



# The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

## Orthodox Church O.C.A.

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<http://nativityofstjohn-oca.org>

Very Rev. John Horosky - Priest  
 John Conkey - Council President

July 2013  
 Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

### Service Schedule

**July 7 – Saints of North America**  
 General Confession @ 9:30 AM  
 Hours @ 9:50 AM  
 Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Special collection for Seminarian  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy  
 Council Meeting

**July 14 – Fathers of the First Six Councils**  
 Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy

**July 21 – Prophet Ezekiel**  
 Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy

**July 28 – Apostle Prochorus the Deacon of the Seventy**  
 Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Pot Luck Luncheon

### Reader's Schedule

	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
7/7	Dorian Batchko	Dorian Batchko
7/14	Doug Donovan	Doug Donovan
7/21	Larry Ammerman	George Sura
7/28	John Conkey	John Conkey

### Feast Days

7/7	Saints of North America
7/14	Fathers of the First Six Councils
7/15	Isapostle St. Vladimir
7/20	Holy Apostle Elias
7/21	Holy Prophet Ezekiel
7/27	Great Martyr Panteleimon
7/28	Apostle Prochorus



### Birthdays

Yvonne Fetcenko	July 2
Matushka Judy Horosky	July 7
Joanne Whitehead	July 8
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
Jan Brennish	July 28
Andrew Tocimak	July 30

### Anniversaries

Mary Ann & John Conkey	July 3, 1987
Eleanor & George Sura	July 5, 1959
Louise & Andrew Tocimak	July 21, 1956

**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, Kari 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, Matushka Judy Horosky, Evan Morgan, Richard Nakles, Harry Socie, 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.”*

**Chicken BBQ** - The annual St. John's Chicken BBQ was a tremendous success, netting over \$1,450. The faithful of St. John's worked for days before the actual event to make sure everything was ready for Saturday. All of the dinners sold and many commented on the tasty feast. Thank you all!

**Warrior Icons** – The Warrior Icons are donated by Jan Brennish in memory of Michael Pisancik Brennish and his parents: Mary Brenisin Pisancik and Michael Pisancik. *Memory Eternal!*

**Matushka Judy** had emergency surgery at Punxsutawney Hospital on Monday, June 17. She came home Monday, June 24 and is resting and recuperating. Thank you to Karen Blackburn and Bonnie Fetcenko, angels of mercy. Thank you to all who have been keeping her in prayer. Please continue to pray for our dear Matushka Judy as she heals.

**Many years!** Eleanor and George Sura's granddaughter Sarah graduated on May 7, 2013, along with 1200 plus students, from Indiana University at the Notre Dame, Ind University facility majoring in Sociology.



## *From the Desk of Father John Horosky*

Recently the Church held their annual Chicken Barbecue Dinner, which many people had a hand in preparing and serving. We would like to take time to THANK all the people that gave their time and talents for this worthy cause. God Bless You for 'Many Years'.

### ***GIVING THANKS IS MORE THAN SAYING THANKS***

BY RICHARD AJALAT

“Every Thanksgiving we reflect on what we are thankful for in our lives. We often come up with the same generic answers year after year. Through high school my answers were always family, friends, the church (I learned at some point not to mention video games and toys). As I got older, I added different organizations to my list, like SOYO and OCF. We all have this list. We were taught in Kindergarten to make it, and we have done so ever since, in our heads if not on paper. And there is nothing wrong with being thankful for our possessions, but is that what Thanksgiving, or "Giving Thanks" is really about? Is making a list and saying "thank you" what our Lord expects of us? Is that what the Apostle Paul is talking about when he encourages us to be thankful for all things at all times?

In fact, I think that the answer is both "yes" and "no". It's not a matter (usually) of what we are thankful for, but how we choose to show our thanks. Certainly we are on dangerous ground when we expect our Thanksgiving list to match our Christmas list! But when we distill our thanksgiving lists to things that are truly important to us, such as food, shelter, and loving relationships, this is certainly what our Lord expects us to be thankful for, because these are unquestionably blessings that God has given us.

The Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) address the needs that people have, and the blessings that the Lord extends. Humans need basic things in life—food, clothing, shelter, and love. And these blessings all come from God the Father, who is the source of all blessings. Certainly, God has provided all of these basic human needs for me. As is likely true for most of you, I can't count a single day in my life that I was without such blessings as food, clothing shelter and companionship. And we're all grateful for those blessings, But saying "thank you" is not enough.

What are some of the ways we can show our thankfulness by helping others? We can go and help at a homeless shelter and feed the hungry. We can teach Sunday School. We can visit the sick or lonely people. We can tutor a child. After Liturgy, we can talk to someone we don't know instead of going straight to our friends. We can just say a kind word to a cranky person at the grocery store. It's not easy to prioritize these activities, as it is to prioritize others in our busy lives. But

this is our high calling as followers of Christ.

It is through our Christian actions and interactions with others that our generic "THANK YOU" list becomes personal and acceptable to God. And people no longer need to ask what we're thankful for, because they can see it in our actions. By this type of active response, we have shown that we are truly thankful to God for our family, friends and His Church, for our very lives, and for our salvation."

## **The Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon**

He was born in the city of Nicomedia into the family of the illustrious pagan Eustorgios, and he was named Pantoleon. His mother St. Eubula ([March 30](#)) was a Christian. She wanted to raise her son in the Christian Faith, but she died when the future martyr was just a young child. His father sent Pantoleon to a pagan school, after which the young man studied medicine at Nicomedia under the reknowned physician Euphrosynos. Pantoleon came to the attention of the emperor Maximian (284-305), who wished to appoint him as royal physician when he finished his schooling.

The hieromartyrs Hermolaos, Hermippos and Hermokrates, survivors of the massacre of 20,000 Christians in 303 ([December 28](#)), were living secretly in Nicomedia at that time. St. Hermolaos saw Pantoleon time and again when he came to the house where they were hiding. Once, the priest invited the youth to the house and spoke about the Christian Faith. After this Pantoleon visited St. Hermolaos every day.

One day the saint found a dead child on the street. He had been bitten by a great snake, which was still beside the child's body. Pantoleon began to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to revive the dead child and to destroy the venomous reptile. He firmly resolved that if his prayer were fulfilled, he would become a follower of Christ and receive Baptism. The child rose up alive, and the snake died before Pantoleon's eyes. After this miracle, Pantoleon was baptized by St. Hermolaos with the name Panteleimon (meaning "all-merciful"). Speaking with Eustorgios, St. Panteleimon prepared him to accept Christianity. When the father saw how his son healed a blind man by invoking Jesus Christ, he then believed in Christ and was baptized by St. Hermolaos together with the man whose sight was restored.

After the death of his father, St. Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the unfortunate and the needy. He treated all those who turned to him without charge, healing them in the name of Jesus Christ. He visited those held captive in prison. These were usually Christians, and he healed them of their wounds. In a short time, reports of the charitable physician spread throughout the city. Forsaking the other doctors, the inhabitants began to turn only to St. Panteleimon.

The envious doctors told the emperor that St. Panteleimon was healing Christian prisoners. Maximian urged the saint to refute the charge by offering sacrifice to idols. St. Panteleimon confessed himself a Christian, and suggested that a sick person, for whom the doctors held out no hope, should be brought before the emperor. Then the doctors could invoke their gods, and Panteleimon would pray to his God to heal the man. A man paralyzed for many years was brought in, and pagan priests who knew the art of medicine invoked their gods without success. Then, before the very eyes of the emperor, the saint healed the paralytic by calling on the name of Jesus Christ. The ferocious Maximian executed the healed man, and gave St. Panteleimon over to fierce torture.

The Lord appeared to the saint and strengthened him before his sufferings. They suspended the Great Martyr Panteleimon from a tree and scraped him with iron hooks, burned him with fire and then stretched him on the rack, threw him into a cauldron of boiling tar, and cast him into the sea with a stone around his neck. Throughout these tortures the martyr remained unhurt, and denounced the emperor. At this time the priests Hermolaos, Hermippos and Hermokrates were brought before the court of the pagans. All three confessed their faith in the Savior and were beheaded ([July 26](#)).

By order of the emperor they brought the Great Martyr Panteleimon to the circus to be devoured by wild beasts. The animals, however, came up to him and licked his feet. The spectators began to shout, "Great is the God of the Christians!" The enraged Maximian ordered the soldiers to stab with the sword anyone who glorified Christ, and to cut off the head of the Great Martyr Panteleimon. They led the saint to the place of execution and tied him to an olive tree. While the martyr prayed, one of the soldiers struck him with a sword, but the sword became soft like wax and inflicted no wound. The saint completed his prayer, and a Voice was heard from Heaven, calling the passion-bearer by his new name and summoning him to the heavenly Kingdom.

Hearing the Voice, the soldiers fell down on their knees before the holy martyr and begged forgiveness. They refused to continue with the execution, but St. Panteleimon told them to fulfill the emperor's command, because otherwise they would have no share with him in the future life. The soldiers tearfully took their leave of the saint with a kiss.

When the saint was beheaded, the olive tree to which the saint was tied became covered with fruit. Many who were present at the execution believed in Christ. The saint's body was thrown into a fire, but remained unharmed, and was buried by Christians. St. Panteleimon's servants Lawrence, Bassos and Probus witnessed his execution and heard the Voice from Heaven. They recorded the life, the sufferings and death of the saint. Portions of the holy relics of the Great Martyr Panteleimon were distributed throughout all the Christian world. His venerable head is now located at the Russian monastery of St. Panteleimon on Mt. Athos.

St. Panteleimon is venerated in the Orthodox Church as a mighty saint, and the protector of soldiers. This aspect of his veneration is derived from his first name Pantoleon, which means "a lion in everything". His second name, Panteleimon, given him at Baptism, which means "all-merciful", is manifest in the veneration of the martyr as a healer. The connection between these two aspects of the saint is readily apparent in that soldiers, receiving wounds more frequently than others, are more in need of a physician-healer. Christians waging spiritual warfare also have recourse to this saint, asking him to heal their spiritual wounds. The holy Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon is invoked in the Mystery of Anointing the Sick, at the Blessing of Water, and in the Prayers for the Sick.

### ***Selected Inspirations and Prayers for Healing***

#### ***A Night Prayer for Freedom from Anxiety*** (St. Francis de Sales)

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today, will care for your tomorrow and every day.

Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and fearful imaginings. Trust in the Giver of all good gifts.

#### ***Footprints in the Sand***

One night I had a dream. I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord and across the sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonged to me and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life.

This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, You said that once I decided to follow you, You would walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you most, you should leave me.

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never, never leave you during your times of trial and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then I carried you."

#### **Matthew 11:28-30**

Come to me, all you who are labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and lowly of heart. Your soul will find rest for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

#### **From Psalm 33**

"You, O God are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head."

#### **Serenity Prayer**

God grant me the *SERENITY* to accept the things I cannot change  
the *COURAGE* to change the things I can,  
and the *WISDOM* to know the difference.

#### **Prayer for Restoration**

Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, by the power of the Holy Spirit, ease my sufferings and make me well again in mind and body.

In your loving kindness forgive my sins and grant me full health so that I may be restored to your service. You are Lord for ever and ever.

#### **Psalm 86:5**

You, O God are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

***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 candle stands and in front of the icons in the nave are supported by Andrew & Louise Tocimak in loving memory of George Tocimak.***