

October 11, 2009 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 1. Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787). Holy Apostle Philip of the Seventy, on the Seven Deacons (1st c.). St. Theophanes the Confessor and Hymnographer, Bishop of Nicea (ca. 850). Ven. Theophanes, Faster, of the Kiev Caves (12th c.). Ven. Leo of Optina (1841). Synaxis of the Optina Elders. Martyrs Zenais and Philonilla, of Tarsus in Cilicia (1st c.). **Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. **Gospel:** Luke 7:11-16.

Next Sunday, Oct. 18 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 2. Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9. **Gospel:** Luke 8:5-15.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (Oct. 11, 2009)

TODAY

11:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class
11:45 AM Fish Dinner Organizational Mtg.
6:00 PM Teen Group (at Church)

TUESDAY

6:00 PM Vespers
6:30 PM Parish Council

WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy: reading from Prologue
11:00 AM Reading Group (at Borders Café)

THURSDAY

6:30 AM Matins

SATURDAY

6:00 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY (October 18)

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
11:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class
6:00 PM Teen Group (at Church)

“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

TITHING: GIVING ONE-TENTH

In the Gospel we hear our Lord say: “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by the justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone” (Luke 11:42). Tithing, giving one-tenth of one’s income according to God’s law to the Israelites, is still the standard of Christian giving, especially when practiced according to God’s justice and love.

God said through Moses, “Whatever passes in the numbering under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord” (Lev. 27:32); and, “You will bring in the tithe of your grain, wine, and olive oil, of the firstborn of your oxen and sheep, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God all your days” (Deut. 14:23). God attaches a promise to faithfulness in tithing. “Return now in this (i.e., offering the tenth),’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not open for you the floodgates of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it is overflowing” (Mal. 3:10).

Giving one-tenth of our income to God is a spiritual discipline. Like praying and fasting, tithing helps us to preserve the purity we were given when we became children of God in Holy Baptism. We do not give money to Church just to pay the bills, avoid punishment, or to earn a reward of some kind. We give a substantial amount of our income back to God in the Church to constantly renew our life in Christ. He gives grace to us; we co-operate in that grace. The giving of our life back to God in Church is essentially an offering of thanksgiving acknowledging the Source of our existence – God the Holy Trinity.

St. John Chrysostom writes that if the Jews of the Old Covenant were held to the standard of tithing, we who are of the New Covenant should hold ourselves to an even higher standard! In other words, giving one-tenth is the minimum for Christians. The Apostle Paul writes: “Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God” (Rom. 12:1).

Tithing, like prayer and fasting, can be a scary task requiring extra struggle and effort for those unaccustomed to it. Tithing, like prayer and fasting, can become an occasion for foolish pride in those who practice it merely to congratulate themselves. Yet tithing, with the justice and love of God, is a pledge of God’s faithfulness for all of us who do it in faith and the worship of God in Christ.

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

10-04-09: 110 (attendance); **\$2,620.00** (collection).

10-11-09: candle commemorations – Theotokos: blessed memory of Karen Kaschak; **Altar:** blessed memory of the Yedinak family; **Christ:** 31st wedding anniversary of Norman and Cathy George.

Please pray for: the child **Taylor** (Nelson); **Vera** (Campbell, at Fairview Hosp., W Cleveland); **Mary** (Wainwright, aunt of Norman and Karen George); **Mary** (Regnall, at home); **Linda** (Keriotis); **Chariessa** (Stitchik, sister of Mark Malacky); **Lillian** (Motil, cousin of Pauline Struble); **Lucas** (Holko, boy in baseball accident); **Michael** (Stefanick); **Charles, Linn, & Ed** (co-workers of Diane Cholcher); **Kerya** (Brisbane, surgery at Cleveland Clinic); **Michael** (Miller, at Trumbull Memorial).

This Month's Charity – October 2009:

[charity envelope or baskets after Liturgy]

The Family of Taylor Nelson

COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Oct. 25 Family Fun Day at Maize Valley Farm (Hartville, OH) – note the date change!

Oct. 26 St. Demetrios Day (services at St. Demetrios Church)

Nov. 15 Akathist to the Theotokos (at St. Nicholas Church) – *Advent begins*

+ A **Volunteer Sign-up sheet** is on the candlestand for those willing to help with **Fish Dinners**.

+ 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.



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 Oct. 4).

+ **Upcoming Charities of the Month:** 1) **October** – the Taylor Nelson family; 2) **November** – Archpriest Michael and Janet Mihalick. As you may, or may not, know, the Parish Council designates Charities of the Month on a monthly basis according to need.

+ **Festival of Icons News:** we are NOT planning to host the *Festival of Icons* this year due to a need to reorganize and refocus our efforts in this worthy cause. Your input for the future of the event is crucial, so plan on offering it as we prepare for a revitalized *Festival* in 2010.

+ An **Orthodox Forum: The Orthodox Church – Its Worship and the Bible** will be held on Oct. 15 at 7:00 PM at *St. Mark Orthodox Church* (3560 Loganway, Liberty, OH). The presenter will be Fr. Ken Bachofsky. Refreshments will be served after the forum; see the flyer on the bulletin board for more!

+ **Two Upcoming Events at Holy Resurrection Church** (on North Road; see the flyers on the bulletin board):

- a) *Saint Paraschiva Dinner* – Oct. 11 at 12:15 PM; stuffed cabbage, roast chicken, potatoes, salad, etc.;
- b) *Orthodox Family Fun Night* – Oct. 24 from 7 – 10:00 PM; fellowship, music, dance, and food.

+ **October Charity of the Month – the Taylor Nelson Family;** we've been praying for Taylor, a little girl undergoing treatment for cancer, now in Columbus. Her family struggles to meet day-to-day expenses in their fight for Taylor's well-being. Please give as you are able in the Charity envelopes or basket collections during October for the Nelsons.

+ **Children's Christmas Program Practice** begins today for all our children after Sunday School classes. Christine DiGiacobbe is the director again this year. The Program entitled **The Curious Angel** will be presented for the parish on Sunday, December 20.

+ **Family Fun Day at Maize Valley Farm (Hartville, OH) – Sunday, October 25, following Church School:** all families are invited to come along for the corn maze, wagon rides, petting pasture, kids' play area, pumpkin

cannon, pig race, and farm store. Maize Valley Farm is located 3 miles east of Hartville on Hwy. 169 (directions are on the candlestand). If you need a ride, speak with Fr. Jonathan or Christine DiGiacobbe.

+ Holy Trinity Preschool and Academy – Aussie Quiz Night:

When? – Friday, November 20, at 7:00 PM

Where? – St. Mark Orthodox Church (Liberty)

[Vespers for the Feast of the Entrance of the

Theotokos into the Temple will be served that evening at St. Mark's, at 6:00 PM.]

Call the School at 330-399-7642 for more information.