



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!**

### **SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2018**

#### **Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 5  
Readings: 2 Corinthians 1:21–2:4; Matthew 22:1–14

#### **Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m.: Great Vespers & Litiya for the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God



#### **Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God

#### **Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6 - Sunday before Cross Elevation  
Readings: 2 Corinthians 4:6–15; Galatians 6:11–18 (Before Elevation); Matthew 22:35–46; John 3:13–17 (Before Elevation)

#### **Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m.: Vespers & Litiya for the Elevation of the Holy Cross



#### **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross - Strict Fast Day

#### **Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 7 – Sunday after Cross Elevation  
Readings: 2 Corinthians 6:1–10; Galatians 2:16–20 (After Elevation); Matthew 25:14–30; Mark 8:34–9:1 (After Elevation)

Panahida: In Memory of Bishop John Martin offered by the ACRY

#### **Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 8  
Readings: 2 Corinthians 6:16–7:1; Luke 5:1–11

#### **Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 1  
Readings: 2 Corinthians 9:6–11; Luke 6:31–36;  
Panahida: In Memory of husband Walter offered by Sandy Pleban

#### **Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God  
Readings: Hebrews 9:1–7; Luke 10:38–42, 11:27–28



#### **Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 2  
Readings: 2 Corinthians 11:31–12:9; Luke 7:11–16  
Panahida: In Memory of parents John & Katherine Macura offered by Father Michael

### **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](http://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 Nicene Creed on the following dates:

9/2 Congregation	9/23 Congregation
9/9 Peter S	9/30 Peter S
9/16 Chris G	10/7 Chris G

### 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:

9/2 Stephen O	9/23 Stephen O
9/9 Magnus O	9/30 Magnus O
9/16 David P	10/7 David P

## Stewardship

### YOUR STEWARDSHIP OFFERING

Summer is almost over, and the kids are heading back to school. Don’t forget your church! 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 help support the work of our church. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless all of you with health and happiness as you continue to make your offerings!

### CANDLE DONATIONS



August 26

- Iconostas Side Candle offered by Ben Porco for health of Mrs. Gina. Many Years!

September 2

- Altar Candles offered by Samilenko Family for health & safety of our St. John’s children & college students as they head back to school. Many Years!

September 9

- Altar Taper Candles offered by Carole Krochta in honor & for health of Uncle Mike

Pistey on the occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!  
Happy Birthday! Many Years!

September 16

- Iconostas Side Candles offered by Sandy Pleban in honor and for the health of Grandson Stephen Grabarz on the occasion of his birthday. Happy Birthday! Many Years!

September 23

- Eternal Candle offered by Subdeacon Joe & Lorrie Laput in honor & for health of son Greg on the occasion of his birthday. Happy Birthday! Many Years!

September 30

- Eternal Candle offered by Sandy Pleban in memory of husband Walter. Memory Eternal!

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

*The people listed below who are in need of our special prayers:* Ann Balasa, Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Fr. Larry Barriger, Judy Berard, Fr. Thomas Blaschak, 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, the child Haley and her parents Tara & Mark Chudy, Protopresbyter David Cochran, Burton Cornell, MaryAnn Damato, Ray Davidson, Jeff Delvecchio, Laura DeMayo, Karen Dobosz, Joan Dumas, Fr. John & Pani Patricia Duranko, Noreen Ehnnot, 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, Jessica Keane, Peter Kerpchar, Bettie Kerpchar, Barbara Kolaric, Anastasia Koss, Sarah Kotos, 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, Melanie Ordner, Merle Palmer, John Papa, Robin Pasquino, Raymond Peterson, Verna & Michael Pistey, Roseann & John Plavnicky, Sandy Pleban, Betty Pollman, Pani Eleanor Pribish, Ostap Pryjdun, Fr. Michael Psenechnuk, Judy Restieri, Linda Rosinsky, Peter Samilenko, 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, Robert Weldon, 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.

## *Elevation of the Cross*

The Elevation of the Cross, celebrated on the fourteenth of September, commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century; and, after it was taken by the Persians, of its recovery by the Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century at which time it was "elevated" in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. From this latter event the "universal elevation" of the Cross was celebrated annually in all of the churches of the Christian Empire.

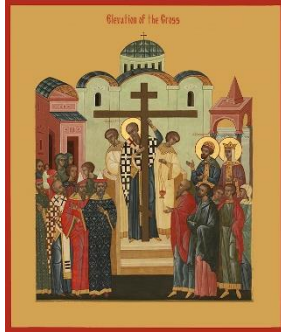
The day of the Elevation of the Cross became, as it were, the national holiday of the Eastern Christian Empire similar to the Fourth of July in the United States. The Cross, the official emblem of the Empire which was placed on all public buildings and uniforms, was officially elevated on this day by the bishops and priests. They blessed the four directions of the universe with the Cross, while the faithful repeated the chanting of "Lord have mercy." This ritual is still done in the churches today after the solemn presentation and elevation of the Cross at the end of the Vigil service of the holy day following the Great Doxology of Matins.

The troparion of the feast which was, one might say, the "national anthem" sung on all public occasions in the Christian Empires of Byzantium and Russia, originally petitioned God to save the people, to grant victory in war and to preserve the empire "by the virtue of the Cross." Today the troparion, and all the hymns of the day, are "spiritualized" as the "adversaries" become the spiritually wicked and sinful including the devil and his armies, and "Orthodox Christians" replace the names of ruling officials of the Empire.

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by the virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation (Troparion).*

*As Thou was mercifully crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy name; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace (Kontakion).*

The holy day of the Elevation of the Cross, although it has an obviously "political" origin, has a place of great significance in the Church today. It



remains with us as a day of fasting and prayer, a day when we recall that the Cross is the only sign worthy of our total allegiance, and that our salvation comes not by "victories" of any earthly sort but by the only true and lasting victory of the crucifixion of Christ and our co-crucifixion with him.

When we elevate the Cross and bow down before it in veneration and worship to God, we proclaim that we belong to the Kingdom "not of this world," and that our only true and enduring citizenship is with the saints in the "city of God" (Eph 2.19; Heb 11.10; Rev 21-22).

The first Old Testament reading of the Vespers of the day tells of the "tree" which changes the bitter waters into sweetness—the symbol of the Tree of the Cross (Ex 15.22-16.1). The second reading reminds us that the Lord chastens and corrects those whom He loves and that Divine Wisdom is "a Tree of life to those who lay hold upon her and trust in her, as in the Lord" (Prov 3.11-18). Again the reference is to the Cross which is, as the epistle reading of the day proclaims, "to those who are called . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1.24).

The third Old Testament reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah which tells of the "city of the Lord" where both Jews and Gentiles will live together and "shall bow themselves down" at the place of God's feet and "shall know that I the Lord am Thy Saviour and Thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Israel" (Is 60.11-16). Here we have the direct reference to God's city where men shall worship at His feet; and together with the psalm line repeated constantly during the services which calls us to "bow before His footstool," we have once again the reference to the Holy Cross (Ps 99.5, 110.1, et al.).

*Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy resurrection, we glorify (Hymn of Veneration before the Cross).*

This central hymn of the Elevation of the Cross which lasts for eight days in the Church is sung many times. It replaces the Thrice-Holy of the Divine Liturgy. The normal antiphons are also replaced by special verses from the psalms which have direct reference to Christ's crucifixion on the Cross (Ps 22, 74, 99). At the Matins, in the gospel reading from Saint John, Christ says that when He is elevated on the Cross He will draw all men to Himself (Jn 12.28-36). The long gospel reading at the Divine Liturgy is the passion account from this same gospel.

Thus, at the Elevation of the Cross the Christians make their official rededication to the crucified Lord and pledge their undivided allegiance to Him by the adoration of His holy feet nailed to the life-creating Cross. This is the meaning of this holy day of fasting and repentance in the Church today. (*The Orthodox Faith*, by the V. Rev. Thomas Hopko - Volume II - Worship: The Church Year)

## CHANCERY NEWS

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS! We received the wonderful news this week that His Grace, Bishop Gregory is to be elevated to the rank of Metropolitan by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. As a matter of ecclesiastical protocol, until official acceptance and bestowal ceremonies, we are NOT to refer to Bishop Gregory as His (Your) Eminence, or make liturgical commemorations referring to him as Metropolitan. Directives regarding this will be announced and released by the Chancery in the near future.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

18<sup>th</sup>: Stephen G      22<sup>nd</sup>: Emily H  
24<sup>th</sup>: John L        29<sup>th</sup>: Sarah T

## DON'T FORGET

- **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 you must take a call, we ask that you step downstairs so as not to disturb everyone else.
- **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 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.
- **Annual Dues** is \$170.00 per person 18 years of age or older who is not attending college as a full time undergraduate student and not enlisted full time in the military.

## OFFICERS MEETING

The monthly meeting of our church officers will take place on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> after Fellowship Hour in the church hall. All officers are asked to attend.

## 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 available for a donation from 5:00 pm to the start of BINGO.



## FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Stay in touch with our church family 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!

- Pani Helen Shutack, 229 Walnut Street, Apt 1, Royersford, PA 19468

College Students Living Away from Home:

- Stephen Grabarz, 65 Boon Street, Narragansett, RI 02882
- Joe Samilenko, 400 Dexter Drive, Bridgeport, CT 06606

## CHURCH EXTERIOR FUND RAISER

At our June board meeting, we agreed that the church exterior was in need of repairs. The board approved moving forward with high pressure washing to remove the peeling paint and dirt, scraping and painting of the structure, repair and re-caulking of every window and covering with aluminum siding in certain areas is the recommended course of action. This would beautify the exterior of the building and prevent possible future damage to the interior of the church caused by water leaking through the windows. The cost is approximately \$6,000.00.

We need your help in raising the funds for this renovation project. We are asking you, dear parishioners and friends of St. John's, to look deep into your heart and soul and prayerfully consider making a donation to help us maintain our church building for the glory of God and His worshipping community. Suggested donations of \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100 or whatever you can offer would be greatly appreciated...no amount is too little! Checks may be made out to: St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church. In the "Memo" line designate your donation for "Exterior Church Renovation" and drop in the collection basket or mail to our parish address. Watch our fund-raising thermometer grow in the church hall (we have reached 53% of our goal as of 08/23)!

## BACK TO SCHOOL DINNER AND BINGO

The children are back in school and as you're adjusting to the school year and homework let us take care of dinner one day! Have a delicious chicken dinner with us on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm. If it's still warm out, we'll have the a/c on. After dinner, you can also stay and play some bingo with us. Contact Carole for reservations to eat in, take out (pick up after 5 pm) and to volunteer to help serve/cleanup.

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Our September Movie Night will take place on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Join family and friends to go see a movie together at Bow Ties Cinema in Trumbull. Tuesday is discounted movie ticket day (\$7) and \$5 popcorn buckets. We'll know the movie and time on the Sunday before. You should provide Debbie S with a head count and money on September 23<sup>rd</sup> so that she can go purchase the tickets after church.

## 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 (grinders, bottled water, snack bags, fruit) and some personal items (socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, tissues, etc.). Please consider donating the personal items or making a monetary donation so someone could shop for these items? Could you be one of 13 volunteers to go down to John Street on October 14<sup>th</sup> after church to distribute these items? See Debbie S before October 1<sup>st</sup> to sign up!

## THANK YOU TO

- ❖ Kurk Kostenko and his team at Shoreline Building who have completed the exterior renovation work on the church building. They did an outstanding job and we'd highly recommend his team!
- ❖ All who worked at and attended our August Dinner and Bingo
- ❖ Church exterior fund raiser donors: anonymous, Joanna Garmella, Dave & Elle Howard, Gus Jarosko, John & Mary Kamenitsky, Joe & Lorrie Laput, Tom & Diane Laput, Fr. Michael Macura, Lillian Mierzejewski, Maria Michaels, Lou & Robin Pasquino, Joel Pleban, Sandy Pleban, Pete & Debbie Samilenko, Pani Helen Shutack
- ❖ **Our Stewards, God's Gardeners, snow removers, grounds and church cleaners!**

## CHURCH SHOPPING WISH LIST

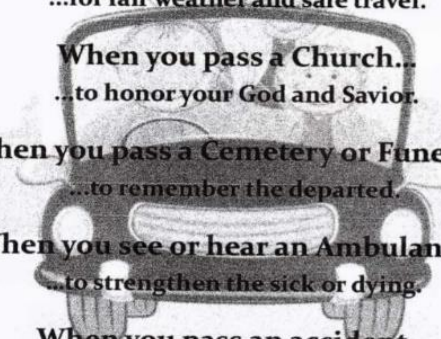
Donations of the following new items would be greatly appreciated for church:

- Paper Towels
- 2 liter Bottled Soda
- Regular & Decaf Coffee
- Tea bags (please make sure they are individually wrapped so they do not lose their freshness)
- Large Bags of Pretzels, Chips, & Cookies
- White Luncheon Napkins



Thank you to everyone who donated items this past month!

## 6 Times to Make the Sign of the Cross in the Car

- 
- When you get in the car...**  
...for fair weather and safe travel.
  - When you pass a Church...**  
...to honor your God and Savior.
  - When you pass a Cemetery or Funeral...**  
...to remember the departed.
  - When you see or hear an Ambulance...**  
...to strengthen the sick or dying.
  - When you pass an accident...**  
...to comfort those in peril.
  - When you pass a police car...**  
...to protect them (and to avoid a ticket).

FMS

## THIS MONTHS SCHEDULE OF COLLECTIONS & VOLUNTEERS

### Envelope (Curators):

09/02: Maintenance/Repairs & Weekly Offering (Melanie)

09/09: Dues & Weekly Offering (Mercury)

09/16: Bulletin Fund & Weekly Offering (Roger)

09/23: Weekly Offering (Wendy)

09/30: Maintenance/Repairs & Weekly Offering (Sharon)

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

### Fellowship Hour Hosts:

09/02: Sandy P

09/16: Carole K

09/30: Sharon L

10/24: Elle H

09/09: Melanie O

09/23: Michelle T

10/14: Wendy G

### Bingo Workers:

09/05: Carole, Sharon, Debbie

09/12: Carole, Sharon

09/19: Wendy, Carole, Sharon

09/26: Carole, Sharon, Debbie

10/03: Carole, Sharon

### Chornock Grave Upkeep(week of/family):

09/02: Krochta

09/09: Samilenko

09/16: Pleban

09/23: Tartaglio

09/30: <open – please volunteer>

## GODS GARDENER PROJECTS

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

### Monthly Breakfast (Oct-Jun):

Join us for breakfast buffet after Divine Liturgy in the church hall on the first Sunday of the month! \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, free for under 5.

### Recycle Used Printer Cartridges:

Drop off unwanted ink jet cartridges in the labeled boxes in our church hall instead of having it pollute our landfills. Staples will give us a credit for each cartridge that will be used to defray the cost of printing our bulletin!

### 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, Lines, 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.

## SAVE THE DATE

### October 2018

14<sup>th</sup>: Helping our Friends on John Street

21<sup>st</sup>: Halloween Dinner and Bingo

### November 2018

11<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Dinner and Bingo

Stephen is Back at University of Rhode Island for his Senior Year!



Joe was a counselor at Camp Nazareth this summer!



*Trinity Troubadours present...*

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
74 Joe's Hill Road  
Danbury, CT 06811  
(203) 797-8326

# *Inspirations*

*a Musical Caribaret*



Proceeds benefit

Orthodox Youth Mission Team  
and Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Saturday, September 8, 2018, at 7 pm

Ticket prices are \$35 per adult and  
\$25 per child under 12.

Meal included. BYOB.

RSVP to Sandi Fong at sandifong@gmail.com

## Holy Ghost Church's

4th Annual

# *Pierogi Fest*



*Saturday September 29th*

3-8 PM

Holy Ghost Social Center

Corner of Starr and Bridge Streets, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Food, drinks, music, games, and prizes for all ages

Pierogi varieties: potato and cheese, potato jalapeno and cheese, sauerkraut, cheese steak,  
buffalo chicken, sausage and peppers, pumpkin pie, lekvar, and *new flavors* as well.

Eat in or take out ~ Cash or check only

*FREE Parking. Come and see what our pierogis are all about!*