



# THE FORERUNNER

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

September 2014

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

## Service Schedule

### September 7

General Confession @ 9:30 AM  
Hours @ 9:45 AM  
Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM  
Coffee Hour following Liturgy

### September 14 Elevation of the Holy Cross

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

### September 21

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

### September 28

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

## Reminders:

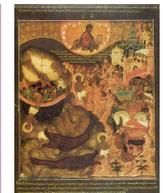
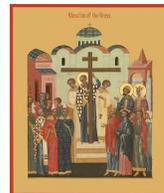
September 14<sup>th</sup>  
Semi-annual Meeting

## Reader's Schedule

Hours	Epistle
9/7 Mark Ammerman	Mark Ammerman
9/14 Doug Donovan	Doug Donovan
9/21 John Conkey	John Conkey
9/28 Jan Brennish	George Sura

## Feasts & Saints

9/1	Church New Year
9/5	Prophet Zachariah the father of St John the Baptist
9/8	Birth of the Holy Theotokos
9/14	Elevation of the Holy Cross
9/15	Great-Martyr Nikitas the Goth
9/17	St. Sophia
9/22	Holy Prophet Jonah



**Thank you** to Cynthia Posmoga for donating a walker to the church. We currently have two wheelchairs and two walkers. If you are in need of a walker or wheelchair, please contact one of the board members to borrow one. We are most happy to accommodate your needs.

**Thank you** to all who attended the Divine Liturgy and received His Eminence Archbishop MELCHISEDEK's blessing.  
*God grant you many years.*

**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, Jen Ammerman with child, Karen Blackburn, Matthew Boroughf, Chris 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, Eugene Minarich, Evan Morgan, Richard Nakles, Mary Sura Saupp, 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	
Hunter Batchko	9/19	Douglas & Shirley Donovan	9/1/1973
Mark Ammerman	9/23	Linda & Tom Nolder	9/10/1983
Elena Batchko	9/27		

### ***From the Desk of Father John:***

During the month of September we have three feast days: September 1 *Church New Year*, September 8 *The Birth of the Theotokos* and September 14 *Elevation of the Holy Cross*.

#### **The Universal Exaltation of the Life-Creating Cross**

Not long after the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Most-precious Cross of the Lord. The Savior Himself had spoken of His death on the Cross, saying: *“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3: 14-16) This was accomplished on Holy Friday when the Lord was *“crucified under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried,”* as the Creed proclaims. And just before He died He proclaimed *“IT IS FINISHED.”*

When Constantine the Great, Equal-to-the-Apostles ascended the throne (being the first of the Roman Emperors to recognize Christianity) he, together with his pious mother, Queen Helena, decided to restore the city of Jerusalem, and in the place of the suffering and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ to erect a new church, to cleanse all of the places connected with the memory of Jesus from the pagan cult, and again to consecrate all of them. The Orthodox Queen Helena left for Jerusalem with a great quantity of gold, and the Emperor sent a letter to Patriarch Macarius 1 in which he asked every kind of aid in the holy task of restoring the Christian holy places.

Having arrived in Jerusalem, the pious Queen destroyed all the idols and cleansed the city of pagan cult objects, consecrating the defiled places. She burned with the desire to raise up the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and she commanded that digging proceed at the place where the Temple of Venus had stood. There the covered Grave of the Lord was discovered, as well as the place of execution, not far from which were found three crosses and four nails, as well as the sign board which had been nailed over His head.

In order to determine which of the three crosses belonged to the Savior, Patriarch Macarius ordered that the crosses, in turn, be placed on a dead person who was being brought to a place of burial. When the Cross of Christ touched the dead one, he immediately came to life. With great joy, the Orthodox Queen and the Patriarch together lifted up the Life-Creating Cross and showed it to all people standing by. Later the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was constructed on the site, enclosing within its walls the place of the crucifixion of the Savior, as well as His tomb, and a Feast was instituted for September 14, commemorating the glorious Exaltation of the Cross.

***Troparion of the Feast (Tone 1)***

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance,  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians  
over their adversaries;  
and by virtue of Thy Cross,  
preserve Thy habitation.

***Kontakion of the Feast (Tone 4)***

As Thou was voluntarily crucified for our sake,  
grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name;  
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power,  
granting them victories over their adversaries,  
bestowing on them the invincible trophy,  
the weapon of peace.

***From the President***

Are you a member in good standing?

Each September we take a church census of members in good standing that we use to submit our annual assessment to the Diocese. The question of “good standing” usually arises at an inopportune time, like the funeral. Just so there is no question about good standing, these are the rule from our *Adopted By-Laws, 12 March 1974*.

To be a member in good standing, you must have “your names inscribed in the Parish Book”.

Any Parishioner over the age of 18, who attends church, and receives the Sacraments of Penance and Communion at least once a year, who makes a contribution of record for the support of the Church for the previous two years, and has paid their Central and Diocesan Assessments will be counted as an Active Member in the Parish Book.

Contributions for the support of the church are further defined by “an average of \$2.00 per month for a period of twelve (12) months”. Members falling outside these criteria are considered inactive. Once they again meet the criteria above, the Church Council may reinstate them as active members.

Please examine the criteria before the 15th of September and let me know if there is any change to your status.

Yours in Christ, John

**The Power of Prayer** by Norman Vincent Peale (*Part Two - Feel God's Presence*)

The importance of feeling God's presence cannot be overemphasized. Actually your life depends upon it, For God gave us life. When we drift away from Him, life runs down and all manner of unhappiness plagues us. When we return to Him life is renewed, becomes fresh, sparkling, delicious.

*“For in Him we live, and move, and have our being.”* (Acts 17:28)

That is to say, vitality, energy, even being itself depends upon knowing God. Count Tolstoy, after he rediscovered God, expressed this fact in an unforgettable phrase: “To know God is to live.”

If you are not living vitally it may be that you do not deeply know God. But you can know Him. You can sense His presence. You can be renewed.

Sit quietly in your chair. Then very slowly, close your eyes and imagine or picture God as present with you. Think of His wonderful goodness and mercy as enveloping you, as being actually present. Very quietly, deliberately, reverently say, three times: “God, God, God.” Let a long interval elapse between each voicing. I once prayed with a great saint. All that he said in his prayer was the word God, three times. I never felt such spiritual power. God definitely was present with us.

Now read aloud the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalm:

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High  
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD,  
*He is my refuge and my fortress:*  
my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler,  
*and from the noisome pestilence.*

He shall cover thee with his feathers,  
and under his wings shalt thou trust:  
his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night;

*nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day;  
*nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness;  
*nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday.  
 A thousand shall fall at thy side,  
 and ten thousand at thy right hand;  
*but* it shall not come nigh thee.  
 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold  
 and see the reward of the wicked.  
 Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge,  
*even* the Most High, thy habitation;  
 there shall no evil befall thee,  
 neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.  
 For he shall give his angels charge over thee,  
 to keep thee in all thy ways.  
 They shall bear thee up in *their* hands,  
 lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.  
 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder:  
 the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.  
 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him:  
 I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.  
 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him:  
 I *will be* with him in trouble;  
 I will deliver him, and honor him.  
 With long life will I satisfy him,  
 and show him my salvation.

Sit quietly, very quietly, think of what you have just read, and believe. Believe very earnestly. Believe that what you have read is TRUE, and that it applies to YOU. Say aloud, "This Psalm means that God is with me. God is now helping me."

"God is with me. I am with God. I am in God. God is in me. I shall walk with God, talk with God, serve God, love God."

Next month: *How to Receive God's Guidance.*

**KIDS SAY THE FUNNIEST THINGS** <http://godslittleacre.net/funnies/kids2.html>

### ***How Do You Decide Who To Marry?***

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. – Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. – Kirsten, age 10

**God be with you as we say farewell to summer and prepare to greet autumn. Make each day count!**

***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.