



THE FORERUNNER

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Orthodox Church o.c.a.

420 Laura Street

Philipsburg, PA 16866

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<http://nativityofstjohn-oca.org>

Very Rev. John Horosky - Priest

John Conkey - Council President

November 2014

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Service Schedule

November 2 – *Set clocks back 1 hour*

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

November 9

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

November 16 - *Evangelist Matthew*

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

November 23 - *St. Alexander Nevsky*

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

November 30 - *Apostle Andrew*

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

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.

Please keep in prayer those suffering from Ebola and the health professionals ministering to their needs.

Reader's Schedule

	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
11/2	Doug Donovan	Doug Donovan
11/9	John Conkey	John Conkey
11/16	Jan Brennish	George Sura
11/23	Tom Demchak	Tom Demchak
11/30	Doug Donovan	Doug Donovan

Feasts & Saints

11/1	Cosmas and Damian
11/8	Synaxis of the Archangel Michael, Gabriel & All Heavenly Hosts
11/13	St. John Chrysostom
11/14	Apostle Philip
11/16	Evangelist Matthew
11/21	Entry Into the Temple of the Most-Holy Theotokos
11/23	St. Alexander Nevsky
11/24	St. Mercurius
11/24	Great Martyr Catherine
11/30	Apostle Andrew



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 and Victor, 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.”

Please keep travel prayers for Karen Stine, Alexandra Stine and Gloria Rice.

	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Svetlana Blake	11/04	none
Doug Donovan	11/27	
Mike Conkey	11/28	
Bonnie Fetcenko	11/30	



Welcome Victor Samson Ammerman!

We welcome Victor Samson Ammerman, son of Mark and Jen (Smith) Ammerman. Victor was born on October 8, 2014 at 9 lbs. 11 oz. and 23 inches. To quote the family, *“God is Good!”* We ask that Our Lord continue to bless the Ammerman family with good health and happiness. *God Grant you many years!*

From the President by John Conkey

As your Council President I have been tasked to provide positive inspiration to improve our Parish. Today I have five quick and easy items for us to follow not only within our parish, but to enhance the lives of everyone we touch.

- 1. *Lighten a Load:*** When you see someone struggling, give him or her a hand. Use your special talents, whatever they are, to assist someone in need. That could range from holding an umbrella to visiting someone who is sick. It's a small effort on your part, and part of paying it forward.
- 2. *Don't Judge—Hug:*** When you meet someone upset by a life event or acting unusual, don't get annoyed or judge, instead give comfort. If you know the person well enough give him or her a hug, and let the person know *“I want the best for you”*.
- 3. *See Yourself in Them:*** Empathy can be a new perspective on someone else's problem. For instance, we are all addicted to something: work, TV, cigarettes, etc. By seeing the problem from the other person's perspective, we may be able to see what is broken and come up with a solution.
- 4. *Let Your Heart Break:*** The world is full of intractable problems that need attention. Don't look away from them, but see if there is something you can do to help. We, as Christians, can always pray for every situation, or use what talents we have to work on solving some of the problems people face each day.
- 5. *Always Respond:*** Compassion means seeing the other person's point of view, even if you don't agree with it. You should always respond, but try to respond in a positive way in a sincere voice. Let the person know you value him/her as an individual.

Yours in Christ, *John*

From the Desk of Father John:

During the month of November we have two major events which are:

- The Nativity Fast also, known as Philip's Fast, begins on November 15.
- The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the temple on November 21.

Appellations' of the Theotokos

Ark: The Theotokos is often called an Ark, for the Glory of God settled on her, just as Glory of God descended on the Mercy Seat of the Old Testament Ark of the Covenant (Ex 25:10-22)

Aaron's Rod: Just as Aaron's Rod sprouted miraculously in the Old Testament, so too, the Theotokos has budded forth the Flower of Immortality, Christ our God. (Num. 17: 1-11)

Burning Bush: On Mt. Sinai, Moses saw the Bush that was burning, but was not consumed. So too, the Theotokos bore the fire of Divinity, but was consumed. (Ex.3:1-6)

(Golden) Candlestick: In the Old Testament Tabernacle there were found in the Sanctuary golden candlesticks. The Theotokos is the Candlestick, which held that Light that illumines the world. (Ex.25:31-40)

(Golden) Censer: Just as the censer holds a burning coal, so too, the Theotokos holds the Living Coal. In the Apocalypse, there stands an Angel before the Throne of God, swinging a censer, representing the prayers of the Saints rising up to God. This is also seen as a symbol of the Theotokos, for it is her prayers that find special favor before her Son.

Cloud: In the Exodus, the Israelites were led out of Egypt by a Cloud of Light, symbolizing the the presence of God in their midst. So too, the Theotokos is a Cloud, bearing God within.

Fleece: In the book of Judges we read the account of the dew which appeared miraculously on Gideon's fleece (Judges 6:36-40). So too, the Dew Christ, appeared miraculously on the Living Fleece the Theotokos..

Holy of Holies: Into the Holy of Holies only the High Priest could enter. So too, the Theotokos is the Holy of Holies into which only the Eternal High Priest Christ entered (Heb. 9:1-7).

Ladder: In a dream Jacob saw a ladder ascending to Heaven, with Angels ascending and descending on it. The Theotokos is a Ladder, stretching from earth to Heaven, for on It God descended to man, having become incarnate.

Mountain (From Which a Stone was Cut Not By Hand of Man: The Prophet Daniel saw a mountain, from which was cut a stone, not by the hand of man (Dan. 2:34, 45). This is a reference to the miraculous Virgin Birth, which was accomplished without the hand of man.

Palace: The Theotokos was the Palace within which the King Christ our God dwelt.

Step of Jesse: In the Nativity Service, the Lord is referred to as the Rod from the Stem of Jesse (Is. 11:1), indicating His lineage from David, which was fulfilled through the Theotokos, who was a scion (or stem) of the line of David, the son of Jesse..

Tabernacle: The Tabernacle was the place where the Glory of God dwelt. So too, the Glory of God dwelt in the Theotokos the Living Tabernacle (Ex. 40:34).

Holy Table: This refers to the Holy Table (Altar Table) on which, at the Divine Liturgy, the Divine Food is offered. So too, the Theotokos is the Holy Table which bore the Bread of Life.

Temple: The Prophet Ezekiel speaks of the Temple whose East gate remains sealed, through which only the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered. This clearly prophesies the Virgin Birth of the Theotokos (Ez. 44:1-2).

Throne: The Theotokos is the Throne upon which Christ, the King of All, rested.

(Golden) Urn: In the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant contained within itself a golden urn filled with the heavenly manna. The Theotokos is the Urn which contained Christ, the Divine Manna (Heb. 9:1-7).

Vine: The Theotokos is the Vine which bore the Ripe Cluster (of Grapes), Christ our Lord.

Excerpt taken from "These Truths We Hold - The Holy Orthodox Church: Her Life and Teachings". Compiled and Edited by A Monk of St. Tikhon's Monastery. Copyright 1986 by the St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, South Canaan, Pennsylvania 18459.

The Power of Prayer by Norman Vincent Peale (*Part Three – Learning to Forgive*)

Next month: *Praying Effectively*.

This is a hard exercise but extremely important in developing a spiritual life. Resentment, ill will, a grudge, hate: these cause a sickness of the personality. Neither the mind nor the soul or even the body can be fully healthy when such diseased attitudes are eating away at the life. By eradicating this spiritual illness we will gain a blessed healing

To begin, bring loving, positive thoughts of all the people you dearly love and thank God for them. This will help you condition your mind with love and make you amenable to the forgiveness discipline.

Next shift those those whom you feel you do not love, against whom you hold resentment. Try to think fair and kindly thoughts about them. This will no doubt come hard at first, but persistence will add to facility in such practice.

Now recite Matthew 5:44, Our Lord's words: "*But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.*"

Name the person against whom you have the most dislike or greatest resentment, and bless him or her. By that we mean, hold that person firmly in your consciousness and ask the Lord to bless him her with good health, with prosperity, with every good thing.

You may think this is dishonest, that you don't mean it. But that objection comes from your subconscious where the hate has been lodged for so long. As you continue to bless and love this individual in your conscious mind, gradually your new attitude of love will penetrate the subconscious, ultimately displacing the hate thought. Then you will be released from your ill will and you will attain the wonderful spiritual achievement of forgiveness.

"*And when ye stand praying, forgive, if you have aught against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*" Mark 11:25.

Spiritual power cannot pass through a mind where hate exists. Hate is a spiritual non-conductor. So, mentally go around your world forgiving everybody. Having done this, you are now read to pray:

"*Our Father, who art in Heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*"

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.