



# 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  
 John Conkey - Council President

January 2014  
 Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

### Service Schedule

#### January 5 Holy Theophany Eve

General Confession & Hours @ 9:30 AM  
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
 Special collection for Seminarian  
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy  
 Blessing of church & rectory

#### January 12

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

#### January 19

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

#### January 26

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

### Reader's Schedule

	Hours	Epistle
1/5	Larry Ammerman	Tom Demchak
1/12	Jan Brennish	Mark Ammerman
1/19	Mike Conkey	John Conkey
1/26	Doug Donovan	George Sura

### Feasts & Saints

1/1	Feast of Circumcision
1/6	Holy Theophany
1/7	Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
1/30	Three Hierarchs



**Remember in your prayers:** Bishop MELCHISEDEK, Father John, Father Adam, Father Ted, Father Paul, Father Michael, Matushka Judy Horosky, Matushka Ksenia Batchko, Larry Ammerman, Mary Ann Ammerman, Karen Blackburn, Matthew Boroughf, Chris Conkey, Drew Conkey, John Conkey, James Crites, Helen Czar, Eugene Demchak, Joe Demchak, Mike Demchak, Steve Demchak, Kari Donovan, Matthew Donovan, Michael Evans, Bonnie Fetcenko, Randy Fetcenko, Rose Marie Fetcenko, Olga Finlayson, Kenneth Finlayson, Jack Foster, Mary Foster, Harry Horosky, Alexandra Mamrak, Evan Morgan, Richard Nakles, Harry Socie, Eleanor Sura, 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

Mitch Tocimak	1/13
Steve Demchak	1/20
Sonya Bragonier	1/30

### Anniversaries

Rhonda and Tom Demchak	1/19/2002
Mike and Louise Demchak	1/20/1957

## Assessments for 2014

The Archdiocese increased our assessments to \$161, approved at the 11/10/12 Archdiocesan Assembly at McKees Rocks, and stated that they would go up again for 2014. From the Proposed 2014 Budget in the Archdiocese Treasurer's report at the 2013 Archdiocesan Assembly at New Kensington 11/2/13, the Central Church assessment went down by \$3, and the Archdiocese assessment went up \$5. To keep the total amount to \$170, we will reduce the amount to St. John's by \$2. A comment in the report states that to fully fund the Archdiocese, they would have to add another \$65 per person to the Assessment.

Year	Total	Central Church	Archdiocese	St. John's
2012	\$140	\$105	\$28	\$7
2013	\$170	\$95	\$66	\$9
2014	\$170	\$92	\$71	\$7

## *From the Desk of Father John Horosky*

### **It Takes a Parish**

*"My little children, for whom I labor in birth again, until Christ is formed in you."*

*(Galatians 4:19)*

The glory of the baptismal and Chrismation sacraments glows from the illumination of the faces of all who are witness to the blessed event. Nobody there is blasé, bored or unaffected by the celebration of one of those "many who have been baptized, have put on Christ," as we sing during the three-time encirclement of the font. Smiles on all faces. Good wishes for the beaming parents. Now onto photographs, the meal and back to normal life. So complete – or is it?

The newly baptized has been washed in the blessed water and anointed with the Holy Spirit. Is that the end or just the beginning of life in Christ? Indeed, the second birth is a ceremonial drowning to any sin inherited by the disobedience of our original ancestors Adam and Eve, and a new pure and sacred inauguration into a life of saintliness. We all can understand and confirm that spiritual truth; but do we realize that the growth into the fullness of that blessed life is not only the child's responsibility, but that of all who are taking part in the purification process: Parents, siblings, godparents, grandparents, extended family and friends, and certainly the priest himself. Out of the womb and exposed to the world we live in, which we understand, sometimes defend, explain, excuse and justify, yet which has strayed from the Christian ethos of the past. Those of us over fifty years of age can recall a society that preferred matters of sexuality discussed and experienced behind closed doors; what this society calls "honest," we prefer to label embarrassing, even shameful. Those born in these times need not always be told [certainly warned] about aberrant behavior. They'll find out soon enough in a society calling itself "For Adults Only," but which closes the gap between adults and children all too soon. There is so much to be avoided, and with the vigilance and support of all true Christians, it can be done. Christ is still with us, and more important, in us, and in our children. But we all need to make that evident.

We are born alone, we die alone, but in between we are part of the family of Christ called the Church. The neophyte Christian is destined to be confronted by a society with morals, behavior and challenges quite apart from the values and life style proclaimed by the Church and its clergy. Of course, there is an abundance of hope expressed through the baptism – the exorcism of Satan and all his cohorts at the entrance of the Church, the rejection of all darkness and division, turning to source of light and wisdom, yet like the experience of our Lord Himself in the wilderness, Satan left Him only for a time – his presence and perseverance to be continued. And Satan will not be far from one born into Christ.

All those who love the newly-baptized child are encouraged to imitate St. Paul in the above quotation. To take responsibility for the infant's spiritual development, encouraging her in all ways helpful and holy as she grows and increases in the fullness of Christ. The beloved apostle was addressing gentiles who were in danger of falling backward into the sinful ways that they knew all too well. He lets them know that by having brought them to Christ in holy baptism, he feels like a pregnant woman in whose womb an infant was being developed. So too, our newly born babies are out into our world; yet if we think of the Church as a mother incubating us all as we develop into the total image of our Lord, we cannot shirk our accountability for the progress of those newly baptized as well as for all whom we call sisters and brothers in Christ.

from *Reflections in Christ* by Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky

<http://oca.org/reflections/berzonsky/it-takes-a-parish>

## ***Do you know how to show God's love?***

<http://www.projectinspired.com/everyday-ways-to-show-love-to-other-people/>

*If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.* (1 John 4:20-21)

God tells us throughout The Bible to love other people. In fact, 1 John 4:20-21 tells us that we can't even love God if we don't love other people! So here are ten ways that you can show love for other people today and everyday!

1. Compliment a stranger. Everyone loves compliments!
2. Give someone a smile. Smiles are contagious!
3. Send a handwritten letter or card to a loved one.
4. Start a conversation with someone who looks a little 'down in the dumps.' It's certain to brighten his/her mood.
5. Call someone whom you haven't spoken to in a while. I'm sure Grandma or a beloved auntie would love to hear from you!
6. Give a gift...*anonymously*. What a *selfless* way to let someone know that s(he) is loved and thought about.
7. Volunteer to do something helpful for your mom or dad. They'll be grateful for one less task or chore to do.
8. Give the gift of time! Volunteer to sit with your elderly neighbor or to babysit for a single parent.
9. Give someone a hug. Sometimes a hug is just what someone needs to feel better.
10. Offer encouraging words to someone who's discouraged. You never know when *your* words will help motivate a person to achieve what God has called them to do or be!

**Love is action.** Do something today to show love toward another person. God will be pleased!

Jesus replied: "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.*" (Matthew 22:37-39)

### ***Let's Keep Our Doors Open at St. John's and Welcome Those Who Enter to Worship With Us***

Every member is a host and not a guest. Making visitors feel welcome is primarily the responsibility of members, not the nebulous "church."

The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home in a new church is you. It is not the pastor, or the greeter, but a regular attender. J. David Eshleman says "One of the most impressive gestures we can extend to first time visitors is for people with no official position to take the initiative and welcome them."

Treat first time visitors as guests of God, not strangers.

Smile at everyone and offer your hand.

Look people in the eye.

Take the initiative, don't wait for visitors to initiate conversation.

Learn people's names and remember them.

Use [only] appropriate and allowed Touch such as a hand shake or a gentle pat on the back.

Ask questions and learn about your guests. It is better to express interest in them than it is to try to "sell" your church.

Listening is a very effective way to show love.

Greet children at their level.

Let children be children.

Invite visitors to join you at something, anything!

Never let new people sit alone. Eshelman says, "New people should never have to sit alone. Take initiative and go to them without delay."

Help visitors find seating that suits their families needs.

Help first time visitors by being their tour guide and helping them find worship resources. Visiting a new church is like a cross-cultural experience, even for those of us who have visited dozens of other churches.

Invite people to fill out your church's visitor registration card or information.

Tell people you're glad they are here.

Pray for them throughout your week.

Be yourself! You are loving! You have a good thing going! You have the capacity to love more people, and to love more deeply. Eshelman says, "Practice making people feel special, and what you give to others will be returned to you."

Hospitality is not a given among Christians, its a calling which requires a specific skill set.

Consider yourself called!

## *Angels Among Us*

When we think of angels we think of beautiful beings with wings. This is not always the case; there are angels who walk among us on earth that are real people with a mortal body. These wonderful people seem to be sent from above and are just what we need at the moment we need them. Here are some of the signs that will help you see who they are.

**Look first at your mother.** Not all, but most could get their wings for what they have done for you. The times they stayed up with you all night when you were sick or stood up to your math teacher in high school. Mothers in my book are the closest to God. Speaking of mothers I believe that her prayers for our sake have the greatest power.

**Talk to little children.** They are the littlest angels. They are pure and wise beyond their years and need to be treated with loving care.

**Listen to their message.** All angels speak with a message of truth straight to your heart. That best friend who told you the truth when no one else would is an angel to you.

**Seek out really good people; people who don't lie or deceive.** Totally honest people are angels.

**Remember your dreams, they have meanings.** Maybe your father died and speaks to you in a dream and tells you something you need to know. You might want to think of what he told you, he can be an angel now with a heavenly message.

**Remember that when the student is ready a teacher is provided.** The teaching occurs for us at the time we are ready for the message.

**Open your eyes to perfect strangers.** Sometimes they can teach you great life lessons just by watching them. The homeless man on the street can make you appreciate what you have. The special needs child that makes you smile as you watch her accomplish a task. Who is to say they are not angels.

**Look for miracles that happen every day.** Remember the lady that screamed out to you "You are going down a one way street, turn around" and saved your life. That is what I call an angel.

**Think of your many friends and how many times they looked out for your safety.** Remember when they stopped you from making a mistake?

**Recall the medical help from doctors or dentist.** How many times were they moved to do just the right thing to protect you or even spare your life? They are your angels.

**Last we cannot forget our teachers.** The lady who taught you to read, or spell, her patience was that of an angel for sure. You could not read this now without her help then. In conclusion, we can all be an angel; we can all be the hand of God by helping our fellow man along life's path.

*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.*