



# 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. Mark Meholick, Dean: Priest-in-charge

John Conkey – Council President

March 2016

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

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## Service Schedule

*Note: The following schedule assumes that Father Basil is available to serve at St. John's that day. If not, we will have a Reader's Service, and notify everyone via the Phone Tree.*

### March 5

Vespers @ 6:00 pm

### March 6 – Sunday of the Last Judgment; Meatfare

Hours @ 9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM

Coffee Hour - *Mary Ann Conkey and Mary Foster*

Council Meeting

### March 12

~~Forgiveness Vespers – TBD~~

### March 13 – Forgiveness Sunday; Cheesefare

Hours @ 9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM **Vespers 11:30 AM**

Coffee Hour - *Shirley Donovan and Dea Biberdorf*

### March 18 14 Canon of St. Andrew 6:00 PM

March 16 Pre-Sanctified @ 6:00 PM

### March 19

Vespers @ 6:00 pm

### March 20 – Sunday of Orthodoxy

Hours @ 9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM

Coffee Hour - *Rhonda and Tom Demchak*

### March 25

Vesperal Divine Liturgy for Annunciation

Tentatively @ 6:00 pm

### March 26

~~Soul Saturday @ 10:00 AM~~

### March 27 – St. Gregory Palamas

Hours @ 9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM

Coffee Hour - *Bonnie Fetcenko and Karen Stine*

### March 30

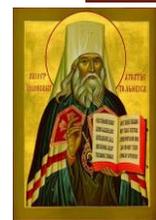
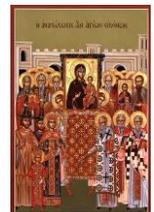
Pre-Sanctified @ 6:00 PM

## Reader's Schedule

	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
3/6	Garret & Lilia McGraw	Garret McGraw
3/13	Tom Demchak	Mark Ammerman
3/20	Julia Biberdorf	Doug Donovan
3/27	Mike Conkey	John Conkey

## Feasts & Saints

3/6	Meatfare
3/9	The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste
3/13	Cheesefare
3/20	Sunday of Orthodoxy
3/25	Annunciation of the Theotokos
3/27	St. Gregory Palamas
3/31	Repose of St. Innocent



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIMES BEGINS ON MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>. MOVE YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BY ONE HOUR.**

Please contact Shirley Donovan or Mary Ann Conkey if there are changes with the Coffee Hour. Cash donations go towards the purchase of coffee, cream, sugar, and donuts.

Birthdays	
Richard Nakles	3/03
Lilian Ammerman	3/04
Irene Pollock	3/06
Joe Demchak	3/16
Elizabeth Blake	3/24
Tom Demchak	3/29

**There are no Anniversaries this month.**

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**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.

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**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, Alexis Blackburn, 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, John Saupp, 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.”*

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## Meet the Foster's

By Rhonda Demchak

I have known Jack and Mary Foster for the past 15 years or so, but I really never “knew” anything about them, other than the bare minimum. They have three daughters, married forever, etc., but that changed after coffee hour recently. It took me a while to pull some information from them. Most notably Jack's



service to our country or Mary's infamous blind date that changed their lives.

Jack was born on April 2, 1924 in Wallaceton, PA. The son of Albert and Ester (Woomer) Foster, he was one of ten children--two died at birth. His parents were unable to decide what to name him, so the physician put Jack Junior on his birth certificate. A few days later, his parents decided to call him Walter.

Jack had four sisters and three brothers. Like many during the Great Depression, times were very tough. New shoes, clothes, or toys were scarce. So much so, that when a relief investigator stopped in to check on the family, Jack and his brother Bill overheard his father tell the relief investigator that if his boys came home from school with wet feet, they would stay home from school until they could afford new shoes. Like many young boys, they would purposely get their feet wet to stay home from school. The relief investigator finally came with adequate shoes, and the boys had to go back to school. Everyone in the family had to contribute to keep the family going. Along with doing his daily

chores, Jack would sell huckleberries and flowers in the summer to buy food for the table. His first job was a paper boy and as always, the money went towards the family. The local paperboys did earn enough money one year for a trip to Washington, D.C. That was Jack's first big trip.

Jack had to quit school in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to help the family with their finances. He left home at 16 for the Civil Conservation Corps (CCC). In order to work at the CCC, you had to be 17, but Jack knowing that he couldn't let his family down, told a little “white” lie to get in and his brother Bill vouched for it. Jack made \$30 per month. He sent home \$25 and he kept \$5. He helped build Parker Dam in Clearfield County. He built stone walls along the stream banks and planted trees throughout the park. These walls are still there to this day. After a year, Jack left for Baltimore, MD, to work in the shipyards with his father.

In 1942, Jack was drafted into the Army. He trained in the infantry which means he was a foot soldier. His training included the use of machine guns, bazookas, grenades, and torpedoes. Jack saw a lot of action, but never wavered from his duty to his country. Jack fought until wounded with shrapnel to the hand and knee on April 29, 1945. But that didn't keep him down, he went back out as soon as he healed.

One of his happiest memories from the war happened in Okinawa. The troops had pulled back and were reorganizing when an Army bomb truck came barreling down through the "tent city." To Jack's surprise, the driver was his brother Bill. They had a big chicken dinner the next day; however, Jack got sick because he wasn't used to eating anything, but rations. It was still the happiest moment during the war for Jack.

In May 1945, Jack was blown out of a foxhole. He was unconscious and many thought he was killed. He suffered many injuries that included shell shock. He was kept out of battle until the war ended in September 1945.

Jack received the Purple Heart, Asiatic-Pacific Medal with four brown stars for fighting and the Philippine Liberation medal with two brown stars. Jack was received into the Imperial Domain of the Golden Dragon, and was inducted into the Silent Mysteries of the Far East, having crossed the 180<sup>th</sup> meridian at 4:10 a.m. on January 28, 1944. Jack saw things that most of us only see in movies and will never comprehend the reality of war. He lost many friends. To this day, visions, sounds, and smells creep into his dreams and thoughts.

Jack was discharged on December 31, 1945. As soon as he stepped off the bus in Philipsburg, he phoned home. Jack must have been really excited, because he left his wallet in the phone booth! It was later returned with everything still intact.

Jack worked in the clay mines and then in the brick yards for the next few years. It was on a blind date that would change the course of Jack's life.

Mary (Minarich) was born and raised in Hawk Run in 1928 to Andrew and Mary (Messick) Minarich. Andrew was born in Austria and came to the United States as a young boy. Mary Messick's family lived in Austria as well, but she was born in America.

Mary was the 7<sup>th</sup> of ten children--seven boys and three girls. Mary's father worked as a coal miner, farmer and store owner. During the Great Depression, many families were going without adequate food, so Mary's father would give store credit to these people when many stores would not. Her father never turned away anyone.

She grew up in St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church. They would walk four miles every Sunday for Liturgy. When the weather proved to be too difficult, her father would hold Liturgy in the house. Church was a major part of her life and if she didn't go to church, she was not allowed to do anything else that day. The church provided and instilled values that she lives by to this day--respect your elders and help people who are in need.

Unfortunately, Mary's mother passed away when she was 16 years old. Mary was left to take care of her two younger brothers. This was challenging, but Mary persevered. She helped keep the house running every day and kept up with her studies. Just before graduation she was asked to the prom by two different fellas, but her girlfriend insisted that she meet this guy Jack. So Mary met Jack on a blind date at her senior prom. Jack said he didn't dance back then, but he learned quickly because Mary loved to dance. She graduated from Morris Township High School in 1947 with 28 other students.

Two years later, she and Jack were married at St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church. They lived with Mary's dad for a few years until Jack built their home next door. The cost of the house was \$5,500 to build. Jack converted to Orthodoxy a few years after marriage. He said it just felt right to be an Orthodox. Before having children, Jack and Mary would go dancing 2-3 times a week and travel to friends and family on the weekends.

Mary was a fulltime house wife and kept very busy with the church. She is very proud of the work she continues to do for St. Ann's Guild. You will find Mary and her family working at most, if not all, of the special dinners and fundraisers. Jack is our resident master chicken bar-b-quer and has been teaching and guiding the next generation.

They had three children, Shirley, Karen and Mary Ann. Mary said that the kids never fussed about going to church and to this day they all continue to serve the Lord. Before the age of 40, you would never find Mary wearing pants. She wore simple dresses and an apron at home. She didn't require fancy clothes, because her number one job was taking care of her family.

Most of Jack's work life was spent without fringe benefits. There was no time to be sick or hurt. Jack worked in the brickyards for 20 years, Piper Aircraft, and at North American Refractories. He drove truck for Peerless Trucking for ten years until they closed, and then he worked for J.J. Powell. Jack retired in 1983, and one would guess, Mary never did.

Mary and Jack enjoy traveling and spending time with their family. They have eight grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Mary is an excellent card player and usually beats everyone. Jack taught most everyone in the family how to make homemade mashed potatoes and gravy. Rumor has it, he is the best horseshoe thrower around.

Somedays you can find them at the local McDonald's talking with friends over a cup of coffee.

Jack and Mary credit the church and the love of the Lord for their long marriage and lives. They are very thankful.

Many blessed years to the Foster's.



Mary and her infamous apron. Jack played softball well into his 60's.

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**Mission Vespers Schedule for the Eastern Deanery  
Archdiocese of Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania  
Great Lent - 2016**

**March 20** (Sunday of Orthodoxy): SS. Peter & Paul Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church, 141 Hoffman Farm Road, Windber, PA - 4:00 p.m.

**March 27** (St. Gregory Palamas): Holy Assumption Parish, 635 Sunshine Ave., Central City, PA – 4:00 p.m.

**April 3** (Veneration of the Holy Cross): St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, 8290 Thompson Run Road, Allison Park, PA - 5:00 p.m.

**April 10** (St. John Climacus): St. Michael Parish, 915 Blair Street, Portage, PA – 4:00 p.m.

**April 17** (St. Mary of Egypt): Holy Trinity Parish, 119 Sparks Street, State College, PA – 4:00 p.m.



The youth at the Nativity of St. John's sponsored a Souper Bowl fundraiser on Super Bowl Sunday. With the help of parents they prepared a meal that was served following the Divine Liturgy of four tasty soups, bread and dessert. The outpouring support from our small parish was overwhelming and we are able to present a check for \$525 to help a local family. God grant you many years!



Elizabeth Blake presents a card with a \$525 check to the Counselors at West Branch Area High School. The youth at St. John's collected this amount during their Souper Bowl Sunday luncheon to help a deserving family at the school. The family is very grateful for this act of kindness and will use the money to pay for electricity and for food. God grant you many years!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>If there are changes to this schedule, we will notify you via the phone tree.</p>						
Meatfare <b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10:00 AM	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Cheesefare <b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10:00 AM <b>Forgiveness</b> Vespers 11:30 AM <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	14 Canon of St. Andrew 6:00 PM	15	16 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 PM	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19
20 Sunday of Orthodoxy <b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10:00 AM	21	22	23	24	25 Annunciation Vespersal Liturgy 6:00 PM	26
27 St. Gregory <b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10:00 AM	28	29	30 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 PM	31		

**February 2016**

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

**April 2016**

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# March 2016