



THE FORERUNNER

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Orthodox Church o.c.a.

420 Laura Street

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Very Rev. John Horosky - Priest

John Conkey - Council President

October 2014

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Service Schedule

October 5

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

October 12 - Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

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

October 19

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

October 26

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

Reader's Schedule

	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
10/5	John Conkey	John Conkey
10/12	Doug Donovan	Doug Donovan
10/19	John Conkey	George Sura
10/26	Tom Demchak	Tom Demchak

Feasts & Saints

10/1	Protection of the Theotokos
10/6	St. Innocent, the Metropolitan of Moscow and Enlightener of the Aleuts, Apostle to the Americas
10/7	Martyr Sergius
10/12	Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council
10/18	Apostle/Evangelist Luke
10/20	Greatmartyr Artemius at Antioch
10/26	Greatmartyr Demetrius



Reminders:

Please keep in your prayers those suffering under the savage cruelty of ISIS. Keep in prayer those who must decide how to deal with this situation and those who will be in harm's way.



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	
Stan Demchak	10/07	Mark and Jennifer Ammerman	October 6, 2007
Rhonda Demchak	10/10	Julie and Mark Blazosky	October 15, 2005
Mary Foster	10/15	Mary Ann and Larry Ammerman	October 17, 1965
Joe Bartko	10/20		
Linda Nolder	10/30		
Helen Czar	10/31		

From the President by John Conkey

John successfully received a heart transplant at the Hershey Medical Center on September 1st. John expresses his deep gratitude for the many prayers from his church family. *God grant you many years!*

From the Desk of Father John:

The New Testament: St. Matthew

This Gospel presents Christ as the Fulfiller and Fulfillment of God's will disclosed in the Old Testament. Jesus is set forth as Israel's Messiah, by those words and life His followers may gain divine forgiveness and fellowship. Matthew presents Christ's deeds and words in a generally biographical order:

1. Birth of Jesus
2. Activity of John the Baptist
3. Baptism and Temptation of Jesus
4. Jesus' preaching and teaching in Galilee
5. Journey to Jerusalem
6. The last week: Jesus Crucifixion and burial
7. The Resurrection and Jesus' commission to his disciples.

Within this framework we can also see the grouping of Jesus' teachings on specific themes: The Five Discourses, The Sermon on the Mount, Instructions for Missionary Disciples, Parables of the Kingdom, On True Discipleship and On the End of This Age.

The Great Commandment *(Matthew 11 22: 37-40)*

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.”

The Power of Prayer by Norman Vincent Peale (*Part Three – How to Receive God's Guidance*)

You may find it helpful now and then to do this exercise with at least one other person. The scripture tells us:

"If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 18:19)

Spiritual harmony attunes the seeker to the mind of God from which guidance comes. The Bible emphasizes that the presence of Christ may be more deeply perceived and felt when spiritual fellowship is attained.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

It is wonderful how the Lord draws near to help, to guide, and to sustain when true Christian fellowship prevails. But also, to the true believer alone in prayer, marvelous insights and true spiritual guidance are given. Illuminations flash from the mind of the Lord when truly you seek to know His will for you.

Say: *"Be still, and know that I am God."* (Psalm 46:10)

Humility is important in receiving guidance. It is a necessary requisite for spiritual wisdom – complete utter humility. It is God's wisdom you want, not your own. Only with the spirit of the child, teachable and willing to learn, does guidance come. Put everything into His hands.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

"Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2)

Let go of your desires, your preconceived notions, your obsessions, your fixed notions. These represent YOUR wisdom, or lack of it, and what you want is GOD'S wisdom. Your mind must be emptied of error before it can be filled with truth.

If you have a specific problem about which you wish guidance, ask clearly. "Lord, I want only to do Your will. Here is my problem. Show me what to do and I will do exactly as I am shown."

"Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory." (Psalm 73:24)

Be humble, practice and believe.

Next month: *Learning to Forgive.*

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.

What is a miracle?

“A miracle is an event which the forces of nature—including the natural powers of man—cannot of themselves produce, and which must, therefore, be referred to a supernatural agency.” (Fisher 1900, 9).

A miracle is a divine operation that transcends what is normally perceived as natural law; it cannot be explained upon any natural basis.

With respect to miracles, Jesus said, “*Unless you people see signs and wonders you will never believe.*” (John 4:48)

A Miracle to share:

Denise Meyer almost lost her mother and her children on a lake in Wisconsin. When the boat capsized, Meyer lost sight of her two children. God gave her uncommon strength to lift her 2-year-old son Tim out from under the boat. Miraculously, he had found a pocket of air, so the ninety seconds underwater did not drown him. After Meyer's mother found her 4-year-old daughter Emily and everyone was back safely ashore, the grandmother started having a heart attack. "Had the heart attack started when we were in the water, she would surely have drowned," the witness wrote.

Even then, God still had another miracle to reveal. When Emily was underwater, she had seen a man no one else had noticed. "Grandma," she exclaimed, "the man under the water! He grabbed my foot and put it in your hand!"

Jacobson said this story reminded him of Hebrews 13:2, where Paul urges Christians to be hospitable because some have entertained angels without knowing it. "If God's going to let anybody see them, it's going to be those who still have the faith of children," Jacobson said.

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/modern-miracles-5-stories-for-bible-skeptics-from-its-a-god-thing-104832/>

Children’s Humor: <http://ministry-to-children.com/funny-church-jokes/>

Applying the 10 Commandments

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to “Honor they father and mother,” she asked, ‘Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. Without skipping a beat, one little boy answered, ‘Thou shalt not kill.’

Adam’s Ribs

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam’s ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill and she said. ‘Johnny, what is the matter?’ Little Johnny replied, ‘I have a pain in my side. I think I am having a wife!’

The Holy Family

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, ‘They couldn’t get a babysitter.’