



The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Orthodox Church O.C.A.

420 Laura Street
 Philipsburg, PA 16866
 (814) 342-2011

<http://nativityofstjohn-oca.org>

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

April 2014

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Service Schedule

April 4 Friday

Confession @ 5:00 PM
 Presanctified Liturgy @ 6:00 PM

April 6 St. Mary of Egypt Sunday

Hours @ 9:30 AM
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
 Special collection for Seminarian
 Coffee Hour following Liturgy

April 12 Saturday Lazarus Saturday

Confession @ 9:00 AM
 Hours @ 9:30 AM
 Liturgy @ 10:00 AM

April 13 Palm Sunday

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

April 16 Wednesday Holy & Great Wednesday

Holy Unction @ 6:00 PM

April 17 Thursday Holy & Great Thursday

12 Gospels @ 6:00 PM

April 18 Friday Holy & Great Friday

Vespers/Compline @ 4:00 PM
 Tomb watch

April 19 Saturday Holy & Great Saturday

Hours @ 9:30 AM
 Vespers/Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
 Compline @ 6:00 PM

April 20 Pascha

Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
 Blessing of the baskets following Liturgy

April 27 St. Thomas Sunday

Hours @ 9:30 AM
 Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM
 Blessing of the graves (weather permitting)

No confessions on Sundays before Liturgy

Reader's Schedule

Hours

4/6 Tom Demchak
 4/12 John Conkey
 4/13 Doug Donovan
 4/20 Choir
 4/27 Larry Ammerman

Epistle

Tom Demchak
 George Sura
 Doug Donovan
 Drew Conkey
 Mark Ammerman

Feasts & Saints

4/6 St. Mary of Egypt
 4/7 St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow
 4/12 Lazarus Saturday
 4/13 Palm Sunday
 4/16 Holy & Great Wednesday
 4/17 Holy & Great Thursday
 4/18 Holy & Great Friday
 4/19 Holy & Great Saturday
 4/20 Pascha
 4/23 Great Martyr George
 4/23 St. Alexandra
 4/27 St. Thomas



Reminder: Chicken BBQ on Saturday May 17

Remember in your prayers: Archbishop 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, Patricia Wood

“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		Anniversaries
Jack Foster	04/02	none
V. Rev. John Horosky	04/17	
Elaine Cardinal	04/24	
Ivan Switala	04/24	

Altoona-Johnstown Deanery Mission Services for 2014

April 6 (Holy Unction Services) – SS. Peter & Paul, R.D. 1 Urey, Urey Rd, Glen Campbell, PA 4:00 PM

From the Desk of Father John Horosky

April is very busy with all the services and especially those during Holy Week. In Holy Week we need people to help with the different things that need to be done. Please try to attend all the services and help in any way that you can.

Holy Unction – Near the end of the service the Priest brings the Gospel out and we ask all the people who are who are sick to come first. The Priest places the Gospel on the heads of those who are most ill first followed by the rest of the people. All are covered in a symbolic way under the Priest’s vestments in the warmth of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Thursday - We need people to hold 12 candles in the center of the church. After each Gospel is read one person leaves and returns to the pew.

Holy Friday - We need 4 men to carry the shroud and people to carry candles.

Holy Saturday morning - We need people to change the Altar Vestments.

Holy Saturday evening – We need people to carry items for the procession and others to remain in the church to take the flowers from the grave.

During these services Fr. John will direct you as to when to kneel or stand.

At the culmination of Holy Week is Holy Pascha . May I be the first to wish "**Christ is Risen!**"

Father John

Christ's Last Moment on the Cross - OCA Reflections in Christ <http://oca.org/>

March 28, 2010 Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky

"And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.' Having said this, He breathed His last....And the whole crowd who came together to that sight seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned." (Luke 23:46,48)

It was truly a spectacle – the last moments of our Lord and Savior on the cross, and what they saw- that spectacular event when He shouted out with a loud voice: *"Finished!"* [omitted by Luke, but mentioned in Matthew and Mark.] The word for a spectacle, *theoria*, appears on here in the entire Gospel, and yet it remained for the later Church fathers a prime source of contemplation.

All who were present at that trauma-filled time left with His word ringing in their ears-the shout of a victor, not a whisper of a beaten, defeated victim. Imagine yourself there at the time. What would you be feeling and thinking? The apostle Thomas understood it then as indeed the end. It's all over: All the talk about something earth-changing about to happen-then the Master crying out *"Finished!"* But if that was his thought, Thomas would have been wrong. Not at all a conclusion, but it was a completion. He meant: Consummated. The entire purpose of His incarnation comes to fruition. The meaning of His birth, life, ministry, including the events that led Him to the cross-all fulfilled by His obedience to the will of the heavenly Father. It's not self-evident; it requires contemplation. Entering into the temple of the mind and descending into the heart. Spectacle – *theoria* – a term some say that comes from *theon oran*, or seeing God in everything. To meditate even as we do from a distance in time of two millennia removed from the actual moment in history when it happened-even we can recognize the hand of God in Trinity bringing this traumatic event come about.

To "see God in everything" is to understand the last prayer of our Lord – *"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!"* How many evenings of His early life had He heard those very words from Psalm 31:5 uttered by the voice of His precious mother when as a child she would wrap Him in a blanket and lull Him to sleep. Had she remembered those years? Did she then recall the foreboding of the ancient Symeon in the temple as he returned the infant Jesus to her say: "A sword will pierce your own soul also, that the thoughts of many will be revealed [2:35]. But it's not quite the precise text of the psalm. Our loving Lord added a single word at the start – "Father: God is assumed and addressed, however, Jesus is speaking to the One for Whom He did it all. He is using these last breaths to say to His Father – I've completed the job I came to earth to do... and now I'm coming home.

Imagine all who had the honor and privilege of witnessing the action which certified our salvation. If *theoria* implies seeing God in all things, those who were actually there had the opportunity to do so that day. And we who are alive in the Holy Spirit are with the guidance of the Spirit and the presence of Jesus Christ in whom we have been baptized – we too have the spiritual capability to see God in everything; however, it requires a great deal of development and conquest of passions to bring it about before we meet Him in His Father's kingdom.

How privileged they were who had been there watching Christ's crucifixion. We can only imagine their musings as they left that traumatic scene. In the poignant anecdote of the two returning to Emmaus [24:13-35], St. Luke provides us with two who had witnessed the crucifixion – Clopas and perhaps the evangelist himself, who were among those who *"beat their breasts."* Already that very day the seeds of the Church had been planted in many hearts. It concludes as well the words from the evangelist, St. John: *"We beheld His glory!"* (John 1:14)

A Message from your Parish Council President, John Conkey

As we approach the Fifth Sunday of Lent recalling the memory of St. Mary of Egypt, we again are asked to repent our sins as did St. Mary. Even repentance at the last moment is never too late in life-or in Lent, to prepare for the Resurrection of Christ. As we prepare for the triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, and the Holy Resurrection on Pascha, let each of us examine our conscience to ensure we are truly worthy to accept the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Then we can truly greet each other saying:

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Our Risen Lord

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one to His own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:5-6)

“O Christ Saviour, we were but yesterday buried with Thee, and we shall rise with Thee in Thy Resurrection. We were but yesterday crucified with Thee: glorify us with Thee in Thy kingdom.” (Verse from the Third Ode of the Paschal Canon)

Christ is Risen!

By Fr. Gregory Horton Originally published in [DIAKONIA, Spring 2007](#)

We are now entering the very heart of the Church year when all things are filled with light and the faithful are proclaiming Christ is Risen! This exuberant and joyful greeting can never be considered mere information. It is proclamation!

The first time that I ever heard this proclamation was about 25 years ago in a little Russian church in Miami, Florida. Beforehand, many people had told me what to expect, but I was in no way prepared to experience the spiritual power of this proclamation. I was in no way prepared for all of the Paschal elements (the lights, processions, bells, singing, and shouting). I had known the INFORMATION all of my life. I knew that Christ had risen from the dead. But it was never proclaimed to me until that moment... and how it burned my heart!

So how do we move from simple passing on of information to life changing proclamation that results in nothing ever being the same again? By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are filled to the brim with a sort of Divine Insanity. We become prophets, dreamers and visionaries. Anything and everything is possible...if only we embrace it in our lives!

Before the Crucifixion, Christ tried to explain to the Apostles that He would die and rise again on the 3rd day; but they didn't get it. After the Resurrection, the women were told by an angel to go quickly and proclaim (there's that word again) this incredible news to the Apostles...and they did; but the Apostles still didn't get it. Even after dwelling among them during these refreshing days following the Resurrection...they still didn't quite get it. They were still uncertain. It was only after the Holy Spirit was poured out onto them and into them that they finally remembered all of the information and proclaimed it to the world. Now there was meaning! Now there was vision! Now they were changed! Now the world could never be the same!

So after experiencing the reality of the Resurrection of Christ, and especially after our own Baptism, Chrismation, and Partaking of the Divine, Holy Communion, how can our lives be anything but Divine Intoxication and Joy? How can they our hearts not be brimming with true Excitement and Fire! Dear Orthodox Christians, the Holy Spirit is upon us! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

This is part of a homily given by Fr. Gregory Horton, Pastor of [St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church](#) in Post Falls, Idaho, at the 2006 Diocese of the West Parish Life Conference.

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.