

September 6, 2009 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 4. Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae. Martyrs Eudoxius, Zeno, and Macarius (311-312). St. Archippus of Herapolis. Martyr Romulus, and many others (107-115). Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna (3rd – 4th c.). Martyrs Cyriacus, Faustus the Presbyter, Abibas the Deacon, and 11 others, at Alexandria (ca. 250). St. David of Hermopolis in Egypt (4th c.). Hieromartyr Priest Maksym Sandowicz of Carpatho-Rus' (1914). **Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 16:13-24. **Gospel:** Matthew 21:33-42.

Next Sunday, Sept. 13 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost; Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross – Tone 5. **Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4. **Gospel:** Matthew 22:1-14.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (Sept. 6, 2009)

TODAY

11:15 AM Coffee Hour & Altar Servers Mtg.
11:45 AM Sunday School Planning Mtg.

MONDAY

6:00 PM Vigil of the Birth of the Theotokos

TUESDAY

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy: Birth of the Theotokos
6:00 PM Vespers
6:30 PM Parish Council

WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM Reading Group (at Borders Café)

THURSDAY

6:30 AM Matins

SATURDAY

6:00 PM Great Vespers

THE BIRTH (NATIVITY) OF THE THEOTOKOS

(September 8)

The Virgin Mary was born in Nazareth to elderly parents, Joachim and Anna. Joachim was of the tribe of Judah, of the house of King David. Anna was of the priestly tribe of Levi. Mary's parents had been married for at least 50 years yet remained childless.

Being God-fearing and pious people, Joachim and Anna continued to pray for a child, promising that they would dedicate their child to the Lord's service. Once when praying separately but at the same time, both Joachim and Anna received a vision of an angel from God declaring they would have a daughter to be named Mary (meaning "exalted one"), and they were to dedicate her to God's service.

We celebrate the Feast of Mary's birth as the Nativity of the Theotokos. We call Mary Theotokos, literally, "Birthgiver-of-God," because she alone gave birth to God in the flesh. The Theotokos Mary is the only woman spoken of by the prophets many centuries before her birth. For instance, "The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son" (Isa. 7:14); and, "The queen stood at Your (i.e., the King, Christ's) right hand" (Ps. 44/45:10).

The Birth of the Theotokos is the first Feast to begin the New Church Year. Her birth is the herald of our salvation. "Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos!" (*Troparion of the Feast*).

Yes, it is possible for God's promises to be fulfilled, and the Virgin Mary is the supreme example of our willingness to accept His Word. God comes to make our barren lives bear fruit. The birth of the Virgin marks the beginning of that fertile cycle, for the greatest of all gifts, God Himself in the flesh, Jesus Christ, will be born of her. Thus Forgiveness, Life, and Salvation spring from her body.



The Friend of the Bridegroom

"He Must Increase and I Must Decrease" (John 3:29-30)

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
Orthodox Church in America

2220 Reeves Road NE Warren, Ohio 44483
Church Phone: 330-372-3895 www.stjohnswarren.com
General Office Hours: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (TThF)

Fr. Jonathan H. Cholcher, Rector...330-980-0134 (Cell)
Pastoral Emergencies 10 PM - 7 AM ... 330-469-2907
Judy Reed, Sisterhood/Repasts.....330-793-5145
John Tutoki, Hall Coordinator.....330-372-3178

Saturday: Vespers at 6:00 PM Sunday: Liturgy at 9:30 AM
Feast Day Liturgy - 9:30 AM Sunday School (after Liturgy)

GENERAL INFORMATION

08-30-09: 110 (attendance); **\$2,336.00** (collection).
09-06-09: candle commemorations – Theotokos: birthday of Helen Skovran; **Altar:** blessed memory of Charles and Mildred Kozup; **Christ:** blessed memory of Nick Lazarevich.

Please pray for: the child **Taylor** (Nelson); **Vera** (Campbell, at Mahoning Valley Hosp.); **Bette** (Frenchko, at home); **Barbara** (Yugovich, back at work); **Mary** (Wainright, aunt of Norman and Karen George); **Mary** (Regnall, at Hillside Hosp.); **Linda** (Keriotis); **Chariessa** (Stitchik, sister of Mark Malacky); **Lillian** (Motil, cousin of Pauline Struble); **Met. Nicholas & Archpriest Conrad** (of the Carpatho-Rus Archdiocese).

This Month's Charity – September 2009:

[charity envelope or baskets after Liturgy]

Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Academy & Preschool

During August, a total of \$507 was given for St. Vladimir's Camp and Retreat Center in Farmdale/Greene, OH.

COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

- Sept. 8 **Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos**
- Sept. 13 **Sunday Church School resumes**
- Sept. 14 **Feast of the Elevation of the Cross;**
Sisterhood Luncheon (1:00 PM at Panera Bread on Elm Rd., Warren)
- Sept. 19 **Men's Bible Breakfast**
- Sept. 25 **Holy Trinity Academy Quiz Night** (here at St. John's)
- Sept. 26 **Pilgrimage at St. John's Monastery** (in Hiram, OH)



SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

- 1) **Path to Salvation Class** resumes with a new study on Tuesday evening, September 15, at 6:30 PM following Vespers. Our new topic will be: the Feasts and Life of the Virgin Mary, Theotokos, using a collection of sermons by St. Gregory Palamas as our guide.
- 2) **Classic Literature Reading Group** meets every Wednesday morning at 11:00 AM at Borders Café (near the Eastwood Mall). We are currently finishing the timely **1984**, by George Orwell, and will begin a new book on Sept. 16. Come and engage the culture in the light of our Faith!
- 3) **Teen Group** (for all our teens and their friends) meets each Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM beginning September 16.



WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE AT ST. JOHN'S

Saturday Great Vespers at 6:00 PM

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM

Tuesday Daily Vespers at 6:00 PM

Wednesday ... Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM

Thursday Daily Matins at 6:30 AM

[If a Feast occurs on a weekday other than Wednesday, then

Liturgy will be served on the Feast instead of the usual Wednesday, with Vespers or Vigil the evening before.]

"...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

+ Ann Dayner, Betty Ann Perschka's mother, will be celebrating her 94th birthday on September 13. Please consider sending her a birthday card to lift her spirits. Thank you, and God bless you!

Ann Dayner

Briarfield Manor
461 South Niles-Canfield Road
Youngstown, Ohio 44515

+ To purchase/provide candles in Church, see the list at the counter in the Narthex of the Church. You may provide beeswax tapers or 6-day vigil candles in commemoration of someone.

+ *Denise Higgins, Paula Kapp, and Carol Nicholl* have volunteered to coordinate Fish Dinner operations. We will resume our twice-monthly Fish Dinners from January to May of 2010.

+ The following members of our Parish reside in nursing home, or assisted care, facilities:

Aaron Meterko, Lydia Leovnas, and Helen Mindek (*Community Skilled Care, on Mahoning Ave.*);

Mary Slavik & Edith Maserick (*Clearview Lantern Suites, Champion*);

Ranelle Hancharenko (*Windsor House, Chmpn.*);

Irene Shura & Stephan Beskid (*Autumn Hills, Niles*);

Ann Dayner (*Briarfield Manor, Austintown*)

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father in this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27)

+ A copy of Fr. Jonathan's annual Parish report for the Diocesan Assembly is posted for reading on the bulletin board in the Hall.

+ Our Parish was awarded \$1800 from the Diocese for a grant request to operate a Kiosk (stand) at the Mall. We hope to do the project in Jan./Feb. 2010.