

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BEHEADING OF THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS PROPHET,
FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN



Icon of the Beheading of John the Baptist

The Prophet and Forerunner

Now although the principle stands that “We all offend in many ways” (James 3:2), which of us dare to say that blessed John sinned in act or word or dress or food, when the gospel history praises the harshness of his clothing and the frugality of his meals; when everything he said either rendered testimony to the truth or refuted those who spoke against him; when even those who did not like him held in veneration his works of justice? What place could there have been in his inmost heart for sin, when the coming of the Holy Spirit consecrated him even before his birth, when not even in comparison with the ordinary way of human life could he be turned aside from the path of virtue, who from his boyhood on led an entirely solitary life?

And yet a man of this sort, one who

was so preeminent, reached the end of his earthly life by shedding his blood after a long period of affliction in chains. He who brought the good news of the freedom of heaven was thrust into chains by wicked people; he who “came to bear testimony to the light” (John 1:8), and who merited to be called “a burning and shining lamp” by the very light which is Christ (John 5:35), was shut up in the darkness of prison; he who was greater than all those born of women (Matt. 11:11; Luke 7:28) was punished by being beheaded at the request of the basest of women; and he to whom it was granted to baptize the world’s Redeemer, to hear the Father’s voice above him, and to see the grace of the Holy Spirit descending upon him, was baptized in his own blood.

Venerable Bede, *Homily II.23*

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Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens

Father Wasyl Kharuk

Sunday – August 29, 2021

Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever

Our Church is open for Divine Liturgies. We will continue to Livestream our 9:00 a.m. English Divine Liturgy and our 11:30 a.m. Ukrainian Divine Liturgy. The dispensation from attending Sunday Divine Liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation throughout the Archeparchy is still in effect until further notice.

All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FOR LITURGIES

Sunday August 29 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Beheading of John the Baptist (+John Fedack from Ruth) (For the Parish)
Wednesday September 1 9:00 a.m.	(+Stephen Gogniat from Steve Walsh)
Thursday September 2 9:00 a.m.	(+Marianne Maiden from Ellen)
Friday September 3 9:00 a.m.	(+Wasyl Dobczansky from Family)
Sunday September 5 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	(For the Parish) (+Irene Hnatiw from Family)

CONCERNING FUTURE PARISH EVENTS

District of Columbia Mayor Bowser announced July 29 that the District is re-instituting a universal, indoor masking mandate for everyone, even those fully vaccinated. This new requirement takes effect on July 31 at 5 a.m. Persons attending Church in the District, even if they are fully vaccinated, must wear a mask. Fellowship with Cake and Coffee after the Sunday Divine Liturgies will also continue to be suspended.

Everyone is kindly asked to return to wearing a mask during the Divine Liturgies.

Prayer List

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Fr. Frank Avant, Susan Avant, Chuck Basile, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Taisia Bullard, Michele Burns, Robert Matthew C., Mary Connors, Jack Davis, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Lilian Garland, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Daniel Horeczko, Nila Iwaskiw, Kateryna Jurach, Oksana K, Sarah Kelt, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Fr. Mykhailo Kuzma, Michael Joseph Little, Mark Pidlusky, Michele Pretka Litvar, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, James Salandro, Maria Sawkiw, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Timothy Stock, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Helen Lefcheck Torre, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Jennifer Wilson.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

God With Us Catechism

The divine Prophet and Baptist John, after he had preached the baptism of repentance according to God's command had taught men of low rank and high how they must order their lives. He had admonished those whom he baptized and had filled them with the fear of God, teaching them that no one is able to escape the wrath to come if he do not works worthy of repentance. He had, through such preaching, prepared their hearts to receive the evangelical teachings of the Savior; and finally, after he had pointed out to the people the very Savior, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (Luke 3:2-18; John 1: 29-36). John sealed with his own blood the truth of his words and was made a sacred victim for the divine Law at the hands of a transgressor. This was Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Galilee, the son of Herod the Great. This man had a lawful wife, the daughter of Arethas (or Aretas), the King of Arabia (that is, Arabia Petraea, which had the famous Nabatean stone city of Petra as its capital. This is the Aretas mentioned by Saint Paul in II Cor. 11:32). Without any cause, and against every commandment of the Law, he put her away and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, to whom Herodias had borne a daughter, Salome. He would not desist from this unlawful union even when John, the preacher of repentance, the bold and austere accuser of the lawless, censured him and told him, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife" (Mark 6: 18). Herod, being pierced with the sting of a mad lust for the woman Herodias, he laid his defiled hands on the teacher of purity on the very day he was celebrating his birthday. When Salome, Herodias' daughter, had danced in order to please him and those who were supping with him, he promised her -- with an oath more foolish than any foolishness -- that he would give her anything she asked, even unto the half of his kingdom. And she, consulting with her mother, straightway asked for the head of John the Baptist in a charger. Hence, this transgressor of the Law, preferring his lawless oath above the precepts of the Law, fulfilled this godless promise and filled his loathsome banquet with the blood of the Prophet. So it was that that all-venerable head, revered by the Angels, was given as a prize for an abominable dance.