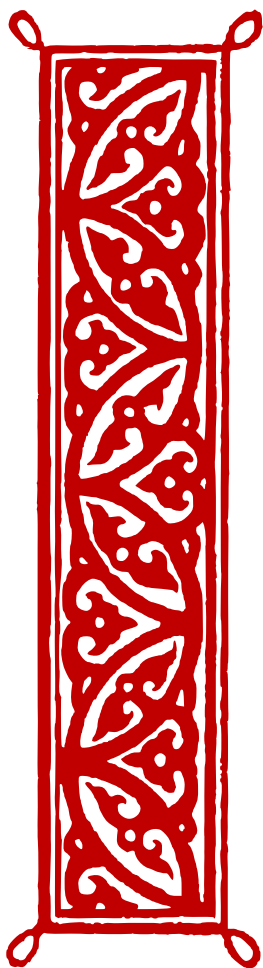


the ORTHODOX *Way*



August - October 2023
Quarterly Newsletter



*Jesus said to the crowds about John, "I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John the Baptist. Yet the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he."
(Luke 7:28)*

*C*ontents

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Email
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www.facebook.com/StJohnSingac



www.instagram.com/StJohntheBaptist.Singac

#OrthodoxSingac

*For articles, sermons, schedule, latest news, announcements, and
to join our emailing list, visit:*

www. S I N G A C .com

If you are in **need** – be it financially, materially, emotionally, or spiritually please do not hesitate to talk to Father Aleksey or any of the Parish Council members. While our “*Needy Fund*” will not break the bank, we **can** offer financial help. We can also cook meals for each other in case of unforeseen events, and be present and supportive, even if for a simple conversation. Donations toward the “*Needy Fund*” are always welcomed.

Let us grow together in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Regular Schedule of Services

Saturdays

Great Vespers & confessions
– 5PM

Sundays

Divine Liturgy & Sunday
School, followed by the fel-
lowship & coffee hour –
9:30AM

Feast Days (on weekdays)

Eve of Feast Day – Festal Vespers – 7PM

Feast Day – Liturgy – 9:30AM

To be a Christian means to live selflessly for the sake of others, in imitation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the ways we do this is by feeding the hungry, those who unlike us, *for whatever reason*, are unable to afford food.

Saint John the Baptist Church supports *Saint Agnes Food Pantry*, which is run by St Agnes Episcopal Church in Little Falls, and we rely on your donations.

To donate non-perishable foods, we have a collection basket in the narthex (vestibule), by the stairs to the choir loft. Every bit counts, and it *does* make a difference in people's lives.

Note: please make sure nothing's expired.



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Pastor's message

This is goodbye, I guess

Seven years ago, on July 31, 2016, our bishop at that time, Bishop John, served the Liturgy in our parish. I was there, too. Bishop John assigned and introduced me to the parish on that day. Now, seven years later, it is time for a change. As I write these words, on the last day of July, I do not yet know for sure when my last day will be, but almost certainly it will be August 15.

My family and I are moving to Pennsylvania, changing not only parishes, but jurisdictions also. The time is right for this change; it may not be easy, but it is necessary, for me and for the parish.

I wanted to write a short reflection on my time in your parish, but I am in need of some time to truly and fully reflect on these years. One day, but not today.

One of my seminary professors always said that God has us exactly where He wants us to be and where we need to be. When we learn to live in the present, as opposed to some idealized past or utopian future, then we might be able to glimpse His reasons for having us where we are.

I must confess, I am still learning to live in the present. Saint John's was the first parish I served as a pastor. I am thankful for all of you. It was not always easy, nor did I expect it to be. We learned together and struggled together; we celebrated together and grew together; we mourned the passing of each parishioner and tackled every problem that we faced together.

I will forever be grateful for each of you and for our time together. It is time to make the hard but necessary change, to say goodbye, in order for the parish and for me to continue growing.

*With love in Christ,
Father Aleksey*

Pastor's message

Baptisms

Georgia Anna Preciado – June 25

Mila Rose Griffin – July 1

Birthdays

August:

- Peter, Sonia, Jonathan, Vladislav, Charissa, Ludmila, Olga, Olga, Andrew, Marie, Vickie, Olga, Lenny, Maria, Alex, Nicholas, Anna, Jonathan, Nicholas, Jackie

September:

- Barry, Maks, Alexandra, Edward, Gerald, Geraldine, Cheryl, Alexis, Andrei, Chris, Michael, Donna, Tatiana, Johanna, Stephanie, Gerald, Luka, Misha, Vladimir

October:

- Kathy, Megan, Nina, Emma, Jaye, Nancy, Lily, Georgiana, Laura, Linda, Bailey, Juan, Peter, Jean, Anna, Dmitri, Gregory, Tamara, Janeen

Happy birthday! Many and blessed years!

Funerals

John Hatala – d. May 26

Barbara Hassett – d. June 20

John Cap – d. July 31



To give online, visit: www.singac.com/donate



TITHE.LY
Innovative church giving

Schedule for August - October

* * * The schedule is subject to change * * *

Check regularly on:

www.SINGAC.com & www.FACEBOOK.com/StJohnSingac/

Aug. 5	Saturday	5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
8.6	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship
8.12	Saturday	5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
8.13	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship

Dormition Fast – August 14-27

Transfiguration

8.18	Friday	7pm	Festal Vespers with Litia
8.19	Saturday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & blessing of first-fruits
		5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
8.20	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship
8.26	Saturday	5pm	Divine Liturgy
8.27	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship

Dormition

8.27	Sunday	7pm	Festal Vespers with Litia
8.28	Monday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & blessing of flowers and herbs

Sept. 2	Saturday	5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
9.3	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship
9.9	Saturday	5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
9.10	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship

Beheading of Saint John the Baptist (strict fasting day)

9.10	Sunday	7pm	Festal Vespers with Litia
9.11	Monday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy

Schedule for August - October

9.16	Saturday	5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
9.17	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship
<i>Nativity of the Mother of God</i>			
9.20	Wednesday	7pm	Festal Vespers with Litia
9.21	Thursday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy
9.23	<i>Saint John's Annual Picnic</i>		
	Saturday	5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
9.24	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship
<i>Universal Elevation of the Cross</i>			
9.26	Tuesday	7pm	Festal Vespers with Litia
9.27	Wednesday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy
9.30	Saturday	5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
<i>Oct. 1</i>	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship
10.7	Saturday	5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
10.8	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship
<i>Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrov)</i>			
10.13	Friday	7pm	Festal Vespers with Litia
10.14	Saturday	9:30am 5pm	Divine Liturgy Great Vespers & confessions
10.15	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship
10.21	Saturday	5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
10.22	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship
10.28	Saturday	5pm	Great Vespers & confessions
10.29	Sunday	9:30am	Divine Liturgy & fellowship

Schedule for August - October

If you are a regular parishioner, meaning, you actively participate in the divine services and other events of the parish life, but are not yet a registered member, would you consider becoming one?

See Father Aleksey with questions about what registered membership means to the parish and to you.

If you are a registered member, but do not actively participate in the divine services and the various events of the parish life, consider stepping up your participation! See Father Aleksey for ways you can do it.



Support Saint John's while shopping for grocery! Buy the **ShopRite shopping cards** from us. They are as good as cash. They do not cost you anything extra, while ShopRite donates back to the parish 5% from the amount we sell. *These shopping cards are also accepted at Foodtown!*

Please call Vickie Duin at (973) 684-5844, or see her or Julie Riker any Sunday after the Liturgy. The cards come in the denominations of \$25-50-100.

*P*arish *A*nnual *P*icnic: Saturday, September 23

Rain date: September 30

As in the past, this major event for our parish will require *all hands on deck*. Please be on the lookout for the schedule of preparation events.



*S*aint *A*nnas' *A*ltar *S*ociety meeting

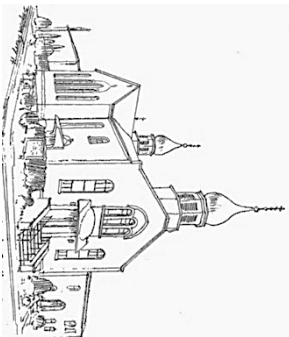
Sunday, August 27, after the Coffee Hour

All members are strongly encouraged to attend.



A note on Holy Communion: In the Orthodox Christian Church, reception of the Communion (also called the Eucharist) is reserved for the baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians, who have prepared themselves by regular prayer (*both at home and in church: Vespers, Liturgy*), fasting (*not eating or drinking after midnight, as well as regular fasting days and periods*), regular confession (*once a month*), and continual almsgiving. If on Sunday you come late, missing the Gospel reading, please do not approach the chalice. If we don't hear the Word of God, we can't receive His Body and Blood.* For the Orthodox Christians, our entire life is a preparation for Communion with God. We put a tremendous amount of effort into receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in a worthy manner (not as worthy people).

** this general rule does not apply to those with young children and to the elderly.*



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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