



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

BULLETIN BUILDER

**Saint John The Baptist Orthodox Church**

December 10, 2017

## Church Lectionary & Typicon



**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Great Martyr James of Persia**

**Epistle : Ephesians 6:1-10 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**

**Resurrectional Tone 2**



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## Church Services and Events

### Tuesday, December 12

7:00PM Moleben To St. Nectarios  
7:30PM Parish Council Meeting

### Wednesday, December 13

9:00AM Pastry Roll Workshop  
7:00PM Adult Scripture Study

### Saturday, December 16

11:00AM Christmas Bread & Pastry Roll Pickup.  
5:00PM Great Vespers

### Sunday, December 17

9:00AM Divine Liturgy  
10:45AM Church School

## St John's Stewards

DATE	COFFEE HOUR HOST	HOURS	EPISTLE
Dec 17	St Nicholas Brunch	Pani Carol	Cantors
Dec 24	Decerbo	Holly Bilcheck	Serge

**2017 STEWARDSHIP YTD: (As of 12/3/17) \$60,505.00 Goal: \$68,000.00**

**A Parish of The American  
Carpatho-Russian Orthodox**



**Diocese**

**Diocesan Website:**

<http://www.acrod.org>

**Camp Nazareth:**

<http://www.campnazareth.org>

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)

**Twitter:**

<https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

**You Tube:**

<https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

# Announcements

## Today's Saint

**PRAYERS FOR PEACE** - Please do not forget that Bishop Gregory has asked all of us to pray a special prayer for peace each night during our evening prayers. It is included in this bulletin for your convenience.

**ADULT EDUCATION** - Our Orthodox Boot Camp continues this Wednesday at 7:00 pm. We are now turning our attention to Holy Scripture. Our study is of a practical nature: we are learning about the basics of the Bible, its origin and how to read it with them main focus being how the bible offers answers to the struggles we face in everyday life. Those who are interested in taking part in the class either in person or by telephone or video conferencing are kindly asked to contact Fr. Peter.

**GIVING TREE** - Our annual Christmas Outreach Project involves providing personal care items for the needy of Stratford, donating and preparing food for a Christmas Dinner at the Lord's Kitchen on Wednesday Dec 20th. We will also be assisting a needy Family in the Greater Stratford Community. To participate, please select one or more items you would like to donate from the "Giving Tree" in the Church hall. With the exception of certain items of prepared food we are asking for cash donations of varying amounts to cover the personal care items which the Church has already bought in bulk at an incredible savings. Please be generous. See Fr. Peter with any questions.

**COMMUNITY SUPPER** - Our next meal will be Wed Dec 20 at Christ Church in Stratford. Please See Mary or Eve to help. Help is needed preparing some of the food at home. See The Giving Tree.

**CHRISTMAS PASTRY ROLL WORK SESSIONS** - Help is needed making pastry rolls at our final work session: Wed Dec 13th. Please see Pani Carol to offer your help. Help is also need today after Liturgy preparing packaging for this week's final pastry roll work session.

**ASP PRESENTATION:** Today, following Liturgy we will have a presentation from youth and leaders of the Orthodox Youth Mission Team. The team is forming for 2018 and will be going on a week-long mission trip to Appalachia next July. High school students (those currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up) and their parents who might be interested in this opportunity are encouraged to attend. There will be photos, a detailed outline of the project and insights from youth and leaders who have participated in the past.

**LEAF RAKING SESSION** - We are asking all able body parishioners and especially our youth to assist with clearing the Church property of leaves today, Sunday Dec 10th following Liturgy. Many hands will make light work. We should complete the entire property in a matter of a couple hours. Please let Fr. Peter know if you can help.

**CHURCH SECURITY** - At the November Parish Council Meeting it was decided that for security reasons the side door to the Church will be locked at all weekday services, and at 9:15 am on Sunday Mornings. No key is needed to exit the Church. The front door will remain unlocked as usual.

## Great-Martyr James of Persia



**November 27/December 10**

This Saint was from the city of Bythlaba and was of noble birth; he was the closest and most honoured friend of Isdiger (or Yazdegerd) I, King of Persia (reigned 399-420). Though a Christian from his youth, James renounced Christ because he was allured by the King's friendship and flatteries. When his mother and his wife learned of this, they declared to him by letter that they would have nothing more to do with him, since he had preferred a glory that is temporal to the love of Christ. Wounded in soul by these words and coming to himself, the Saint wept over his error, and repudiated the worship of the idols. Therefore, becoming exceedingly wroth, the King - this was Bahram (or Varahran) V (reigned 421-438), Isdiger's son and successor - condemned him to a most bitter death, the likes of which not even a brute beast was ever condemned to: that is, his body was dismembered at every joint of his arms and legs. And so, when he had been cut asunder limb by limb to his very hips and shoulders, the courageous Martyr was finally beheaded, in the year 421.

# Announcements

**EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES** – We have instituted a parish email system. For correspondence with Fr. Peter please use the following email address: [priest@sjoc.org](mailto:priest@sjoc.org) For parish bulletin or monthly newsletter submissions or questions please use [news@sjoc.org](mailto:news@sjoc.org)

**ST NICHOLAS BRUNCH** - Our Annual St. Nicholas Brunch will take place on Sunday Dec 17, 2017 following Divine Liturgy. A visit from St. Nicholas will be the highlight of the Dinner. Cost is \$10.00 per adult; children 5 up: \$4.00; children under 5: free. Please add your name to the reservation sign-up sheet in the Church Hall. Reservations must be made by Dec 10, 2017. Parents are kindly reminded to bring a wrapped present for each of their children present. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending.

**LOTS O LUCK CALENDARS** - Now on sale in the Church hall. Cost is \$25.00. Proceeds support Diocesan Mission Fund and other charitable works of the ACRY.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 12	Ryan Pierce	Birthday
Dec 13	Louis Gregory	Birthday
Dec 15	Hailey Meyernick	Birthday
Dec 15	Ken Lomme, Jr.	Birthday

## FINANCIAL STATISTICS 12/3/17

First Sunday Collection	262.00
7 Day Candles	15.00
<u>Pew Collection</u>	<u>1207.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,484.00</b>

## Wisdom From The Fathers

The Savior Himself is He Whom we are asked to put on. It is one and the same thing to say, 'Put on the whole armor of God,' and 'Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.' Our belt is truth and our breastplate is righteousness. The Savior is also called both 'truth' and 'righteousness.' On this principle He is also to be understood as the 'Gospel of peace.' He is Himself the 'shield of faith' and the helmet of salvation. He is the 'sword of the Spirit,' because He is the Word of God, living and efficacious, the utterance of which is stronger than any helmet and sharp on both sides. – **St Jerome**

*Unknown, 5th century*

The mind of a heedful man is as it were a watchman on duty, or an unsleeping guard of the inner Jerusalem. Standing at the height of spiritual contemplation, he looks with an eye of purity upon the enemy powers who go around and attack his soul, in accordance with the Psalmist: 'And my eye hath looked down upon my enemies' (Ps. 53:9). From his eye the devil is not hidden, who 'as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour' (I Pet. 5:8), nor are they who bend their bow 'to shoot in the dark the upright of heart' (Ps. 10:2). And thus such a man, following the teaching of the divine Paul, receives 'the whole armor of God, that [he] may be able to withstand in the evil day' (Eph. 6:13), and with this armor and with the cooperating grace of God, he repels visible attacks and vanquishes invisible warriors. - **St. Seraphim of Sarov**

*Spiritual Instructions no. 30, Little Russian Philokalia Vol. 1; pgs. 48-49, 19th century*

## Prayer For Peace – Evening Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Word of God, You became flesh and dwelt among us. You made the womb of Your most-pure Mother more spacious than the heavens. Yet You, the true light, were born in the darkness of a cave, thereby enlightening the world that was darkened by sin. To redeem us, You shared Your whole life. You submitted to death on the Cross and rose from the dead, bestowing life. We share in Your death and resurrection, that we may indeed be dead to sin and alive in You. As we fast and prepare to celebrate Your life-giving manifestation, we pray especially that our respect for life will prevail in the world. Directed by Your command to care for “the least of these,” may we and all people heed Your call to show care and concern for life in the womb; for the lives of the poor, oppressed, and suffering; and for the lives of the sick, the elderly, and the dying. May Your peace reign in our hearts and throughout world, especially in places of unrest, so that the shedding of blood in warfare, violence, terrorism, tyranny, and all manner of strife may come to an end. May aggression between neighbors and nations fade away. May love reign in the lives of families. O Savior, You have said “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” May we become partakers of Your abundant life, together with all the saints whose lives have pleased You from the beginning. For You are the way, the truth and the life, O Christ our God, and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your most-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. AMEN.

