

August 9, 2009 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 8. Afterfeast of the Transfiguration. Apostle Matthias (ca. 63). Glorification of Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1970). Martyr Anthony of Alexandria. Ven. Psoi of Egypt (4th c.). Martyrs Julian, Marcian, John, James, Alexius, Demetrius, Photius, Peter, Leontius, and Mary, of Constantinople (730). **Epistle:** Rom. 12:6-14. **Gospel:** Matt. 9:1-8.

Next Sunday, August 16, 2009 – 10th Sun. after Pentecost – Tone 1. Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9-16. **Gospel:** Matt. 17:14-23.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (August 9, 2009)

TODAY

11:15 AM **Coffee Hour & Bible Class** (in Hall)

WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM **Reading Group** (at Borders Café)

FRIDAY

6:00 PM **Vigil of the Dormition**

SATURDAY

9:30 AM **Divine Liturgy: Dormition of the Theotokos** (w/blessing of herbs and flowers)

6:00 PM **Great Vespers**

SUNDAY (August 16)

9:30 AM **Divine Liturgy:** 10th Sunday after Pentecost

11:15 AM **Coffee Hour & Bible Class** (in Hall)

11:45 AM **Sunday Church School Planning** (in Hall)

Please remember in your prayers: the child **Taylor**; **Vera Campbell** (at Mahoning Valley Hospital; on the 9th floor of Trumbull Memorial); **Bette Frenchko** (Hillside Hosp.); **Stephana Gligoroff** (fell asleep in the Lord; Aug. 2).

Offerings: 08-02-09: \$2,978.00; *Attendance:* 08-02-09: 100; *Candle Commemorations:* 08-09-09: *Theotokos:* health of Vera Campbell. *Altar:* birthday of Nadine Sedall. *Christ:* blessed memory of Nicholas and Helen Trafan

See the list on the candlestand to provide candles in honor of someone.

COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Aug. 15 **Feast of the Dormition (Falling-asleep) of the Mother of God**

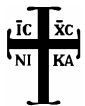
Aug. 29 **Beheading of St. John the Baptist**



SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

- 1) **Sunday Church School** will begin a new year of classes for ages 4-18 Sunday, September 13. The **Tuesday Evening *Path to Salvation* class** resumes with a new study on Tuesday, September 8.
- 2) The **Classic Literature Reading Group** meets every Wednesday morning at 11:00 AM at Borders Café (near the Eastwood Mall). We are currently reading through the timely **1984**, by George Orwell. Come and engage the culture in the light of our Faith!

Charitable Giving – August 2009: envelope or baskets after Liturgy
This month's charity: St. Vladimir's Camp (in Farmdale/Greene)



Going on vacation this summer? Ask Fr. Jonathan to locate a Church near your destination, or find one at www.oca.org.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Academy and Preschool:

1. ***Enrolling for the 2009-2010 school year.*** *The school will offer programs for Preschool (ages 3-4) and classes Kindergarten through Grade 4. Call Holy Trinity for more information at 330-399-7642.*
2. ***Annual 300 Club-Dinner Raffle – Aug. 22, at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*** (on North Rd.). *Tickets are \$25.00; Grand Prize - \$1,000; see Marge Petty or Betty Ann Perschka for tickets or more information.*

*“For we are God’s fellow workers, you are God’s field, you are God’s building...Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
(1 Corinthians 3:9, 16)*

Asleep in the Lord: our sister in Christ, Stephana Gligoroff, fell asleep in the Lord this past Sunday, August 2, at Shepherd of the Valley in Niles where she resided. God blessed her with 96 years. The Funeral for Stephana was here at St. John’s this past Wednesday with her burial at Pineview. May her memory be eternal!

Charity of the Month – August 2009

+ This month, our Parish Charity envelope and basket collections will go to **St. Vladimir’s Camp and Retreat Center** (in Farmdale; about 20 miles north of Warren). Specifically, our donations will go to construct a much-needed paved walkway leading up to the Camp chapel.

FLOWERBULBS FOR ST. VLADIMIR’S CAMP:

You can help St. Vladimir’s Camp (in Greene) and enjoy beautiful flowers at the same time by ordering Bulbs from *vanBourgondien*. See the colorful brochure and order form on the bulletin board. Ordering deadline is August 15.

Attention Bowlers!!! - new season begins in September

A new season of bowling in a league at Crest Lanes begins in September, and we will again field a team from St. John's. If you are interested in being on the team, sign up on the list on the bulletin board. Incidentally, our team came in second place last year!



Lock-In & Teen Retreat: August 21-22, 2009 (ages 13-20)

6:00 PM Friday until 11:00 AM Saturday

at Archangel Michael Orthodox Church (in Broadview Heights, OH)

see the flyer on the bulletin board; deadline for registration in Aug. 15

Contact Fr. Jonathan ASAP to go as he will be driving!

Publications for Your Reading Pleasure & Benefit:

A few valuable resources are available in the top shelf of the tract rack in the hallway. There are *The Seminary Star* (from St. Herman's Seminary in Alaska), *Essays and Notes* (from the Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery in New York state), *Life Transfigured* (from Transfiguration Monastery in Pennsylvania), and *Again* magazine. You are welcome to read and return them at your convenience.

The Dormition of the Theotokos

[The Falling-asleep of the Birthgiver-of-God; August 15]

Following Pentecost, the Virgin Mary, the Birthgiver-of-God (Greek: *Theotokos*), remained in the city of Jerusalem. She was taken under the care of the Apostle John (see John 19:25-27), who lived in the city of Ephesus toward the end of his life. At the time of the Virgin Mary's death, when she was in her early fifties, many of the Apostles were scattered throughout the world preaching the Gospel. Upon hearing of her death, they returned to Jerusalem, all arriving in time for her burial except the Apostle Thomas. When the other apostles showed him the tomb in Gethsemane where the Theotokos had been buried near her parents (i.e., Joachim and Anna), they discovered the tomb empty. Tradition tells us that the Ever-virgin Mary was resurrected bodily and taken to heaven, the same reward awaiting all the righteous on the Last Day.

St. John of Damascus declares the truth of the Church: "As the holy, spotless body which came from [Mary], and which had its concrete existence in God the Word, rose on the third day from the tomb, so indeed it was right that she, His Mother, should be taken out of her grave and joined with her Son...It was fitting that she, who preserved her virginity undamaged by childbirth, should have her body preserved from corruption even in death."

Thus we teach that the Virgin Mary truly died - that is, "fell asleep" in the Lord (Latin: *dormition*; Greek: *koimesis*). Yet, as a pledge of the resurrection on the Last Day, her body was raised and dwells rejoined with her soul in the Tabernacle of Heaven, where she intercedes at the right hand of her Son, Christ Jesus (see Ps. 44/45:10) on behalf of God's people.

The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is a funeral feast for the Mother of God! We venerate her holiness, her devotion to God, her virtues, and especially her faith to become the means of our salvation in the birth of her Son Jesus Christ. The tomb of the Theotokos bears witness to the greatness of God's grace, not only to her, but for all of us who trust in her Son. The righteous too shall come forth from their graves and be united to their Lord and all the faithful in the Kingdom of God.

THE ICON OF THE FEAST:

The Theotokos – upon her funeral bier.

Christ – standing behind the Theotokos; Who has come to receive His Mother's soul into heaven; He holds in His left arm an infant in white, symbolizing the soul of the Virgin Mary. Christ also appears in white in an aureole depicting the Light of His Divinity.

The Apostles – on either side of the bier; the group on the left is led by St. Peter who stands at the head. The group on the right is led by St. Paul who stands at the foot of the bier.

Antoninus the Jew – below the bier is the figure of Antoninus the Jew, who being impious sought to discredit the Christian community by disrupting the burial of the Theotokos. When he attempted to overturn the bier and dishonor the Theotokos, an Archangel (shown in the lower right corner) severed his hands to stop his disgrace. Antoninus later repented of his sins and embraced Christianity through Holy Baptism.