



THE FORERUNNER

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Orthodox Church O.C.A.

420 Laura Street

Philipsburg, PA 16866

(814) 342-2011

<http://nativityofstjohn-oca.org>

Very Rev. John Horosky - Priest

John Conkey - Council President

August 2014

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Service Schedule

August 3

General Confession @ 9:30 AM
Hours @ 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
Coffee Hour following Liturgy

August 10 Archbishop Visit

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

August 17

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

August 24

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

August 31

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

Reminders:

Sunday August 10th:

Visit from His Eminence Archbishop MELCHISEDEK

September 14th

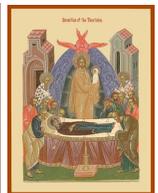
Semi-annual Meeting

Reader's Schedule

	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
8/3	Doug Donovan	Doug Donovan
8/10	Doug Donovan	Mark Ammerman
8/17	John Conkey	John Conkey
8/24	Tom Demchak	Tom Demchak
8/31	John Conkey	George Sura

Feasts & Saints

8/6	Holy Transfiguration
8/9	Glorification of the Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America
8/11	Holy Martyr Susanna
8/15	Dormition of the Theotokos
8/23	Saint Rose
8/27	Saint Phanourios
8/29	Beheading of St. John the Baptist
8/30	St Spyridon the Patriarch



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, 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.”

Prayers for safe travels: Alexandra Stine, Karen Stine, Gloria Rice.

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
John Blake	August 2	Father Edward &	August 13, 1999
Karen Stine	August 15	Matushka Ksenia Batchko	
Julia Blazosky	August 27		

From the President by John Conkey

With summer rapidly fading away, it is time to look ahead to the fall. The main event we have on the calendar will be the Semi-annual Parish Meeting. All parishioners should obtain a copy of the financial report, and look at it closely. Copies will be made available on the Tetrapod the 2 weeks prior to the 9/14 meeting date. The Council will be able to answer any questions you may have about our operating expenses. Additionally, we will accept any volunteers who would like to bring a new perspective to the Council. If interested in serving on the Council, please let me know prior to the meeting.

Yours in Christ, John

Christopher Conkey and Gabrielle Walker were married on July 12 in Somerset. Chris is a Seaman on the USCGC Bear. Gabby will graduate from Penn State in December and will be pursuing a Masters Degree.

Mr. and Mrs. Conkey will reside in Portsmouth, Virginia.

May God grant them many blessed years!



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.

From the Desk of Father John Horosky

Time goes fast and we often wonder where it has gone. This is August and we have two major feast days: The Transfiguration of Our Lord, and The Dormition (Falling Asleep of the Most-Holy Theotokos).

August 6th – The Transfiguration of Our Lord The Transfiguration of Our Lord happened when he took his three closest disciples (Peter, James and John) up to the mountain to pray. Although God sometimes reveals Himself to sinners in quite unexpected ways, it is usually those who have followed Him long and faithfully, who are privileged to enter into the joy of the Transfiguration of the Master.

When they were on the mountain the disciples fell asleep and when awakened they saw Jesus and themselves in a cloud and a voice from the cloud said this: *"This is My Son, My Beloved; listen to Him!"* The disciples saw the radiance of Our Lord with his clothing was white as a light that was never seen by earthly men and his face was a radiance that cannot be explained.

We all have the opportunity to be transfigured in our lives and to acquire a close relationship with God. So, too, we all have the opportunity to manifest the visible signs of those closest to God. As St. Paul tells us, "When we die our bodies will be transformed (transfigured as it were) and we will take on spiritual, radiant bodies. This aspect is clearly seen in the Transfiguration of Our Lord.

August 15th - Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos When the Theotokos was aged and no longer wanted to live in this vile world, she prayed that her Son would take her to where he was. As she prepared for her departure all the disciples were given notice of her coming demise. As the multitude was gathered at the home of the Theotokos, suddenly there was a loud noise, like thunder, and a cloud encircled the house of St. John the Divine. At the command of God, angels seized the Apostles who were scattered to the ends of the earth and, bringing them on clouds to Jerusalem, placed them on Zion before the door of the house. St. John greeted them and told them of the speedy departure of the Most-Holy Mother of God. Later the Apostle Paul, accompanied by his close disciples, Dionysius the Areopagite, Hierotheus and Timothy, as well as the Seventy Apostles arrived at the home.

On the fifteenth day of August, as all were awaiting the final hour, there suddenly shone in the room an ineffable light of the Divine Glory which dimmed the lamps that had been lit in the house. The inhabitants saw the roof opened and the glory of the Lord descending from Heaven--Christ the King of Glory Himself with the hosts of angels and archangels, with all the heavenly powers, with the holy Fathers and Prophets who of old had prophesied about the Holy Virgin, and all the righteous souls, approached His Immaculate Mother.

After greeting Her Son, the Virgin surrendered her pure soul into His hands. She felt no pain whatever, for the end was as if she had fallen into a sweet sleep. At once there began angelic singing and with triumphant songs the heavenly host accompanied the soul of the Mother of God as she went in the arms of the Lord to the dwellings on High.

Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.
But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed,
but to those who have faith and are saved.
Hebrews 10:39

Never pass up a chance to keep your mouth shut.
Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise;
When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.
Proverbs 17:28

The Power of Prayer by Norman Vincent Peale is a booklet donated by our sister in Christ who has fallen asleep, Christine Demchak. The booklet has four short sections: *Achieve Quietness, Feel God's Presence, How to Receive God's Guidance, Learning to Forgive, and Praying Effectively*. Over the next few months, we will share each section.

Achieve Quietness

The achievement of quietness is the first exercise because of its importance in beginning spiritual, emotional and even physical improvement. Before you can do anything of a truly creative nature you must become quiet of body and mind and especially of soul. The best thinking is not possible in an agitated mental state. Rational, effective thought, the kind that gets real answers to real problems, requires mental and emotional balance. Quietness helps us collect our wits and keep them too.

Power, the power that gives real motivation to your life, must begin in God's silence, in His eternal peace.

To create the mood of quietness slowly, very slowly bringing out the deepest meaning read aloud the 23rd Psalm.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; they rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; though anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Now practice physical relaxation: Sit loosely in a chair. Let both hands rest limply upon your knees, palms up, fingers cured laxly. Let you whole body sag. Close the eyes to shut out the world. Imagine Jesus Christ as placing His hand on your head and saying to you:

"...My peace I give unto you... Let not your heart be troubled..." (John 14:27)

With your eyes still closed, body still relaxed, hold in your mind a half dozen memories of the most beautiful, the quietest places you have every seen – a seashore, a mountain valley, a babbling stream, "Hear" the sea, the wind, the brook.

Now consciously let go of every worry, every irritation. "Feel" them loosening, say out loud, "I let them go; I let them go. They are going; they are going."

Sit in this relaxed posture for two or three minutes, meanwhile thinking the kindest, most spiritual, most out going thoughts you can develop. Think generously, think gratefully, think peacefully.

Say slowly. "There is no hurry. I am not tense. There is no rush. There is no need to be hectic. In peacefulness and quietness I am finding real drive, real power. This deliberate power I now have. And today as you go about your work, commit it to memory. It will keep quietness permanently vital within you.

"In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15) Next month: *Feel God's Presence*

From *The Master's Hand* (godslittleacre.net)

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took the small boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE."

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her son was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit, keep playing."

Then leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running obligatio. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was mesmerized.

That's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't exactly graceful flowing music. But with the hand of the Master, our life's work truly can be beautiful. Next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You can hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit, keep playing." Feel His loving arms around you. Know that His strong hands are playing the concerto of your life.

Remember, God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called.