

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

February 2013
 Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Service Schedule

February 3

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

February 10

Hours @ 9:30 AM
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
 Annual Parish Meeting following Liturgy

February 17

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

February 24

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

Reader's Schedule

Hours

2/3 Doug Donovan
 2/10 Tom Demchak
 2/17 Mark Ammerman
 2/24 Larry Ammerman

Epistle

Doug Donovan
 Tom Demchak
 Mark Ammerman
 George Sura

Feast Days

2/2 The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 in the Temple
 2/24 Publican & Pharisee

For private confession, call Father to make arrangements.



Remember in your prayers: Bishop MELCHISEDEK, Father John, Father Adam, Father Ted, Father Paul, Father Michael, Jennifer and Vincent, Larry Ammerman, Mary Ann Ammerman, Karen Blackburn, Matthew Boroughf, Chris Conkey, James Crites, Helen Czar, Joe Demchak, Mike Demchak, Steve Demchak, Eileen Donovan, Joe Edwards, Michael Evans, Bonnie Fetcenko, Jeffrey Fetcenko, Randy Fetcenko, Rose Marie Fetcenko, Yvonne Fetcenko, Olga Finlayson, Kenneth Finlayson, Jack Foster, Mary Foster, Harry Horosky, Evan Morgan, Richard Nakles, Anna Pennington, Harry Socie, Alexandria Stine, Karen Stine, Eleanor Sura, Holly Thompson, Andrew Tocimak, Irene Tocimak, Louise 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

Dorian Batchko	02/01
Mary Ann Conkey	02/02
George Sura	02/02
Emily Demchak	02/04
Julia Batchko	02/15

Anniversaries

none

Assessments for 2013

The Council decided to make sure we had something for St. John's in the Assessments, so the total for 2013 is \$170 of which \$9 stays with St. John's

Year	Total	Central Church	Archdiocese	St. John's
2012	\$140	\$105	\$28	\$7
2013	\$170	\$95	\$66	\$9

From the Desk of Father John Horosky

continued from last month's bulletin

The reading of prayers and prostrations are essential, of course, but these only express the state of prayer, while the prayer itself should come from the heart. And it is only such prayer, from the bottom of the heart and of the soul, that is the life of the spirit. True prayer, however, is a gift of God, and this gift is not granted to us without diligence and struggle. Therefore it is necessary for us to pray that the Lord should deem us pure and heartfelt prayer, for we are only able to pray when strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Therefore we must be mindful that the Holy Spirit is drawn to a soul cleansed of the stain of sin and worldly passions, and only in such a soul will He abide.

Our prayers will gradually grow more perfect as we improve the manner of our lives and cleanse our hearts of sinful passion. This banishment of sinful ways from our lives brings as its reward our success in prayer. At the same time, we must say that prayer cannot achieve perfection in isolation, but must be accompanied by all the virtues, for as we grow in virtue, so does our prayer grow ever more perfect.

Therefore we say that a Christian does not achieve true prayer at once, but only gradually, through various exertions and labor. All of life's deeds require toil and patience, but nowhere more than in the striving after the supreme virtue--prayer.

REMINDERS:

Sunday Feb. 10 is the annual parish meeting. Please take the time to be there.

Monday March 18 is the beginning of the Great Fast.

Sunday May 5 is Pascha

Some children who have made a difference.....

After **Rachel Beckwith** died from injuries sustained in a car crash near her Bellevue, Wash., home in July, news of the 9 year old's birthday wish to raise \$300 to build wells for those in need went viral. Inspired donors have helped fulfill - and surpass -- her mission by giving more than \$1 million to charity water. Rachel's mom will head to Africa next year with the nonprofit group to see firsthand how her deceased daughter is continuing to save lives. --

Jeff Hanson - Though an optic nerve tumor nearly blinded Jeff Hanson, the 17-year-old hasn't let the condition interfere with his creativity or determination to help others. Jeff started painting and crafting note cards while undergoing radiation treatment, and in the five years since his diagnosis, Jeff has donated more than \$350,000 from the sale of his work to more than 50 children's health charities.

Seven year old Evan Moss suffers from three to four seizures monthly, a relieving decrease from the near 400 he endured just a few years ago. To guarantee his safety, Evan's parents knew he needed a service dog, but they couldn't afford the \$13,000 expense. So, Evan wrote the book My Seizure Dog to help raise money and also offer a window into the world of a child suffering from epilepsy.

After raising \$175,000 to help build 27 concrete homes in Haiti, **Rachel Wheeler**, 12 decided to collect funds to replace a school that was destroyed in the 7.2 magnitude 2010 earthquake, "I want to build a school because they need education to make their lives better so they can learn and teach their own children how to have a better life."

After spending the summer in Kenya, Montclair twins **Taylor and Kennedy Everson** decided to dedicate their ninth birthdays to raising money to adopt a village in Africa. The budding activists collected \$2,650 for Free the Children the most that the organization has ever received from a children's birthday party Baristanet report The nonprofit helps areas in need by improving schools, health clinics and building water facilities.

To combat the schoolyard taunts, **Aria Novak** started the "Time for Kind Day" to raise bullying awareness at her Illinois school. She now plans to expand her anti-bullying strategies to other school districts and has even contacted Michelle Obama for help in spreading the word.

To earn her Girl Scout Gold Award, **Jillian McKigney**, 17, raised enough money to put together 500 toiletry kits for parents with children suffering from cancer. The Ursuline School senior realized that these dutiful parents are often unable -- or unwilling -- to leave the hospital to fetch a toothbrush, soap, or lotion, to take care of their basic needs.

Peter Larson, 17, is celebrating his 12th straight year of sleeping in a cardboard box -- from November 12 through December 31 -- to raise awareness for the homeless population in his hometown of Plymouth, Minn. The teen has collected \$400,000 for the homeless since he was six. This time around, Peter hopes to raise \$100,000, enough money to house 50 families for an entire year.

McClain Hermes' dad bet that if she could collect 400 pairs of shoes to donate to charity, he would shave his head. The 10-year-old completed the mission and took it one step further. McClain started her own foundation, "Shoes for Souls," in 2009 and has donated thousands of pairs of shoes to the Atlanta Mission Homeless Center.

When he was just 14, **Taylor Wilson**, became the youngest person in the world to build a nuclear fusion reactor. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Energy have encouraged him to apply a research grant and job offers have come in from defense contractors. Taylor has since built a liquid-based radiation detector, which he believes can play a critical role in the fight against terrorism. Once he secures a patent, Taylor hopes to bring his detector to Iran, North Korea, and other high-risk countries.

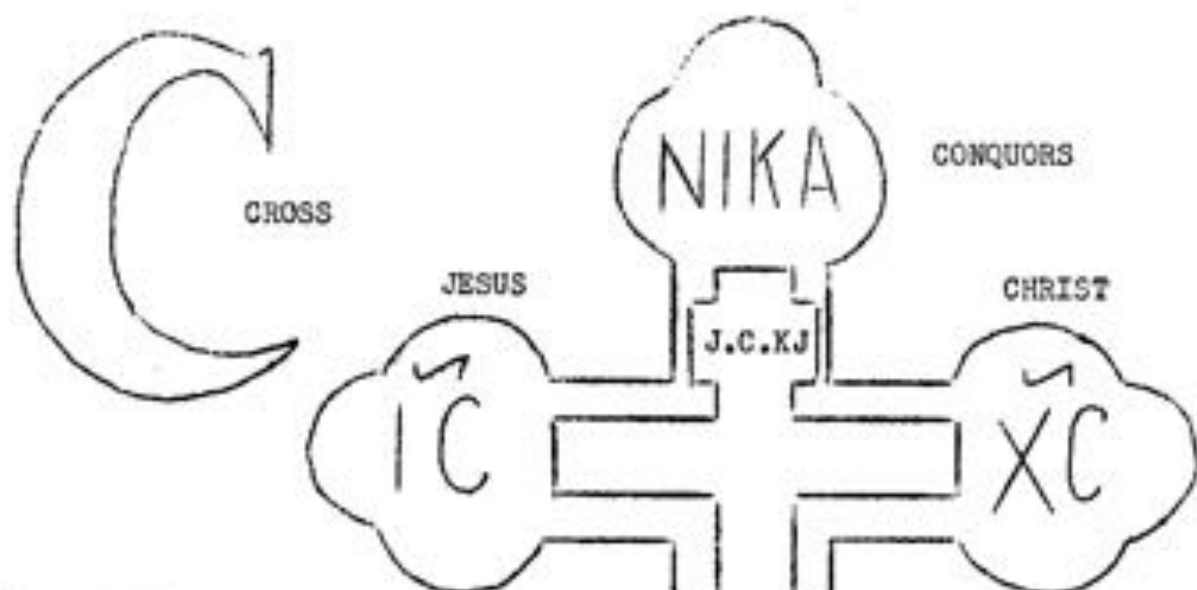
"And Jesus said, "See that woman there? she gives from her want, not from her need",...Such giving is a two way street,, what you give out? comes back to you,..Another giver is paying for new homes for those who lost it all in NY,..Sometimes it is just words we can give, yet, they can be the best gift of all.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/07/top-kids-making-difference_n_1133564.html

The Hanging Vigil above the Royal Doors of the iconostasis is supported by Irene Pollock in loving memory of her sister and brother-in-law Margaret and Robert Stefanko.

The Vigils on the Tetrapod are supported by Irene Pollock in loving memory of her parents, sisters, brothers, husband, nephew and stepfather.

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.



The symbol of the Christian Faith has ever been and always will be the CROSS. It is the sign of our Redemption by Our Lord Jesus Christ Who came to earth to suffer for us and was crucified upon the Cross. When people wish to show that something is dedicated to Christ, they mark it with a cross. The Cross is placed on church buildings, on the Holy Gospel, on the sacred vestments worn by the Priest, on banners, and over the graves of the departed. All Christians wear their baptismal crosses because they are dedicated to Christ.

We make the SIGN OF THE CROSS upon ourselves to show that we belong to Christ. We show by the Sign of the Cross that we want to live not for ourselves but for Christ.

There are various forms of the Cross but the one which best represents that upon which Christ was crucified is the TRIPLE-BARRED CROSS. In this Cross the top bar represents the INSCRIPTION BOARD nailed to Christ's Cross; the second bar represents the cross-arm to which Christ's hands were transfixed; the third bottom bar (slanting) represents the FOOT-REST on Christ's Cross. It is slanted

to show that one of the thieves crucified with Christ was saved and went to Heaven, while the other perished. It also represents a scale to indicate that someday all of us will be judged and that those who stand on Christ's Right Side will go to Heaven like the Thief on the Right Side.