

September 20, 2009 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6. Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross. Greatmartyr Eustathius Placidus, his wife, Martyr Theopistes, and their children, Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus, of Rome (ca. 118). Holy Martyr and Confessor Michael and his councilor, Theodore, Wonderworkers of Chernigov (1245). Rt. Blv. Oleg, Prince of Briansk (ca. 1280). Monk Martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete (Mt. Athos, 1804). **Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 4:6-15. **Gospel:** Matthew 22:35-46.

Next Sunday, Sept. 27 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost (1st of Luke) – Tone 7. *Epistle:* 2 Corinthians 6:1-10. *Gospel:* Luke 5:1-11.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (Sept. 20, 2009)

TODAY

11:15 AM Coffee Hour & Sunday School

TUESDAY

6:00 PM Vespers (Conception of St. John)
6:30 PM Path to Salvation Class

WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy: Conception of St. John
11:00 AM Reading Group (at Borders Café)

THURSDAY

6:30 AM Matins

FRIDAY

7:00 PM Aussie Quiz Night (Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Academy)

SATURDAY

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy: Repose of St. John the Theologian (Pilgrimage at St. John's Monastery, Hiram)
6:00 PM Great Vespers & Prayers of Confession

THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

(September 23)

St. John the Baptist's parents were Zacharias and Elizabeth as recorded in the Gospel of St. Luke. Zacharias was of the tribe of Levi and a Priest in the Lord's Temple. [According to Tradition, Zacharias was the priest spoken of by Christ murdered between the temple and the altar (see Matt. 23:35). Knowing that the young St. John had escaped the massacre of the infants at Bethlehem, King Herod gave orders for his father Zacharias to be slain.] Elizabeth also descended from the family of Aaron, of the tribe of Levi; she was a cousin of the Virgin Mary Theotokos – their mothers were sisters.

Zacharias and Elizabeth were childless. As Zacharias was offering incense in the Temple, the angel Gabriel appeared to him announcing the birth of a son to him to be named John, meaning "The Lord is gracious." Furthermore, the Angel told Zacharias that John would be a great prophet to prepare God's people to receive His Christ.

Zacharias did not believe the Angel and was made mute until the birth of John. Shortly after the completion of his Temple service Elizabeth conceived John and hid herself for five months. In her sixth month of pregnancy, the Virgin Mary received the Word of God through the same angel Gabriel and by the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus Christ in her womb. When Mary went to visit Elizabeth and greeted her, John leaped in the womb praising God. Thus the prophetic ministry of John began even before his birth!

We celebrate three conceptions during the Church Year: the conception of Christ (Annunciation, March 25), the conception of the Virgin Mary (December 9), and the conception of St. John (September 23). Salvation history hinges on these persons and their places within the saving plan of God. Of course, the Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist prepare the way for salvation which is realized in the Person of the God-man, Jesus Christ.

Yet, as with the conception of St. John, we learn that the human person begins at conception, and even before birth, in the womb, the person begins to be aware of and serve God. St. John, the "greatest of those born among women" (Matt. 11:11), reveals God's will for all of us. We have all been created by God not only to live, but to point the way to Christ and share in everlasting life in His name.

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 AM330-469-2907
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

GENERAL INFORMATION

09-13-09: 100 (attendance); **\$1,463.00** (collection).

09-20-09: candle commemorations – Theotokos: blessed memory of Duda and Kundlya families; **Altar:** blessed memory of Frank Rosko; **Christ:** blessed memory of Blanar family members. [09-13-09: **Theotokos:** birthday of Kathy Stehnach; **Altar:** anniversary of Paul and Anna Mae Stehnach; **Christ:** birthday of Margaret Petty.]

Please pray for: the child **Taylor** (Nelson); **Vera** (Campbell, at Mahoning Valley Hosp.); **Bette** (Frenchko, at home); **Mary** (Wainright, aunt of Norman and Karen George); **Mary** (Regnall, at Shepherd of the Valley, Niles); **Linda** (Keriotis); **Chariessa** (Stitchik, sister of Mark Malacky); **Lillian** (Motil, cousin of Pauline Struble); **Lucas** (little boy in accident at Scrappers Game); **Geraldine** (Nicholson, mother of Michelle Thomas); **Michael** (Stefanick); **Michael** (Miller, at Trumbull Memorial).

This Month's Charity – September 2009:

[charity envelope or baskets after Liturgy]

Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Academy & Preschool

COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

- Sept. 25** Holy Trinity Academy Quiz Night (here at St. John's)
- Sept. 26** Pilgrimage at St. John's Monastery (in Hiram, OH)
- Oct. 4** Sisterhood Chicken Dinner
- Oct. 5-7** Diocesan Assembly (Kansas City, KS)
- Oct. 18** Family Day at Maize Valley Farm (Hartville, OH)



SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

- 1) **Path to Salvation Class:** Tuesday evenings after Vespers. Topic of study: 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 reading **Siddhartha**, by Hermann Hesse. Come and engage the culture in the light of our Faith!
- 3) **Teen Group** (for all our teens and their friends) **now meeting on Sunday evenings** at 6:00 PM (beginning Sept. 27).



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.]

+ **Fish Dinner Organizational Mtg. – Sunday, Oct. 4, after Liturgy.** All persons interested in plans and/or helping in a particular way, please come. *Denise Higgins, Paula Kapp, and Carol Nicholl* form our committee for Fish Dinner operations.

+ 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.

+ **St. John's Sisterhood** will prepare a **Chicken Dinner** for all, following Liturgy on Sunday, October 4.

+ The following members of our Parish teach and help in our Sunday Church School:

Patty Clark & Laura Miklos (Preschool – First Grade);
Christine DiGiacobbe (Coordinator) & **June Bagby** (Fourth and Fifth Grades);
Mark Malacky & Carol Bobosh (Sixth and Seventh Grades);
Sam Bagby & John Miklos (Eighth – Twelfth Grades); and
Fr. Jonathan (Adult Class).

Thank you to all who help with the Church School; and remember, Parents are always the primary teachers of their children!

+ 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 February 2010. Tammi Krafft is coordinating our kiosk effort.

+ Two area parishes are hosting dinners today, September 20 – Holy Resurrection (on North Rd., Warren) and St. Mark's (in Liberty). See the flyers on the bulletin board for more information.

+ Upcoming Charities of the Month: 1) October – the Taylor Nelson family; 2) November – Archpriest Michael and Janet Mihalick.