



# The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

## Orthodox Church O.C.A.

420 Laura Street  
 Philipsburg, PA 16866  
 (814) 342-2011

Very Rev. John Horosky - Priest  
 John Conkey - Council President

June 2013

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*

### Service Schedule

#### June 2 – Samaritan Woman

Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Special collection for Seminarian  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy  
 Council Meeting

#### June 9 – Blindman

Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy

#### June 16 – Holy Fathers 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council

Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy

#### June 23 – Pentecost

Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy

#### June 30 – All Saints

Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Pot Luck Luncheon

### Reader's Schedule

	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
6/2	Doug Donovan	Doug Donovan
6/9	Larry Ammerman	George Sura
6/16	John Conkey	John Conkey
6/23	Tom Demchak	Tom Demchak
6/30	Jan Brennish	Mark Ammerman

### Feast Days

6/2	Samaritan Woman
6/9	Blindman
6/13	Ascension
6/16	Holy Fathers 1 <sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council
6/23	Pentecost
6/24	Holy Spirit Day
6/29	Apostles Peter & Paul
6/30	All Saints

### Reminders:

Saturday, June 15 is the Chicken BBQ



### Birthdays

Karen Blackburn 06/02  
 Vincent Ammerman 06/08

### Anniversaries

Jack and Mary Foster June 18, 1949

*The Hanging Vigil* above the Royal Doors of the iconostasis is supported by Irene Pollock in loving memory of her sister and brother-in-law Margaret and Robert Stefanko.

*The Vigils on the Tetrapod* are supported by Irene Pollock in loving memory of her parents, sisters, brothers, husband, nephew and stepfather.

*The votives* in front of the iconostasis, on the candle stands and in front of the icons in the nave are supported by Andrew & Louise Tocimak in loving memory of George Tocimak.

**Remember in your prayers:** Bishop MELCHISEDEK, Father John, Father Adam, Father Ted, Father Paul, Father Michael, Jennifer and Vincent, Larry Ammerman, Mary Ann Ammerman, Karen Blackburn, Matthew Boroughf, Chris Conkey, James Crites, Helen Czar, Joe Demchak, Mike Demchak, Steve Demchak, Eileen Donovan, Joe Edwards, Michael Evans, Bonnie Fetcenko, Jeffrey Fetcenko, Randy Fetcenko, Rose Marie Fetcenko, Yvonne Fetcenko, Olga Finlayson, Kenneth Finlayson, Jack Foster, Mary Foster, Harry Horosky, Evan Morgan, Richard Nakles, Harry Socie, Alexandria Stine, Karen Stine, Eleanor Sura, Holly Thompson, Andrew Tocimak, Irene Tocimak, Louise Tocimak, Walter Varagea, Delores Varagea.

*“O Master, the all-sustainer, and Holy King, Who punishes, but reduces not to death, Who strengthens the failing and raises the outcast, Who remedies the bodily sorrows of men, we pray unto Thee, O Our Lord, visit Thine infirm servants with Thy mercy; forgive them every transgression, voluntary and involuntary. Verily O Lord, send down from Heaven Thy healing power, touch the body, extinguish the fever, lessen the suffering and every infirmity of Thy servants, raise them decumbent, from sickness, and from the bed of evilness, make them whole and all-restored, return them to Thy Church well-pleasing and fulfilling Thy will. For it is of Thine own, to be merciful and to save us, O Lord, and unto Thee we send glory, to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.”*

**D. Edward Batchko** was ordained to the diaconate on April 20 at St. Tikhon’s.

*God grant you many years  
Father Deacon Edward!*



**Michael Conkey** graduated from Lock Haven University on May 18 in Health and Physical Education.

*God Grant you many years!*



**A. J. Blackburn** graduated from Georgia Southern University on May 11 and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps.

*God grant you many years!*

Our dear sister in Christ, **Anna Pennington** fell asleep in the Lord on May 3. *Memory Eternal!*

## *From the Desk of Father John Horosky*

The month of June is full of Feast Days and for our church at St. John’s June 15th is the annual Barbecue, one of our big fundraisers. Please make every effort to help during the week prior to the barbecue and on the actual day of the event. Much help is needed and the fellowship attained is truly a blessing.

This year the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul falls on June 29<sup>th</sup> and there is no fasting that day. This is a rare occurrence but it does happen. There is not a Lenten period during June but we can reflect on the following items for our personal gratification:

- \* Did I practice prayer, charity and fasting in a more responsible, regular, and consistent manner?
- \* Did I make a point of reading the Scriptures with the same care and consistency?
- \* Did I participate in the Liturgical services with greater regularity?
- \* Did I watch over my language and gestures, or my words and actions on an over-all basis with greater vigilance?
- \* Did I make a breakthrough on overcoming specific "passions" or other manifestations of sinful living?
- \* Did I work on establishing broken relationships?
- \* Did I simply give more of myself to Christ?
- \* Did I come to love Christ even more as I prostrated myself in faith before His life-giving Cross and tomb?

Written by Fr. Steven Kostoff

These words are just as important today as they were before Great Lent. Keep these words with you all the time and you will become closer to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. *Father John*

**Pentecost** The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

The story of Pentecost is found in the book of The Acts of the Apostles. In Chapter two we are told that the Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of Apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

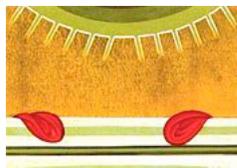
This miraculous event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, celebrated by the Jews on the fiftieth day after the Passover as the culmination of the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10). The Feast of Weeks began on the third day after the Passover with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves to God, and it concluded on Pentecost with the offering of two loaves of unleavened bread, representing the first products of the harvest (Leviticus 23:17-20; Deuteronomy 16:9-10).

Since the Jewish Feast of Pentecost was a great pilgrimage feast, many people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in Jerusalem on this day. When the people in Jerusalem heard the sound, they came together and heard their own languages being spoken by the Apostles (Acts 2:5-6). The people were amazed, knowing that some of those speaking were Galileans, and not men who would normally speak many different languages. They wondered what this meant, and some even thought the Apostles were drunk (Acts 2:7-13).

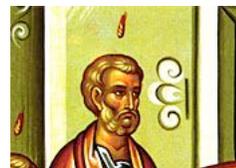
Peter, hearing these remarks, stood up and addressed the crowd. He preached to the people regarding the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He spoke about Jesus Christ and His death and glorious Resurrection. Great conviction fell upon the people, and they asked the Apostles, "What shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38-39).

The Bible records that on that day about three thousand were baptized. Following, the book of Acts states that the newly baptized continued daily to hear the teaching of the Apostles, as the early Christians met together for fellowship, the breaking of bread, and for prayer. Many wonderful signs and miracles were done through the Apostles, and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).

The icon of the Feast of Pentecost is known as "The Descent of the Holy Spirit". It is an icon of bold colors of red and gold signifying that this is a great event. The movement of the icon is from the top to the bottom. At the top of the icon is a semicircle with rays coming from it (1). The rays are pointing toward the Apostles, and the tongues of fire are seen descending upon each one of them signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit (2).



1. Semicircle of rays pointing to each of the Apostles (detail).



2. A tongue of fire rests above the head of Saint Peter (detail).

The building in the background of the icon represents the upper room where the Disciples of Christ gathered after the Ascension. The Apostles are shown seated in a semicircle which shows the unity of the Church (3). Included in the group of the Apostles is Saint Paul (4), who, though not present with the others on the day of Pentecost, became an Apostle of the Church and the greatest missionary. Also included are the four Evangelists—Matthew, Mark (5), Luke (6), and John—holding books of the Gospel, while the other Apostles are holding scrolls that represent the teaching authority given to them by Christ.



3. The Apostles in the upper room being filled with the Holy Spirit.



4. Saint Paul, who was not present on the day of Pentecost, is included amongst the twelve (detail).



5. Saint Mark the Evangelist, who was not present with the twelve Disciples on this day, is included (detail).



6. Saint Luke the Evangelist, who also was not present on this day, is included (detail).

In the center of the icon below the Apostles, a royal figure is seen against a dark background. This is a symbolic figure, Cosmos, representing the people of the world living in darkness and sin, and involved in pagan worship (7). However, the figure carries in his hands a cloth containing scrolls which represent the teaching of the Apostles (8). The tradition of the Church holds that the Apostles carried the message of the Gospel to all parts of the world.



7. The Cosmos, appearing in the center of the icon, representing the people of the world (detail).



8. The scrolls that are carried by the Cosmos are representing the teachings of the Apostles (detail).

In the icon of Pentecost we see the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, sent down upon the Apostles who will teach the nations and baptize them in the name of the Holy Trinity. Here we see that the Church is brought together and sustained in unity through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit guides the Church in the missionary endeavor throughout the world, and that the Spirit nurtures the Body of Christ, the Church, in truth and love.