of our school bound students on Sunday, August 21st at the end of Divine Liturgy to ask God to watch over them during their upcoming school year and grant them the knowledge and wisdom to excel in school.

CHURCH SHOPPING WISH LIST

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

- Paper Towels & white luncheon napkins
- Regular & Decaf Coffee
- Large Bags of Pretzels & Chips
- ***Individually Wrapped*** Tea Bags
- 2 liter Bottled Soda



Thank you to everyone who donated items this past month!

GODS GARDENER PROJECTS

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

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.

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!

THIS MONTHS SCHEDULE OF COLLECTIONS & VOLUNTEERS

Note: If you cannot make on your assigned date, please contact Carole so someone else can fill in.

Envelope (Curators):

08/07: Maintenance-Repairs & Weekly Offering (Wendy & Sharon)

08/14: Dues & Weekly Offering (Melanie & Mercury)

08/21: A/C & Weekly Offering (Kim & Wendy)

08/28: Weekly Offering (Sharon & Melanie)

09/04: 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:

08/03: Carole, Chris, Wendy

08/10: Carole, Mary, Debbie

08/17: Carole, Sharon, Teecia

08/23: Carole, Chris, Wendy

08/30: Carole, Sharon

09/07: Carole, Mary, Debbie

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

08/07: Wendy G

08/14: Michelle T

08/21: Sharon L

08/28: Carole K

09/04: Kim P

09/11: Teecia S

09/18: Melanie O

09/25: Debbie S

UPCOMING EVENTS AT DEANERY PARISHES

- St. John's (Bridgeport) will hold their Annual Picnic at Glevenak Grove in Stratford on Sunday, August 7th, from noon to 5 pm. Stop by to enjoy some good food and Christian fellowship.
- St. John's (Broadbridge Avenue Stratford) will have a Flea Market on Saturday, August 20th on the church property. Stop by to support their event.

SAVE THE DATE

Sept 2016

2nd-5th – ACRY Convention hosted by Potomac, MD

Oct 2016

2nd – Church School begins following services

9th-12th - Diocesan Sobor Council in Johnstown, PA

ASP 2016

Can you find Melissa?



CAMP NAZARETH 2016

Can you find Joe, Kayla and Sarah T?



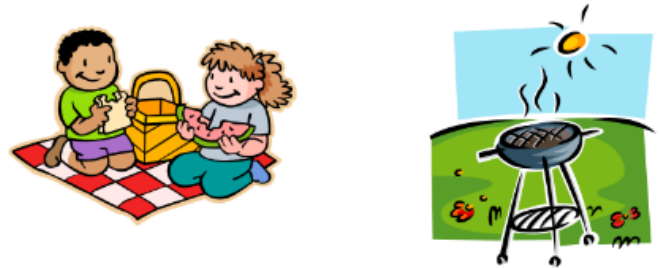
**St. John's Orthodox Church
Annual
Family and Friends Picnic**

on

the church grounds at
600 Silver Lane, Stratford

Sunday, August 21st

12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.



*** Featuring ***

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers,
Roast Beef Sandwiches
and
Other Picnic Food Favorites

Chinese Auction

Games

