



THE FORERUNNER
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
 Mark Ammerman - Council President

June 2010
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Service Schedule

June 6 Regional All Saints

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

June 13

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

June 20

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

June 27

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

Reader's Schedule

Hours

6/6 Veronica Pirow
 6/13 Larry Ammerman
 6/20 Gabriel
 6/27 Mike Conkey

Epistle

John Conkey
 Drew Conkey
 Jan Brennish
 Doug Donovan

Feast Days

6/6 Regional All Saints
 6/24 Birth of John the Baptist
 6/29 Holy Apostles Peter & Paul



For private confession, call Father to make arrangements.

Remember in your prayers: Father Adam, Father Ted, Jennifer & Lilian Ammerman, Mary Ann Ammerman, Helen Bokach, Chris Conkey, Helen Czar, Christine Demchak, Joe Demchak, Jeffrey Fetcenko, Randy Fetcenko, Rose Marie Fetcenko, Yvonne Fetcenko, Jack Foster, Mary Foster, Helen Mae Harvey, Julia Luzier, Anna Pennington, Harry Socie, Chuck Stine, Eleanor Sura, Holly Thompson, Andrew Tocimak, George Tocimak, Irene Tocimak, Louise Tocimak, Elizabeth Edwards, Joe Edwards, Olga Finlayson, Kenneth Finlayson, and William Cornman

“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

Judy Everly June 30

Anniversaries

Mary and Jack Foster June 18, 1949

The Annual St. John's BBQ was successfully held on Saturday, May 15. 352 dinners were prepared and sold. We would like to thank anyone and everyone who helped in any way – from buying or selling tickets, shopping for the ingredients, papergoods and charcoal, to preparing the ingredients the week before, to the cooking, serving and clean up the day of the BBQ. As you can see, there is always work to be done. We are truly blessed to have so many who are willing to help.

Memory Eternal to Josephine Conkey, mother of John Conkey who passed away on May 19.

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

The Gospel of St. Luke states that the righteous parents of St. John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth, lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. One day, while St. Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem, he saw the Archangel Gabriel standing on the right side of the altar with incense. Gabriel predicted that St. Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled and fearful. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked the archangel for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

St. Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept the news secret for five months. Later, her cousin, the Theotokos, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet her as the Mother of God. St. John leapt in his mother's womb upon the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon St. Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and her relatives and acquaintances rejoiced. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When St. Zachariah was asked about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it, "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and St. Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord.

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, King Herod gave orders to kill all the male infants. Hearing of this, St. Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave while St. Zachariah continued to serve in the Temple in Jerusalem. Herod sent soldiers to the Temple to find out the whereabouts of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that he did not know, and he was immediately killed.

St. Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

Troparion (Tone 4) –

Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, although we cannot praise you worthily, we honor you in love at your nativity, for by it you ended your father's silence and your mother's barrenness, proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

Kontakion (Tone 3) –

Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ's Forerunner, who is the fulfillment of every prophecy; for in the Jordan, when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the prophets, he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.

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Memorial Day

Every year in the month of May Memorial Day comes along. It is a good thing to have a day on the calendar set aside for remembering. Remembering is important. Our liberty did not come to us without great cost. We live because men died. The Church is built on the sacrifice of martyrs. On Memorial Day we remember the dead as the Church remembers them in every liturgy. It is good to remember. Without memory we become creatures without depth or quality. He who loses his memory, loses himself. Life becomes meaningless. Amnesia—we call it. A terrible disease!

To remember is a magnificent capacity of our nature. Without it, we would be incapable of learning from the past. With it, we can build on the past and redeem the future.

Memory can be a most precious possession—particularly if our memories are pleasant.

We erect monuments to order to preserve memory.

We take photographs in order to preserve memory.

Artists paint pictures in order to preserve memory.

Authors write books in order to preserve memory.

The Orthodox Church places great emphasis on *tradition*. What is sacred tradition but remembering, remembering what Jesus did and passing it on to someone else. It is what a father tells his child: it is a form of life, a dynamic continuity.

Tradition is remembering. The Church does not lose its memory. If it does it ceases to be the Church. The miracle of the memory of the Church can be one of its greatest contributions to the modern age.

So effective is the memory system of the mind that nothing is ever completely lost. Under patient inquiry, long forgotten events, facts, names can often be revived. Psychoanalysis, for example, demonstrates how much of what is apparently quite forgotten is only, like a buried city, awaiting the archaeologist who will dig it up.

Yet memory is often, all too often, an exasperating servant. We can't recall the title of a book read only last week. The name we know perfectly well won't come to us.

We curse our bad memories. They often hide from us what a miracle it is that the past should live on in us, and work for us.

The moment may be temporary, someone said, "but the memory is forever"