



**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

**January 2011**  
*Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory forever and ever!*

**Service Schedule**

**January 2**

General Confession @ 9:30 AM - Hours  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Special Collection for Seminarian  
 Pot Luck Dinner following Liturgy

**January 9**

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

**January 16**

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

**January 23**

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

**January 30**

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

**Reader's Schedule**

**Hours**

1/2 Drew Conkey  
 1/9 Veronica Pirow  
 1/16 Edward Batchko  
 1/23 Larry Ammerman  
 1/30 Chris Conkey

**Epistle**

Mike Conkey  
 Mark Ammerman  
 Doug Donovan  
 George Sura  
 Jan Brennish

**Feast Days**

1/1 Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
 1/6 Holy Theophany  
 1/7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist  
 1/30 Three Hierarchs



**Remember in your prayers:** Metropolitan Theodosius, Father Adam, Father Ted, Jennifer & Lilian Ammerman, Mary Ann Ammerman, 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**

David Mason January 7  
 Mitch Tocimak January 13

**Anniversaries**

Tom & Rhonda Demchak January 19, 2002  
 Mike and Louise Demchak January 20, 1957

## Father's Corner

January 1st is dedicated to the memory of the Circumcision of Christ. According to the Covenant, which God made with Abraham, God said to Abraham, *"As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations... Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. He that is eight days old among you shall be circumcised."* (Gen. 17:9-12)

In submitting to the Law of Circumcision, Our Lord signifies that He is the fullness and the completion of the Old Covenant: *"And at the end of eight days, He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the Name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb."* (Luke 2:21)

So, too, in the spiritual sense, every Christian must submit his body and desires to the will of God. As St. Paul says, in the Epistle Lesson read on the Feast: *"For in (Jesus) the whole fullness of deity, dwells bodily, and you have come to the fullness of life in Him, Who is the head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ."* (Col. 2:9-11)

## Theophany

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, *"Behold, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, After me comes a man Who ranks before me"*. (John 1:28-30) Then Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him saying, *"I need to be baptized by You, and do you come to me?"* But Jesus answered him, *"Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."* Then he consented. *And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am pleased."* (Matt. 3:13-17)

And John bore witness, *"I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptized with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."* (John 1:32-34)

**Note: This year we will bless water on Sunday, January 9.**

**Troparion of the Feast:** When Thou, O Lord, was baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity, Was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to thee, and called thee His beloved Son! And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His Word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

### God Said "No"!

I ASKED GOD TO TAKE AWAY MY HABIT. God said, *"No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give up."*

I ASKED GOD TO MAKE MY HANDICAPPED CHILD WHOLE. God said, *"No. His spirit is whole; his body is only temporary."*

I ASKED GOD TO GRANT ME PATIENCE. God said, *"No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations. It isn't granted; it is learned."*

I ASKED GOD TO GIVE ME HAPPINESS. God said, *"No. I give you blessings; happiness is up to you."*

I ASKED GOD TO SPARE ME PAIN. God said, *"No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to Me."*

I ASKED GOD TO MAKE MY SPIRIT GROW. God said, *"No. You must grow on you own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful."*

I ASKED GOD FOR ALL THINGS, THAT I MIGHT ENJOY LIFE. God said, *"No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things."*

I ASKED GOD TO HELP ME LOVE OTHERS AS MUCH AS HE LOVES ME. God said, *".....Ahhhh, finally you have the idea."*

-Anonymous