



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>

V. Rev. Mark Meholick, Dean: Priest-in-charge

John Conkey - Council President

October 2015

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Service Schedule

Note: The following schedule assumes that Father Basil is available to serve @ St. John's that day. If not, we will have a Reader's Service, and notify everyone via the Phone Tree.

October 4

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

October 11

*Reader's Service @ 10:00 AM
No Coffee Hour

October 17

Vespers @ 6:00 PM
Confession following Vespers

October 18

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

October 25

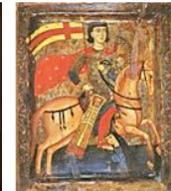
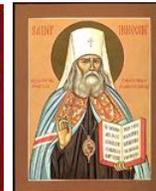
Hours @ 9:30 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
Pot Luck Luncheon following Liturgy

Reader's Schedule

	Hours	Epistle
10/4	Tom Demchak	Tom Demchak
10/11	No hours	Mike Conkey
10/18	John Conkey	John Conkey
10/25	Lilia & Garret McGraw	George Sura

Feasts & Saints

10/1	Protection of the Theotokos
10/6	St. Innocent, the Metropolitan of Moscow and Enlightener of the Aleuts, Apostle to the Americas
10/7	Martyr Sergius
10/11	Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council
10/18	Apostle/Evangelist Luke
10/20	Greatmartyr Artemius at Antioch
10/26	Greatmartyr Demetrius



Reminders:

- 11/7/15 (Sat.): Archdiocesan Assembly at St. John's. We will need help to set up for this event and to prepare for the continental breakfast and luncheon.



Birthdays

Victor Ammerman	10/08
Rhonda Demchak	10/10
Mary Foster	10/15
Joe Bartko	10/20
Linda Nolder	10/30
Helen Czar	10/31

Anniversaries

Mark and Jennifer Ammerman	October 6, 2007
Julie and Mark Blazosky	October 15, 2005
Mary Ann and Larry Ammerman	October 17, 1965

Remember in your prayers: Archbishop MELCHISEDEK, Father John, Father Adam, Father Ted, Father Paul, Father Michael, Father Andrew, Father John, Matushka Judy Horosky, Matushka Ksenia Batchko, Larry Ammerman, Mary Ann Ammerman, Jen Ammerman and Victor, Alexis Blackburn, 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, Gloria Rice, John Saupp, Mary Sura Saupp, Harry Socie, Alexandra Stine, Karen Stine, 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

***God has a purpose for your pain,
A reason for your struggles,
And a reward for your faithfulness.
Don't give up.***

Andrew and Louise Tocimak are residing at:
Colonial Courtyard, 5546 E Pleasant Valley Blvd
Tyrone, PA 16686
(814) 686-5970
They would appreciate visits and cards.

Thank you!

Thank you to all who helped to clean the church on September 12. Brass polished, woodwork buffed, rug vacuumed and windows cleaned. *God grant you many years!*

Thank you to all who came to share in the visit of **His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK** and the retirement of **Father John Horosky**. Father John and Matushka Judy were surprised and very touched to see many of the members of St. John's participate in this special day. In addition, to a review of their many accomplishments while at St. John's by President John Conkey and Vice-President Mark Ammerman, they also received a framed portrait and a book with pictures of the entire congregation since their first days at St. John's until their retirement.

Welcome!

We welcome **Father Basil Biberdorf** (interim priest), his wife, **Matushka Dea** and their children **Julia, Sophia, Genevieve and George** to the Nativity of St. John's.

St. Ann's Guild

We hope to officially add to the membership of St. Ann's Guild. If you are interested, please see Mary Ann Conkey or Bonnie Fetcenko. We are blessed to have three of the original members to guide us: Mary Ann Ammerman, Rose Marie Fetcenko and Mary Foster.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Please bring nonperishable food items, toiletries or cash. Drop-off for these items will be in the parish office. Thank you. Those who do not have appreciate your kindness.

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 the Tocimak family.

Sermon 12th Sunday After Pentecost

(Mark Ammerman shared this sermon on August 23 when Father John was not able to be there for the Divine Liturgy)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ in today's Gospel we heard of a young man that came to our Lord and asked what he must do to inherit eternal life. Our Lord responded that he must keep the commandments. The young man replied that he had kept the commandments. The Lord then replied that if he wanted to be perfect that that he need to sell all that he had and follow the Lord. The young man departed sorrowful because he had many possessions.

When the young man was gone our Lord said to His disciples that it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of needle then for a rich a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven. The disciples

then asked who then can be saved. The Lord responded "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

There are two questions in this Gospel lesson that concern all of us they are what must I do to be saved and who can be saved.

Within Gospel we see that there are two levels of salvation. The first level of salvation is that simply salvation to inherit eternal life. The second level of salvation is that of perfection. We know of these two levels of salvation of eternal life from the scripture. Our Lord said "In my Father's house are many mansions" (John 14:2) Thus in the kingdom of heaven we are not all equal. Just as there are ranks of angels, there are ranks of those that inherit eternal life. First in this ranking is the queen of heaven the Most Holy Mother of God, she is followed by the apostles, then the saints, then the righteous and then those that are simply saved. Saint Paul further confirms this ranking when he says to the Corinthians "Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world?" (1Corinthians 6:2)

In today's Gospel our Lord tells us that the first requirement for entry into the kingdom of heaven is to keep the commandments or more properly to keep the Law of God. We see our Lord tell this young man that he must keep commandments from the Law of Moses. He does this to remind us first and foremost that "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." (Matthew 5:17) The second thing that He reminds us of in quoting these commandments to the young man is that entry into the kingdom of heaven is as simple the Holy Prophet King David said in the Psalms "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." (Psalm 34:14) If you read the Gospel closely you will notice that our Lord only mentions six of the commandments and not all ten. Saint Nikolaj Velimirovic says that our Lord used these six because they had special significance to this young man. Thus, as Saint Nikolaj explains:

"You shalt do no murder" means over pampering of the body in riches and luxury kills the soul

"You shalt not commit adultery" means the soul is intended for God as a bride for her husband, if it occupies itself with love for worldly riches... it commits adultery against its immortal Husband God

"You shalt not steal" means do not steal from the soul for the body's benefit

"You shalt not bear false witness" means do not in any way justify love for riches and neglect of the soul

"Honor your father and thy mother" means do not honor only yourself, honor your father and mother by which you came into the world, that in this way you may honor God by whom you came into the world.

"You shalt love your neighbor as yourself" means love others in order to discipline yourself, and bring yourself down to equality with others in your eyes.

All too often when we look at the commandments of God we look at them as simple requirements. What we fail to see in them, when we look at them in this manner is the deeper spiritual meaning that is attached to them. Thus, we become like the Pharisee who justified himself before God saying "I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." (Luke 18:12)

Failing to see the deeper spiritual meaning of these commandments our Lord then confronts the young man with the higher standard of perfection in order to see the deeper spiritual meaning of the commandments when he says "go and sell that you have, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." (Matthew 19:21)

Wealth in of itself is not evil. The evil is created by ones bondage to riches, lands and possessions. We can see that many of the righteous from scripture were rich but were bound more firmly to their faith in God then their riches. Abraham thought of himself as dust and ashes among his riches

Job's wealth did not stop him from being humble before God and obedient to Him
Boaz, King David's great grandfather, was rich but pleasing to God in his benevolence
Joseph of Arimathea was rich but his wealth did not impede his devotion to the Lord

We see the answer to the second question: "who then can be saved" in these righteous men because they were not bound in their hearts to Earthly riches but to God. So we see through these men what our Lord meant when he said "without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5) The apostle Paul further confirms this when he said to the Philippians "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

So my dear brother and sisters in Christ we can see that our salvation rests on our relationship with our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ because as he said "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

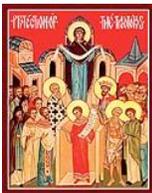
Amen

Delivered by Fr. Milan Medakovic at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church on the 12th Sunday after Pentecost 2009.
<https://frmilan.wordpress.com/2009/09/02/sermon-12th-sunday-after-pentecost/>

We begin the month of October with:

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos Commemorated on October 1

Troparion & Kontakion



"Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of Saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and Bishops venerate Her, Apostles and prophets rejoice together, Since for our sake she prays to the Eternal God!"

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ St Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. St John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop's Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." St Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe."

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them not go away from my icon unheard."

Sts Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and "for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation."

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2008/10/01/102824-the-protection-of-our-most-holy-lady-the-mother-of-god-and-ever>