



**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

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

**Service Schedule**

**October 2**

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

**October 9**

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

**October 16**

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

**October 23**

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

**October 30**

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

**Reader's Schedule**

**Hours**

10/2 Veronica Pirow  
 10/9 Doug Donovan  
 10/16 John Conkey  
 10/23 Larry Ammerman  
 10/30 Jan Brennish

**Epistle**

Mark Ammerman  
 Doug Donovan  
 John Conkey  
 George Sura  
 Jan Brennish

**Feast Days**

10/1 Protection of Holy Theotokos  
 10/18 Apostle Luke  
 10/26 Great Martyr Demetrius



For private confession, call Father to make arrangements.

**Remember in your prayers:** Bishop MELCHSEDEK, Father Adam, Father Ted, Father Paul, Father Michael, Larry Ammerman, Mary Ann Ammerman, Karen Blackburn, Chris Conkey, James Crites, Helen Czar, Christine Demchak, Joe Demchak, Mike Demchak, Eileen Donovan, Elizabeth Edwards, Joe Edwards, Olga Finlayson, Kenneth Finlayson, Jeffrey Fetcenko, Randy Fetcenko, Rose Marie Fetcenko, Yvonne Fetcenko, Jack Foster, Mary Foster, Helen Mae Harvey, Harry Horosky, Carl Mandel, Richard Nackles, Anna Pennington, Karen Saupp, Harry Socie, Alexandria Stine, Karen Stine, Eleanor Sura, Holly Thompson, Andrew Tocimak, Irene Tocimak, Louise Tocimak, Michael Tocimak, Walter Varagea Delores Varagea

*“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**

10/7 Stan Demchak  
 10/10 Rhonda Demchak  
 10/11 Sarah Mason  
 10/15 Mary Foster  
 10/30 Linda Nolder  
 10/31 Helen Czar

**Anniversaries**

Sarah and Chuck Mason 10/6/2002  
 Mark & Jen Ammerman 10/6/2007  
 Julia & Mark Blazosky 10/15/2005  
 Mary Ann & Larry Ammerman 10/17/1965

## *From the Desk of Father John Horosky*

**Question:** I was reading your answers about faith and life. I have been raised to believe that grace is all that is necessary for salvation... no works. But having read the verse from James that you quoted about faith without works being dead, it now makes sense that works go with faith. But how many works are necessary for salvation.

**Answer:** There is no “required amount” of works that are necessary for salvation. What is crucial is that, if we indeed have faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, that we manifest or reveal our faith in how we live and how we treat others. Read Matthew 25:31-46, in which we find the parable of the sheep and goats. In this parable, Christ reveals that which He will ask of us when He judges us, as well as that which He expects from those who call themselves by His name. He asks if we have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, given drink to the thirsty, ministered to the sick and imprisoned—and, of utmost importance, whether we have discerned His very image in those around us, especially the “least of the brethren.” If we fail to put our faith into action through such works of mercy, our faith is purely intellectual, “lip service,” so to speak. Simply stated, if we accept Christ as the Son of the Living God and the Savior of the world, yet we fail to bring His love to others around us, then we are liars. Hence, faith without such good works is dead, and it is precisely on our willingness to put our faith into action that our eternal salvation hinges, as Christ reveals in Matthew 25. From [oca.org/questions](http://oca.org/questions)

*So do we at St. John's live Matthew 25. I believe that God is alive in us at St. John's. Please read the note below that was sent to Mark Ammerman by our former priest Father Ted Shomsky. Father Ted stayed at the parish for a few days September 13-16.*

**Dear Mark, Thanks to you, the council and Fr John for letting me crash at St John's for a few days! Sounds weird, but I do always enjoy being in Chester Hill, no matter what the occasion! The parish house is so big, so large, so new, but so very nice!**

**I told George Sura that every time I come back to Philipsburg, St John's just gets better and better! You all have done such a marvelous job with the upkeep of the parish house and church! What a blessing it is to know that my former parishioners care so very much about the beauty of God's House, and the upkeep of all the parish properties, to include the hall and the parish cemetery!**

**You all have done a marvelous job, and you all need to be commended on doing what God expects you to do in the first place! Everyone of you will be rewarded by God for your generosity! You all will be given more from God, because you did not hide His Gifts. More will be given to those who have given more.... Wonderful is God in the death of His Saints! Truly I miss all those buried in your cemetery! May their memory be Eternal!!**

**Thanks again for letting me stay a few days in Chester Hill! I'm so very happy that all those wonderful things God has given you, have been so very appreciated by all of you dear faithful of St. John's Orthodox Church!**

**Your old priest! Fr Theodore Shomsky Weirton, West Virginia**

*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.*