



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

August 2010
Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory forever and ever!

Service Schedule

August 1

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

August 6 Holy Transfiguration

Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM

August 8

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

August 15 Dormition of Theotokos

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

August 22

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

August 29 Beheading of Prophet & Baptist John

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

Reader's Schedule

Hours

8/1 Rose Marie Fetcenko
 8/8 Doug Donovan
 8/15 John Conkey
 8/22 Drew Conkey
 8/29 Veronica Pirow

Epistle

Larry Ammerman
 Chris Conkey
 Jan Brennish
 George Sura
 Mark Ammerman

Feast Days

8/6 Holy Transfiguration
 8/15 Dormition of Theotokos
 8/29 Beheading of Prophet and Baptist John



For private confession, call Father to make arrangements.

Remember in your prayers: Metropolitan Theodosius, 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, Karen Saupp, Harry Socie, Chuck Stine, Dustin Thompson, 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

Karen Stine 8/15
 Julia Blazosky 8/27

Anniversaries

Gabriel & Krista Batchko August 13, 1999

Welcome to St. John's – the newly baptized and chrismated Lilian Jane (Mary) Ammerman, daughter of Mark & Jennifer Ammerman on Sunday July 18th, 2010. God grant you many years!

Father's Corner

During the month of August we have three Holy Days: The *Transfiguration* on August 6th the *Dormition of the Holy Mother of Our God* on August 15 and the *Beheading of St. John the Baptist* on August 29.

The Transfiguration

Jesus went up a high mountain (according to Church Tradition, Mt. Tabor) to pray, taking with Him Peter, James and John. *And as He was praying, the appearance of His countenance was altered, and His raiment became dazzling white. And behold, two men talked with Him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His departure, which He was to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with Him were heavy with sleep, and when they awakened they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. And as the men were parting from Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. As he said, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Beloved; listen to Him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silence and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.*

Note: In Church tradition we bless fruit of the earth, as Jesus was transfigured the fruit of the Earth was altered from seed to food for man.

The Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos

Every year we commemorate the anniversaries of the deaths of the Saints---the Martyrs, Apostles, Venerable Mothers and Fathers, Sainted Hierarchs, etc. ---so much more we commemorate the death of the Most-Holy Theotokos who did not see the corruption of the grave common to all humanity. And not only did her soul ascend to heaven, but her body also. As she was a perfect example of that obedience which all Christians are called upon to exercise, and as she alone was the Mother of God, her body did not see the natural corruption which follows death, but was raised from the dead and carried to the glory of the King of All in the heavenly mansions.

Note: It is traditional to bless flowers on this day because as Apostle Thomas was late in getting to the funeral of the Theotokos the other Apostles opened the grave, the Holy Theotokos was not there but was risen bodily to Heaven and the grave contained her clothes that had a sweet smelling odor of heavenly flowers.

Beheading of St. John the Baptist

The preaching of John the Baptist was of short duration. Having prepared people to receive the Saviour, he ended his life with a martyr's death. Soon after the baptism of the Lord, John was put in prison by the Galilean King Herod. This Galilean King, Herod Antipas, was the son of Herod the Great, who slaughtered the fourteen thousand Bethlehem infants.

John upbraided King Herod because he had married his brother Philip's wife, Herodias, even though his brother was still alive. Herodias became embittered against for this and wanted Herod to kill him. But Herod would not agree to this because he considered John to be a great prophet and feared the people. However, to appease her, he put John in prison. Herodias was not satisfied with this, especially as Herod himself listened with pleasure to the admonitions of John and often acted on his words.

About a year passed after the Forerunner's imprisonment, when Herod celebrating his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers, and officers, and a thousand leading men of Galilee. Salome, the daughter of Herodias and stepdaughter of Herod, also came to this banquet. She danced for Herod, which pleased him and his guests.

Herod said to her, "Ask me for whatever you wish," and he swore he would have given her even half of his kingdom.

She went and asked her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

Herodias answered, "The head of John the Baptist."

Salome with haste returned to Herod and said, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

Herod was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests, he did not want to break his word to her, and sent a soldier to the prison to cut off the head of John. The soldier fulfilled the order of the king, brought the head of John the Baptist on a platter and gave it to Salome, and Salome gave it to her mother Herodias.

When his disciples heard of the death of John the Baptist, they came, and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Note: A strict fast is prescribed on this day in order to remind us of the strict life of St. John the Baptist for which he was blessed by God and to avoid the excesses of Herod, which led to such a terrible sin. The Holy Church teaches that St. John the Forerunner is the greatest of all saints after the Mother of God.