



## Saint Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

146 Third Avenue, Rankin, PA 15104  
Pastor: Very Reverend Nicholas Ferencz, PhD  
Cantor: Professor Jerry Jumba  
Parish President : Carole Bushak

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!  
Slava Isusu Christu! Slava vo v'iki!



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**SEPTEMBER 8, 2019**

**12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

- Sun., Sep 8**      **12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.** Martyrs Adrian, Natalia et al.  
9:00 AM      Divine Liturgy – Tone 3, pp 102–105  
*Panachida:* Pauline Momtsios by Pañi Joanna. *Also,* Susan Semancik by George Hrabchak
- Wed., Sep 11**    **Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist.**  
*No services are scheduled here*  
*9:00 AM Divine Liturgy at St. John's in East Pittsburgh*  
*9:30 AM Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas in Homestead.*  
***Fast from Meat and Dairy today!***
- Sun., Sep 15**      **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.** Martyr Mammas. Monks Antony and Theodosius of the  
9:00 AM      Pečerskaja Lavra.  
Divine Liturgy  
*Panachida:* Heinick family by Christina Duranko
- Sat., Sep 21**      ***Feast of the Birth of Holy Mary Theotokos***  
9:00 AM      *Divine Liturgy*
- Sun., Sept 22**      **14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.** ***Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy and Life-giving***  
9:00 AM      ***Cross. Within the Feast of the Birth of Holy Mary Theotokos.*** Grandparents of the Lord  
Divine Liturgy  
*Panachida:* Margaret Stemler – 40 day memorial

**Holy Mystery of Confession:** Before Divine Liturgy and other services. If you cannot make a scheduled time, please let me know and we can make arrangements.

## PEOPLE STUFF

**Prayer List:** *Deceased:* Margaret Stemler.

*Living:* Fr. Joseph Cervo. Pañi Dorothy Hutnyan. Pañi Donna Smoley. Pañi Eleanor Pribish. Dana Andrade. Gloria Andrade. Michael Artim. Gregory Michael Aurilio. Walter Bolbat. John Bonga. Donald Bodnar. Charlene Borsic. Jaime Budesá. Barbara Chappie. Steve Bournius. Rebecca, David & Bradley Noah Cozad. Mary Ann Crouse. Martha Danchak. George & Margaret Dorogy. Breanne Glass. Dorothy Glass. Eddie Gombos. Jennifer Hartrick. Shirley Hrubic. Kevin Ianni. Gary Ingelido. Andrea Kerkentzes. Joan Martell. Bill and Barbara McCauley. Helen Mihalik. Bill & Patti Novotnak. Frank Palmieri. Diane Phillips. Millie and Edward Phillips. Anna Senich. Peter Simonoff. Bernice Sindak. Terry Slezak. Milton and Thelma Supak. Diana Terezis. Bobby and Dee Triffanoff. Josh Walendziewicz. Paul Worst. Paul & Valerie Yednak. Jim Zajac. *Prosphora Bakers:* Trudy Trifanoff. Delores Cubakovic, and their intentions.

**Welcome!** We welcome to our church this morning all visitors, guests, relatives, and friends of Saint Michael Church. We invite *everyone* present today to chant the Liturgy along with the cantor. We pray your visit with us is spiritually rewarding, holy and life-giving. Visit often!

## F(E)ASTING

**WED., SEPTEMBER 11 – FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.** We remember this event recounted in the Gospel of Mark 6:14–30. John was a holy prophet and an innocent man. His beheading was a preview of the crucifixion of Our Lord, the Innocent Lamb Who is greater than all the prophets. **A Fast from meat and dairy** is observed on this day in commemoration of the murder of the man Jesus called, “the greatest man born of woman.” Also, in commemoration of the way that St. John was martyred, pious Orthodox will not eat from a plate but only from a bowl, will not use knives to eat with, and will not eat foods that are round or come as a ‘head’ (cabbage, lettuce, etc.).

## PARISH STUFF

**Reminder!** **Parish Council** meets for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, Sept. 9 at 7 PM.

**Reminder!** The next **Lottery Ticket Raffle** will be held at the Parish Bazaar, Sunday, October 20.

**New!** **Our Parish Bazaar** will be on Sunday, October 20. More information upcoming!

**Update!** **Agape Offerings:** *Today:* Pañi Joanna in memory of her Godmother Pauline Momtsios. *Rest of September:* No one.

**Reminder!** **Church Repairs:** *We thank all of our parishioners* for your ongoing, active interest in the well-being of our parish. God bless us every one! So far, we have **\$441** donated toward new repairs on the church.

## DIocese, DEANERY AND ADDITIONAL STUFF

**New!** **Hurricane Dorian Relief Fund** His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory, has announced a relief fund effort throughout the Diocese to help those impacted by Hurricane Dorian. We will be taking a *special 2<sup>nd</sup> collection*

## Our Gifts to God and our Church September 1, 2019

Attendance	25
Communions	17

### Collections

Monthly	90.00
Sunday	650.00
All Votive Candles	137.00
Building Maintenance	15.00
Diocesan Member.	144.00
Special Donation	26.00
<b>Total Offerings:</b>	<b>1062.00</b>

*Building and Repairs Donations to Date*  
**\$441! God bless your generosity!**

next Sunday, September 15. Our donations will go directly to the International Orthodox Christian Charities. Please be generous to those in need.

**New! Annual Fall Festival at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Homestead.** Fri., Oct. 11 & Sat., Oct 12. 11 AM to 7 PM. Ethnic Foods, Bake Sale, Basket Raffles. Bingo on Saturday. "Haunted School House" for kids on Saturday. Information call Tom Pingor 412-462-8462. Flyer in hall.

**Update!** Upcoming Events this summer: in our Parish, the Deanery and the Diocese.

- Sat., Sep. 28: St. John's, East Pittsburgh, Annual Food Festival.
- **Reminder! Sun., Sep. 29: 2nd Annual Deanery Picnic!** This was a really enjoyable event last year, so plan to 'come on down'!
  - Noon to dusk!
  - Veterans Pavilion in Schenley Park! Directions, etc., will be available soon.
  - We will be having live music again, much appreciated and enjoyed last year!
  - Potluck Dinner Sign up Sheet in Hall: Please sign up to let us know what you plan to bring to the event!
- Fri., Oct 11 & Sat., Oct 12: **Annual Fall Festival at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Homestead.**
- **Sun., Oct. 13 Walk for Missions in South Park!**
- Sun., Oct. 13 to Wed., Oct.16 Diocesan Sobor in Johnstown, PA.

As new information comes in, we will be adding dates to the list. Keep it in mind!

St. Catherine Philoptochos of Ypapanti (**Presentation of Our Lord parish, East Pittsburgh**) presents: **Talent Show.** September 15, 2019 at Edgewood Country Club, 100 Churchill Road, Pittsburgh, Pa 15235. Doors Open: 2:00 PM. Cocktails, Luncheon, Desserts. Silent Auction, Talent Show. Adults: \$30.00 Students: \$15.00 Children 7 Yrs and Under: \$7.00. For Tickets and Reservations Contact: *Gail* 412-260-0886 or *Tina* 412-244-3215. Paid Reservation by September 10, 2019. A portion of the proceeds to benefit "Lending Hearts"

**Konevets Quartet: Concert of Sacred and Secular Musical Selections** Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, 901 Hartman St., McKeesport, PA 15132. Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 7 PM. See the flyer in hall.

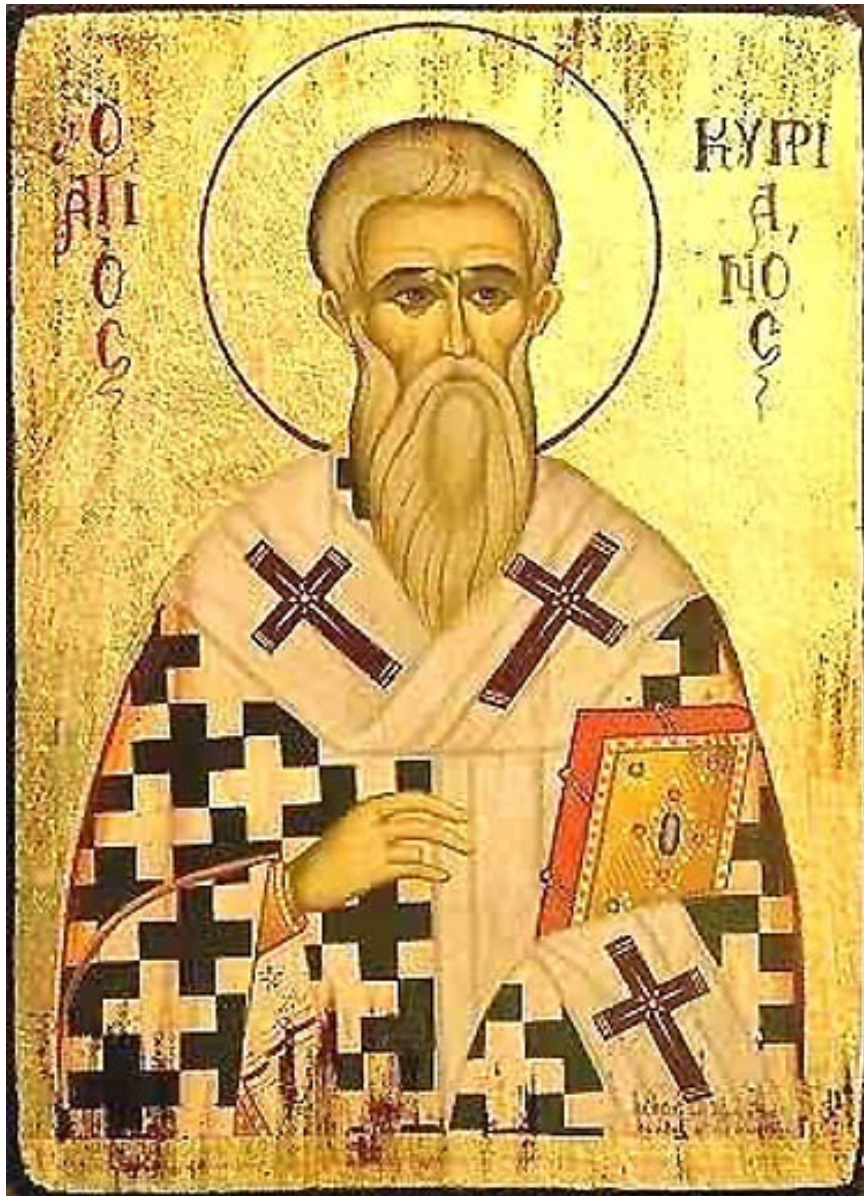
**Reminder! Walk for Missions!!! Sunday, October 13, noon registration, 1 PM walk. South Park, Children's Playground Shelter at the intersection of Corrigan Drive and Brownsville Road.** Folks, we cannot ordinarily participate in this annual event because our parish Bazaar is always the same day. Well, *this* year they are different dates. **All** are encouraged to (1) participate *and/or* (2) sponsor someone who is walking. This event supports the *tremendous* missionary work being done in Guatemala.

## **HOLY MARTYRED BISHOP CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE**

August 31/September 13.. From *The Menologion*

The PriestMartyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, was born in about the year 200 in the city of Carthage (Northern Africa), where all his life and work took place. Thasius Cyprianus was the son of a rich pagan senator, and received a fine secular education becoming a splendid orator, teacher of rhetoric and philosophy in the school of Carthage. He often appeared in the courts to plea and defend the deeds of his townsmen. Cyprian afterwards recollected, that for a long while "he remained in a deep dark myst..., far from the light of Truth". His fortune -- received from his parents and from his vocational activity, he expended on sumptuous banquets, but they were not able to quench in him the thirst for truth. Having become curious about Christianity, he became acquainted with the writings of the Apologist presbyter Tertullian (born about the year 160). The sainted-bishop later wrote, that it then seemed impossible for him because of his habits to attain to the regeneration promised by the Saviour.





From such a burdened and undecided state of mind he was helped out by his friend and guide -- the presbyter Cecilius. At 46 years of age the studious pagan was received into the Christian community as a catechumen. And before accepting Baptism, he distributed his property to the poor and moved into the house of the presbyter Cecilius. Strengthened by the power of the regenerative grace of God -- received by him in Baptism, Sainted Cyprian wrote in a letter to his friend Donatus: "When the surge of regeneration cleansed the impurity of my former life, a light -- steady and bright, shone down from Heaven into my heart. When the second birth by the Heavenly Spirit transformed me into a new man, then in a miraculous manner I was strengthened against doubt, mysteries were revealed, and darkness was made light... and I learned, that my having lived in the flesh for sin belonged to the earthly, but now was begun a Divine living by the Holy Spirit. In God and from God is all our strength; from Him is our might. Through Him we, living upon the earth, have the hint of a condition of future bliss". Exemplarily a year after his Baptism the saint was ordained to the priesthood, and when bishop Donatus of Carthage died, all unanimously chose Saint Cyprian as bishop. He gave his consent, having

complied with his guide's request, and was ordained bishop of Carthage in about the year 248.

The saint first of all concerned himself about the welfare of the Church and the eradication of vices amidst the clergy and flock. The saintly life of the archpastor evoked in everyone a desire to imitate his piety, humility and wisdom. The fruitful activity of Saint Cyprian became reknown beyond the bounds of his diocese. Bishops from other sees often turned to him for advice, as how to deal with this or that other matter. A persecution by the emperor Decius (249-251) -- revealed to the saint in a dream vision, forced him to go into hiding. His life was necessary to his flock for the strengthening of faith and courage among the persecuted. Before his departure from his diocese, the saint distributed the church treasury among all the clergy for the rendering of help to the needy, and in addition he dispatched further funds.

He kept in constant touch with the Carthaginian Christians through his epistles, and he wrote letters to presbyters, confessors and martyrs. Some Christians, broken by torture, offered sacrifice to the pagan gods. These lapsed Christians appealed to the confessors, asking to give them what is called a letter of reconciliation, i.e. an interceding certificate about accepting them back into the Church. Sainted Cyprian wrote to all the Carthaginian Christians a general missive, in which he indicated that those lapsed during a time of persecution might be admitted into the Church, but this needed to be preceded by an investigation of the circumstances under which

the falling-away came about. An examination was necessary of the sincerity of contrition of the lapsed. To admit them was possible only after a Church penance and with the permission of the bishop. Some of the lapsed insistently demanded their immediate re-admittance into the Church and by this caused unrest in the whole community. Saint Cyprian wrote the bishops of other dioceses asking their opinion, and from all he received full approval of his directives.

During the time of his absence the saint authorised four clergy to examine the lives of persons preparing for ordination to the priesthood and the diaconate. This met resistance from the layman Felicissimus and the presbyter Novatus, roused to indignation against their bishop. Saint Cyprian excommunicated Felicissimus and six of his accomplices. In his letter to the flock, the saint touchingly admonished all not to separate themselves from the unity of the Church, to be subject to the lawful commands of the bishop and to await his return. This letter held the majority of Carthaginian Christians in fidelity to the Church.

In a short while Saint Cyprian returned to his flock. The insubordination of Felicissimus was put to an end at a Local Council in the year 251. This Council rendered a judgement about the possibility of receiving the lapsed back into the Church after a church penance and it affirmed the excommunication of Felicissimus.

During this time there occurred a new schism, put forward by the Roman presbyter Novatian, and joined by the Carthaginian presbyter Novatus -- a former adherent of Felicissimus. Novatian asserted that the lapsed during time of persecution could not be admitted back, even if they repented of their sin. Besides this, Novatian with the help of Novatus convinced three Italian bishops during the lifetime of the lawful Roman bishop Celerinus to place another bishop on the Roman cathedra. Against such iniquity, Saint Cyprian wrote a series of circular missives to the African bishops, and afterwards a whole book, "On the Unity of the Church".

When the discord in the Carthage church began to quiet down, a new calamity began -- a pestilential plague flared up. Hundreds of people fled from the city -- leaving the sick without help, and the dead without burial. Saint Cyprian, providing an example by his firmness and his courage, himself tended the sick and buried the dead, not only Christians but pagans also. The pestilential plague was accompanied by drought and famine. An horde of barbarian Numidians, taking advantage of the misfortune, fell upon the inhabitants taking many into captivity. Saint Cyprian moved many rich Carthaginians to offer up means for feeding the starving and ransoming captives.

When a new persecution against Christians spread under the emperor Valerian (253-259), the Carthaginian proconsul Paternus ordered the saint to offer sacrifice to idols. He steadfastly refused both to do this and to name names and abodes of the presbyters of the Carthage Church. He sent off the saint to the locale of Corubisum. Deacon Pontus voluntarily followed his bishop into exile. On the day when the saint arrived at the place of exile he had a dream vision, predicting for him a quick martyr's end. Situated in exile, Saint Cyprian wrote many letters and books. Wanting to suffer at Carthage, he himself returned there. Taken before the court, he was set at liberty until the following year. Nearly all the Christians of Carthage came to take their leave of their bishop and receive his blessing. At the trial Saint Cyprian calmly and firmly refused to offer sacrifice to idols and was sentenced to beheading with a sword. Hearing the sentence, Saint Cyprian said: "Thanks be to God!" and all the people with one voice cried out: "And we want to die with him!" Coming to the place of execution, the saint again gave his blessing to all and arranged to give 25 gold coins to the executioner. He himself then covered over his eyes, and gave his hands to be bound to the presbyter and archdeacon standing near him and lowered his head. Christians with lamentation put their shawls and veils by him so as to gather up the priestly blood. The martyr's death occurred in the year 258. The body of the saint was taken by night and given burial in a private crypt of the procurator Macrovius Candidianus.

Afterwards, during the time of king Charles the Great (i.e. Charlemagne, 771-814), his holy relics were transferred to France.

Sainted Cyprian of Carthage left the Church a precious legacy: his writings and 80 letters. The works of Saint Cyprian were accepted by the Church as a model of Orthodox confession and read at OEcumenical Councils (III



Ephesus and IV Chalcedon). In the writings of Saint Cyprian is stated the Orthodox teaching about the Church -- having its foundation upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and proclaimed and built by the Apostles. The inner unity is expressed in an unity of faith and love, and the outer unity is actualised by the hierarchy and sacraments of the Church. In the Church Christ comprises all the fulness of life and salvation. Those having separated themselves from the unity of the Church do not have in themselves true life. Christian love is shown as the bond holding together the Church. "Love, -- is the foundation of all the virtues, and it continues with us eternally in the Heavenly Kingdom".

## HOLY PROPHET JOSHUA SON OF NUN, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS JOSHUA SON OF NAVIN

September 1/14. From *The Menologion*

Saint Jesus Son of Navin (*Ed. Note:* Joshua and Jesus are the same name) after the death of the Prophet Moses was leader of the Israelite People. He conquered the Promised Land and brought upon it the Hebrew nation. The Lord worked a great miracle through Jesus Navinus. The Jews went across the River Jordan as though on dry land, the Archistratigos [Leader of the Heavenly Hosts] Michael appeared to Jesus Navinus, and the walls of the city Jericho -- besieged by the Israelites -- fell down by themselves after the Ark of the Covenant was carried around the city during the course of seven days. Finally at the time of the battle with the enemy, Jesus Navinus, by the will of God, halted the motion of the sun and prolonged the day until that moment when victory was won. After the end of the war, Jesus Navinus divided the Promised Land among the 12 Tribes of Israel. He died at 110 years of age (XVI Century B.C.), in his last will commanding the nation to preserve the Law of Moses. All these events are recounted in the Book of Jesus Navinus (Joshua) (Chapters 3, 5, 6, 10), which is included within the Holy Bible.

