



THE FORERUNNER

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Orthodox Church o.c.a.

420 Laura Street

Philipsburg, PA 16866

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<http://nativityofstjohn-oca.org>

Very Rev. John Horosky - Priest

John Conkey - Council President

May 2014

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Service Schedule

May 4 Myrrh-Bearing Women
 Hours @ 9:30 AM
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
 Special collection for Seminarian
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy
 Council Meeting

May 11 Paralytic / Mothers' Day
 Hours @ 9:30 AM
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy

May 18 Samaritan Woman
 Hours @ 9:30 AM
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy

May 25 Blindman
 Hours @ 9:30 AM
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
 Pot Luck following Liturgy

Reminder: Chicken BBQ on Saturday May 17

Wednesday, May 14 8:00 am
 Thursday, May 15 12:00 noon
 Friday, May 16 12:00 noon
 Saturday May 17 6:00 am

See specifics from Council President below

Reader's Schedule

	Hours	Epistle
5/4	Tom Demchak	Mark Ammerman
5/11	Jan Brennish	Doug Donovan
5/18	Drew Conkey	Mike Conkey
5/25	John Conkey	George Sura

Feasts & Saints

5/4	Myrrh-Bearing Women
5/5	St. Irene
5/8	Apostle & Evangelist St. John the Theologian
5/8	St. Victor
5/11	Sts. Cyril & Methodius
5/11	Paralytic
5/18	Samaritan Woman
5/18	St. Julia
5/21	Sts. Constantine & Helen
5/25	Blindman
5/29	Ascension of Our Lord



Remember in your prayers: Archbishop MELCHISEDEK, Father John, Father Adam, Father Ted, Father Paul, Father Michael, Matushka Judy Horosky, Matushka Ksenia Batchko, Larry Ammerman, Mary Ann Ammerman, Jen Ammerman with child, Karen Blackburn, Matthew Boroughf, Chris Conkey, Drew Conkey, John Conkey, James Crites, Helen Czar, Eugene Demchak, Joe Demchak, Mike Demchak, Steve Demchak, Kari Donovan, Matthew Donovan, Michael Evans, Bonnie Fetcenko, Randy Fetcenko, Rose Marie Fetcenko, Olga Finlayson, Kenneth Finlayson, Jack Foster, Mary Foster, Harry Horosky, Alexandra Mamrak, Eugene Minarich, Evan Morgan, Richard Nakles, Mary Sura Saupp, Harry Socie, Eleanor Sura, Andrew Tocimak, Irene Tocimak, Louise Tocimak, Walter Varagea, Delores Varagea, Patricia Wood

“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.”

Birthdays

Mary Ann Ammerman	5/06
Fr. Dcn. Edward Batchko	5/09
Matushka Krista Batchko	5/20
Eleanor Sura	5/30
Suzanne Demchak	5/31

Anniversaries

Stan and Jody Demchak	May 8, 1957
Elaine and Jim Cardinal	May 16, 1970
Joanne and William Whitehead	May 22, 1993

From the Desk of Father John Horosky

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

We celebrate the Resurrection of Christ for 40 days which and greet one another with the exclamation: CHRIST IS RISEN! May we keep the risen Christ in our hearts and in our actions.

Remember May 17 is our annual Chicken BBQ and help is needed. Please check the schedule and help as much as you are able. Donations will be accepted if you cannot volunteer.

On this day of the Resurrection of Our Lord, we have a special duty to the world around us. We need to help other people come to a true understanding of what Christ's rising from the dead means to the world.

This is needed because there is so much misunderstanding of God's plan and intention. That misunderstanding is often expressed with great certainty by people who are sure they know the "facts" about God, and what He does. For example, in an article published in the New Yorker Magazine, Adam Gopnik wrote that Jesus' cry on the cross, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" indicates failure. Gopnik wrote: "*His Father let Him down, and the promise was not kept.*" But this is the exact opposite of what God did. The truth about His plan and His work are well expressed in the Prayer of Commemoration in the Liturgy of St. Basil, which we have heard all throughout Great Lent. That prayer reminds us that man(kind) was "set in a paradise of delight" but lost it through "his own transgressions." So God sent man forth from paradise, "*returning (him) to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration inn Christ Himself*". The prayer goes on to say that "*it pleased Thine only-begotten Son... to condemn sin in His flesh, so that those who were dead in Adam might be made alive by Christ Himself.*" Christ "*made for all flesh a path to the resurrection from the dead.*"

These words mean that the Father and the Son agreed that Christ should come into the world, and should suffer, be crucified and raised. It was the only way He could once and for all defeat the power of death. In one of the readings for May 7th, Jesus Himself gives the reason for his agonizing death Luke 24:12-35 includes the story of the two travelers on the road to Emmaus who meet the risen Jesus but do not recognize Him. As they walk along together Jesus reminds them of all the prophecies of the Old Testament, He asks them, "*Was is not necessary that Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?*" (Luke: 24-46)

That word "*necessary*" is significant. It surely wasn't necessary for the Son of God, as God, to suffer and die. He is alive forever with His Father, but His creatures transgressed and could not save themselves from the deadly consequences of what they had done. To save them, it became necessary. We are the children of a God who refuses, as St. Basil's prayer says, to "*turn His face away from His creatures forever.*" No matter what we do, He will never forget us, because we are "*the work of His hands*". His love is so great; His determination will not let us perish is so absolute, that He will do anything for us. On this day of Pascha we celebrate that love and the eternal life it brings us. *Father John*

A Message from your Parish Council President, John Conkey

St. John the Baptist will hold its annual Chicken Barbecue on Saturday May 17th. This is our major fundraiser for the year; all money raised is used to defer the expenses of our parish. The barbecue will be held from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm, but the preparation will start long before then. The schedule for preparation follows. The cost for the chicken dinner, which includes baked potato, beans, applesauce, roll and butter, and a raisin filled cookie is \$9.00 per dinner. Beverages will also be available.

Please let George Sura, Mary Foster, or Doug Donovan know how many tickets you would like. We will be doing 300 dinners this year, and they usually sell out fast.

Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, May 14 8:00 am

- Make raisin filled cookies
- Wash potatoes

Thursday, May 15 12:00 noon

- Chicken cleaning and sorting

Friday, May 16 12:00 noon

- Wrap potatoes
- Prepare applesauce
- Wrap buns, butter
- Prepare Barbecue secret sauce
- Set up tarp over pit
- Clean out barbecue pit

Saturday May 17 6:00 am

- Start fire in pit
- Chickens on rack
- Flip chickens until done!
- Serve dinners
- Clean up.

With all these chores we will need help from all in the parish to make this a successful event. If you cannot contribute your time, consider a donation of flour, sugar or blue bonnet margarine for the cookies. I look forward to seeing everyone for this event.

Thank you, Council President *John Conkey*

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.

St. Thomas Sunday

Today the fragrance of spring is shed forth, and the new creation shall rejoice. Today the locks shall be lifted from the doors with the faithlessness of the beloved Thomas, as he shouteth out, Thou art my Lord and my God.

On the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

If the seals of the Virgin's womb and of the grave did not hinder Thee, How could the seals of the doors hinder Thy might, O Savior?

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha", because Thomas did not hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday following the Resurrection, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This also clearly illustrates the two Natures of Christ: the human and the divine.

When the holy Apostle Thomas touched the wounds of the Lord Jesus, from the depths of his soul he cried: "My Lord and my God!"

When Mary Magdalene heard the voice of the Risen One in the garden, she exclaimed in her soul: "My Lord and my God!"

When Saul the persecutor saw the light and heard the words of the Risen One, he acknowledged: "My Lord and my God!"

When pagans beheld how innumerable martyrs endured their sufferings with joy, and asked them who was this Christ, they answered: "My Lord and my God!"

When mockers ridiculed the great company of ascetic monks, and asked them who it was for whom they laid on themselves such strict asceticism, they all had only one reply: "My Lord and my God!"

When mockers ridiculed holy maidens who had vowed virginity and asked them who it was for whom they forgo marriage, they all had only one reply: "My Lord and my God!"

When lovers of money asked rich men, in disbelief, for whose sake they had given away their riches and become poor, they answered one and the same thing: "My Lord and my God!"

Some saw Him, and said: "My Lord and my God!"

Some touched Him, and said: "My Lord and my God!"

Some perceived Him in the fabric of events and the destinies of peoples, and said: "My Lord and my God!"

Some came to know Him by some sign, either to themselves or to others, and cried out: "My Lord and my God!"

And some came to hear of Him from others, and believed, and cried: "My Lord and my God!" And indeed, these last are the most blessed.

And so let us also cry with all our hearts, however we have come to the discovery and knowledge of Him: "My Lord and my God!"

And to Him be all glory, honor, praise and worship forever. AMEN

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!