



In loving memory of the deceased in the Lubynsky family, Requested by Marta Lubynsky

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The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist
August 29

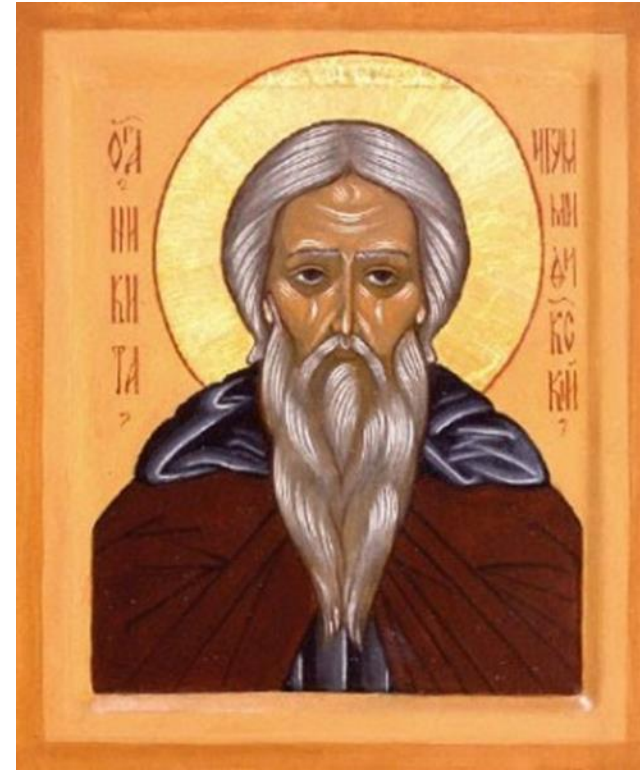


As forerunner of our Lord's birth, preaching and death, the blessed John showed in his struggle goodness worthy of the sight of heaven. In the words of Scripture: "Though in the sight of men he suffered torments, his hope is full of immortality." We justly commemorate the day of his birth with a joyful celebration, a day which he himself made festive for us through his suffering and which he adorned with the crimson splendor of his own blood. We do rightly revere his memory with joyful hearts, for he stamped with the seal of martyrdom the testimony which he delivered on behalf of our Lord...Through his birth, preaching and baptizing, he bore witness to the coming birth, preaching and baptism of Christ, and by his own suffering he showed that Christ also would suffer.

In Matthew 14:1-12 we read about the cruel death of John the Baptist. John had publicly reprimanded King Herod for taking his brother's wife as his own, so Herod had him imprisoned. Although Herod really wanted John dead, he feared the many people who believed John to be a prophet. Indeed, we consider him to be the last of the Old Testament prophets. During his riotous birthday party, Herod was so pleased with the dancing of his wife's daughter Salome that he promised her anything she wanted. Her mother prompted her to say, "The head of John the Baptist on a platter." Even though Herod regretted his promise, he had to abide by it because his guests had heard him. So he commanded that John be beheaded and that the head be given to Salome, who in turn, gave it to her mother.

In the Eastern Church we keep this day as a strict fast day, (i.e. no meat, fish, dairy, wine or olive oil) as reminders that we are to live a different style of life than Herod. In memory of this event, it is a pious custom amongst our faithful to not use dishes on this day, since John's head was served on a dish/platter. Instead, only bowls are used. Also, the food that is served on this day should not require the use of a knife, since a sharp instrument was used to behead him.

Thus, we are given three ways to remember St. John's beheading: a strict fast, using bowls, eating food that is not cut. This year, incorporate at least one, if not all, of these customs to help you (your family) learn the meaning of this feast day.



August 24, 2025

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Priest – Martyr Eutyches

Changeable Part:

See the special insert available in the church vestibule.

Announcements:

St. George's Parish Picnic

Please start marking your calendars for our St. George's Parish Picnic which will take place on Sunday, September 28th following the Divine Liturgy. The picnic will be held on the parish grounds in front of the parish house. This will also be the official beginning of our new school year for our St. George's Church School. Every year this has been a happy event for our parish family so please plan to be here, to have fun and to enjoy that Christian fellowship.

Today: Ukrainian Independence Day,

Join in celebration and solidarity from 12pm-6pm on the streets outside the Ukrainian-American Citizens Club. There will be traditional Ukrainian food, music, vendors, cultural exhibits and more. Proceeds will benefit Ukrainian families affected by the war. For more information, please contact theukesarnegie@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ukrainian Youth Retreat being held September 12, 2025 through September 14, 2025 at Camp Guyasuta in Sharpsburg, PA.

Concert at “The Arms”

On Friday, September 5, 2025, time TBD (evening) Zoe Erinna Cui a musical prodigy who was featured on America’s got Talent at the Age of 6 will perform at Sheptytsky Arms. Followed by a show by The Dynamic Duo. Zoe ...sings, dances and plays piano. She is now 8. Check her out at Facebook or U-tube. Tickets are \$10.00

**** Pyrohy** – Frozen Potato/cheese and Jalapeno are available for sale.

****Suggestion Box** - Suggestion forms are still available on the table in the vestibule. Please place your comments and suggestions in the "Suggestion Box" as marked. Your ideas are welcome and your feedback is truly appreciated.

Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday of August 17, 2025 was **\$740.00 + \$140.00**
(Collection: \$685.00, Loose & candles: \$55.00, Pyrohy: \$140.00)

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity!



Eternal Candle Offering:

An Eternal Candle Offering is available each week for an offering of \$15.
Please see the sign-up sheet in the vestibule or complete this section below:

Name: _____

Intention: _____

Please give your envelope to Olga Perkun or Vicki Senko.



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

“So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

As we continue our journey of life we expect that through one word of God’s mercy, the gates of eternal life will be opened for us, ... yet we close these very doors — no, the small doors of this temporal life in the face of another person. What can we hope for?

As we read Holy Scripture we learn that with what measure you measure it shall be measured unto you. In the Beatitudes it says: “Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy” , and in the Lord’s prayer: forgive us as we forgive. How simple it all seems, and yet how difficult we find it. It would be simple if our hearts responded to sorrow, to need; it is difficult because our hearts are silent. But why is this so? May it not be because when someone behaves badly we always think he must be a bad person, without realizing that often the man so much wants to be good, so much wants every word of his to be pure, his thoughts and his heart pure, his actions worthy ones, but he simply has not the strength, he is enmeshed by old habits, by the pressures of his environment, by false shame and so many other things. And he continues to act wrongly; but we could disentangle him. We could look at him as God looks at him, with pity, as one might look at a sick man dying of a disease that could be cured if only he were given the right treatment.

Each one of us could do what is necessary for someone. Look at a man and pity him for being wicked, angry, vengeful, bad in one way or another. Have pity on him and turn the bright side of your soul towards him, tell him that his actions and his words will not deceive you, however wicked they may be, because you know that he is an image, an icon of God, besmirched and disfigured, and yet in him you bow down to God, and love him as a brother. To do this may cost you a great deal, but if you can do it once or twice and see how a person changes because you have faith in him, because you have rested God's hope on him, what a world we should live in — a world of mutual trust. True, we should have to pay for it with our heart's blood, with tears of compassion, with agony of soul, but what joy there would be not only among the angels of God in heaven when they saw a sinner saved, but in our own hearts when we suddenly saw that in response to our compassion and love, a person was filled with the light of eternal life! Amen.

