



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

May 2015

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Service Schedule

May 3 *Paralytic*

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

May 10 *Samaritan Woman*

Mother's Day

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

May 17 *Blindman*

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

May 24 *1st Ecumenical Council*

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

May 31 *Holy Pentecost*

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

Reader's Schedule

Hours	Reader	Epistle
5/3	Tom Demchak	Mark Ammerman
5/10	Mike Conkey	Mike Conkey
5/17	Doug Donovan	Doug Donovan
5/24	Tom Demchak	George Sura
5/31	John Conkey	John Conkey

Feasts & Saints

5/3	Paralytic
5/5	St. Irene
5/8	Apostle & Evangelist John
5/10	Samaritan Woman
5/11	Cyril & Methodius
5/17	Blindman
5/21	Ascension
5/24	1 st Ecumenical Council
5/31	Pentecost

Reminder: Chicken BBQ May 16th

Return money or unsold tickets on 5/3



Birthdays

Mary Ann Ammerman	5/06
Fr. Edward Batchko	5/09
Matushka Krista Batchko	5/20
Eleanor Sura	5/30
Suzanne Demchak	5/31

Anniversaries

Elaine and Jim Cardinal	May 16, 1970
Joanne and William Whitehead	May 22, 1993

Remember in your prayers: Archbishop MELCHISEDEK, Father John, Father Adam, Father Ted, Father Paul, Father Michael, Father Andrew, Father John, 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, Gloria Rice, Mary Sura Saupp, Harry Socie, Alexandra Stine, Karen Stine, 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

From the Desk of Father John:

The Longest Week

What is the message for us on Paschal evening, when the churches celebrate Paschal Vespers? When we read the story of Thomas’ doubt and anguish, we want to jump ahead to finish the tale, and reflect on how Christ at length came to Thomas to resolve his doubts, fill him with joy, and elicit the saving cry, “My Lord and my God!” But that story belongs not to Paschal Vespers, but to Thomas Sunday, a week later. The message for Paschal Vespers is not “Christ is risen!” It is a much harder message and a more difficult lesson. And it can be summed up in one word: “Wait.”

It is not a very happy word. Try using it on a child who wants something badly, and take notes on his or her reaction. We don’t like to wait, even if we suspect there may be a good result at the end of our waiting, or even if we are promised a good result. Waiting is hard.

It was even harder for Thomas. Thomas, I have always said, did not speak as he did because he was a hard-hearted doubter, but rather because he was a soft-hearted lover. He loved Jesus deeply, profoundly, and heroically. If we turn back a few pages in John’s Gospel, we see that he was even prepared to go and die with Jesus when he thought that Jesus’ trip to Judea to see Lazarus would end in His death (John 11:16). Jesus was his whole life, and his whole life therefore fell apart when he saw Jesus betrayed, abandoned, condemned, tortured to death, and buried.

Harder still, Thomas knew that he had a part in that abandonment, when like all the others he forsook Him and fled during His arrest. Thomas’ poor battered old heart could stand withstand another blow, another crushing disappointment. He had to get off the emotional rollercoaster. And so it was that when his companions reported that they had seen Jesus, Thomas had to draw the line in the emotional sand: “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails”—we can almost hear Thomas’ voice rising—“and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe!” (John 20:25). That was how the first Paschal evening ended, not with a joyful revelation, but with a desperate cry of pain and despair.

And then the wait. For Thomas, what we call “Bright Week” was the longest week of his life, and possibly the worst. How many times did he burst into tears that week, or find himself unable to eat or drink or converse? How many times did depression smother him like a black blanket so that he had trouble even getting out of bed? We may never know for sure. But we may be sure that his mind played and re-played the horrible events of Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion over and over and over, and when he closed his eyes, he could see the cross.

At last, of course, the week was over, and we know how joyfully it ended. The true lesson for us therefore is that if we wait for Jesus, it will all end in joy. Waiting is still hard. Like Thomas during his longest week, we may have to endure pain. We may have to endure bereavement, sickness, and a thousand other tragedies, which pierce our hearts and wring tears from our eyes. But at the end of it all, at the end of our earthly existence, Jesus will be there, to make it all right, and to wipe away every tear. Then like Thomas we too can fall down before Him, crying out, “My Lord and my God!” It is okay to wait. It’s hard, but it’s okay. Christ is Risen! (oca.org)

From your Council President:

HELP WANTED!

Our annual fundraiser to support St. John the Baptist will be held on Saturday, May 16th. The work however starts on Wednesday, May 12th. Some of our key people will be out of town, so if you are available, please support the parish by helping out during the following work schedule.

Wednesday, May 13	9:00 am	Wash Potatoes Make raisin filled cookies
Thursday, May 14	12:00 noon	Clean chickens and sorting
Friday, May 15	9:00 am	Wrap potatoes Prepare applesauce Wrap buns, butter Make barbecue secret sauce Set up tarp over pit Clean out barbeque pit
Saturday, May 16	6:00 am	Start fire in pit Chickens on rack Flip chickens until done Serve dinners Clean up

With everyone's help we hope to have another successful barbecue.

***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 the Tocimak family.*



Elizabeth Blake holding the candle during the reading of the Gospel.



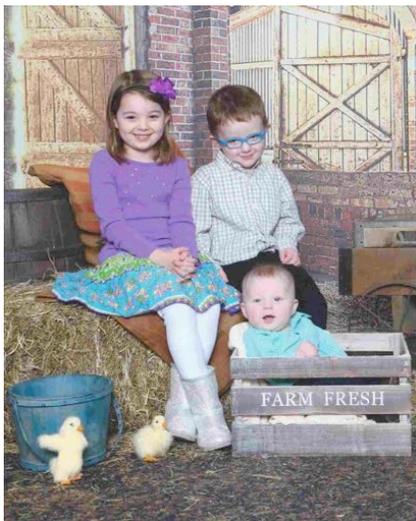
Missions at St. John's, March 29th, 2015



Great & Holy Friday – 2015



Pascha 2015



The Ammermans



Jack Foster & John Conkey cutting the ribbon for the dedication of the State College VA Outpatient Clinic