



**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

*July 2011*  
**Glory Be to Jesus Christ!**

**Service Schedule**

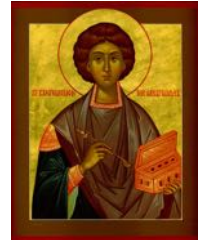
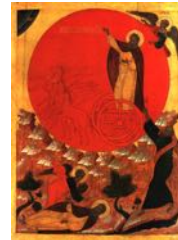
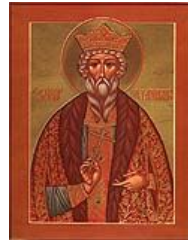
- July 3**  
 General Confession & Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Special collection for Seminarian  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy
- July 10**  
 Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy
- July 17**  
 Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy
- July 24**  
 Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy
- July 31**  
 Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Pot luck luncheon following Liturgy

**Reader's Schedule**

	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
7/3	Veronica Pirow	Edward Batchko
7/10	Mark Ammerman	Jan Brennish
7/17	John Conkey	Mike Conkey
7/24	Chris Conkey	Mark Ammerman
7/31	Larry Ammerman	George Sura

**Feast Days**

- 7/15 Isapostle Vladimir  
 7/20 Prophet Elias  
 7/27 Great Martyr Panteleimon



For private confession, call Father to make arrangements.

**Remember in your prayers:** Father Adam, Father Ted, Father Michael, Father Paul, Jennifer Ammerman and Lilian, 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, Carl Mandel, Anna Pennington, Harry Socie, Alexandra Stine, Eleanor Sura, Holly Thompson, Andrew Tocimak, Irene Tocimak, Louise Tocimak, Michael 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.”*

**Thank you to the following donors of the four new lampadas to be installed on the icons on the iconostasis.**

- Rose Marie & Bonnie Fetcenko in memory of John E. Fetcenko
- Jack & Mary Foster in memory of deceased of Minarich & Foster families
- Betty, Alfred and Jeff Fetcenko, JoAnne and Bill Whitehead in memory of Susan Fetcenko
- John & Mary Ann Conkey in memory of Jack McClintock and Josephine Conkey

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Yvonne Fetcenko	July 2	John & Mary Ann Conkey	July 3, 1987
Matushka Judy Horosky	July 7	George & Eleanor Sura	July 5, 1959
Joanne Whitehead	July 8	Andrew & Louise Tocimak	July 21, 1956
Chris Conkey	July 9		
Shirley Donovan	July 9		
Alexandra Stine	July 12		
Andrew Conkey	July 18		
Sarah Demchak	July 18		
Rose Marie Fetcenko	July 21		
Anna Pennington	July 25		
Jan Brennish	July 28		
Andrew Tocimak	July 30		

**Thank you to all who helped and came to celebrate Father John's 30<sup>th</sup> pastoral anniversary, which was blessed by a visit from our Bishop, His Grace MELCHISEDEK. God grant all many years!**

### *From the Desk of Father John Horosky*

During the month of July there are 3 holy days which are: July 15-The Isapostle Vladimir, July 20 - The Prophet Elias, & July 27 The Great Martyr Panteleimon. All of these are important in the cycle of the Church, however I would like to return to June 24 to focus on the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

The birth of St. John the Baptist, the last and greatest of the Old Testament Prophets, was the result of a miracle. As Holy Scripture tells us: in the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the divisions of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughter of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. (Luke 1:5-7)

Childlessness was a terrible thing to an Old Testament Jew; not having a firm belief in life after death, barrenness meant that one's name would not be carried on in life. In addition, Zechariah and Elizabeth were both getting on in years, and the likelihood of bearing children diminished with each passing day.

But then the miraculous hand of God intervened. One day, while Zechariah was serving in the Temple, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to him and told him that his barren wife Elizabeth would bear a son, whose name would be John. Zechariah was incredulous. He doubted the angel since both he and his wife were old. As a result, by divine command, he was struck until the time when the child would be born. (Luke 1:8-23) After this Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." (Luke 1:24-25)

We find parallels to this account in the Old Testament stories of the births of the Prophet Samuel and Samson, both of whom were born of barren mothers at the intervention of God. But we find an even greater parallel in the birth of the Most-Holy Theotokos, who was born of barren parents, Joachim and Anna, also by means of Divine Intervention.

Finally the time came for the consummation of the miracle. The time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they would have named him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said, "No; he shall be called John." (Luke 1:57-60) This was confirmed by Zechariah in writing; and when he wrote the name of John, his mouth was opened, and he spoke openly.

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "you child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins." (Luke 1:67, 76-77) We know that John later became a great Prophet and was privileged to baptize the Lord Himself in the waters of the Jordan. As the evangelist tells us, he acknowledged Christ's divinity when, after he had baptized Him and witnessed the event of that glorious day, he said, "I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." (John 1:34).

GOD BLESS US ALL!

*The Hanging Vigil above the Royal Doors of the iconostasis is supported by Margaret Stefanko in the memory of her sister Helen Bokach; her husband, her mother, brothers and sister.*

*The Vigils on the Tetrapod are supported by Irene Pollock in Loving Memory of all departed members of the Bokach family, Bernard Pollock, and Andrew Strizak.*

*The votives in front of the iconostasis, on the candlestands and in front of the icons in the nave are supported by Andrew & Louise Tocimak in loving memory of George Tocimak.*