

November 15, 2009 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6. Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa (299-306). Martyrs Elpidus, Marcellus, and Eustochius, who suffered under Julian the Apostate (4th c.). Martyr Demetrius of Thrace (ca. 307). Ven. Paisii Velichkovsky (1794). **Epistle:** Eph. 2:4-10. **Gospel:** Luke 10:25-37.

Next Sunday, Nov. 22 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 7. **Epistle:** Eph. 2:14-22. **Gospel:** Luke 12:16-21.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (Nov. 15, 2009)

TODAY

11:15 AM **Sunday School & Bible Class**
12:00 PM **Christmas Program Practice**
6:00 PM **Akathist Service** (at St. Nicholas)

TUESDAY

6:00 PM **Vespers**
6:30 PM **Path to Salvation Class**

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

6:30 AM **Matins**

FRIDAY

8:00 AM **Sausage Making**
6:00 PM **Vigil of the Entry of the Theotokos**

SATURDAY

9:30 AM **Divine Liturgy:** Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
11:00 AM **Sausage Sales**
6:00 PM **Great Vespers**

SUNDAY (November 22)

9:30 AM **Divine Liturgy:** Afterfeast of the Entry
11:15 AM **Sunday School & Bible Class**
12:00 PM **Christmas Program Practice**

THE NATIVITY FAST (ADVENT)

Nov. 15-Dec. 24

“Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God” (Isa. 40:3). How are we to prepare for the Lord’s arrival? “Sound the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the people, sanctify the congregation, call out the elders, and gather the nursing infants...” (Joel 2:15-16).

St. Leo the Great writes about the Nativity Fast: “But there are three things which most belong to religious actions, namely, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in the exercising of which while every time is accepted...For by prayer we seek to propitiate God, by fasting we extinguish the lusts of the flesh, by alms we redeem our sins, and at the same time God’s image is throughout renewed in us.”

ADVENT means *arrival*. During this holy season we anticipate three comings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ *has arrived* in the flesh, born of the Virgin Mary. Christ *is arriving* in the flesh as we receive the Eucharist of His very Body and Blood. Christ *will arrive* in glory in His awesome Second Coming on the Last Day. Advent draws us always forward to the age to come – the Kingdom of God – made possible by the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ for us and for our salvation.

Are we ready to greet the Lord? Our readiness essentially consists of *repentance*, that re-orientation of heart, mind, and body to the holy will of God. The Nativity Fast focuses our whole person down the paths of God. Thus repentance is an *ascetic* way of life practiced in the *disciplines* of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. During Advent we should read the Scripture, come to Confession, and control our minds and bodies so as to *abstain from sin!* “Set your heart on the profits due to mercy, and traffic in eternal gains” (St. Leo the Great).



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... Home: 330-793-5145

Cell: 330-519-5730

John Tutoki, Hall Coordinator.....330-469-9531

Saturday: Vespers at 6:00 PM Sunday: Liturgy at 9:30 AM

Feast Day Liturgy - 9:30 AM Sunday School (after Liturgy)

GENERAL INFORMATION

11-01-09: 110 (attendance); **\$1,979.00** (collection).

11-15-09: candle commemorations – **Theotokos**: blessed memory of Anne and Ronnie Ledney; **Altar**: blessed memory of Michael Petty; **Christ**: blessed memory of Steve Skovran.

Please Pray for:

Living: the child **Taylor** (Nelson); **Vera** (Campbell, at Hillside Hospital); **Mary** (Wainwright, aunt of Norman and Karen George); **Linda** (Keriotis); **Chariessa** (Stitchik, sister of Mark Malacky); **Lillian** (Motil, cousin of Pauline Struble); **Charles & Ed** (co-workers of Diane Cholcher); **Kerya** (Brisbine, surgery at Cleveland Clinic); **Mary Ann** (Zevorich, Marge Petty's neice); **Melanie** (Smith, cousin of Vera Campbell); **Michael** (Nuzzo, father of Cathy Stehnach); **Archpriest Thomas** (Succarote, Madison, IL); **Tatiana** ("Tillie" Csehill, Shepherd of the Valley, Howland); **Adrian** (Puz, friend of Clarks); **Geraldine** (Nicholson, mother of Michelle Thomas); **Ann** (Gyurek, surgery in Columbus).

Departed: **Dn. Nicholas** (Fedak, brother of Vera Campbell; d. 10/6/09); **Stephan** (Beskid; d. 10/25/09); **William** (Barrass; d. 11/9/09); **Helen** (Mindek; d. 11/14/09)

This Month's Charity – November 2009:

[charity envelope or baskets after Liturgy]

Archpriest Michael and Janet Mihalick

COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Nov. 21 Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Nov. 25 6 PM Vespersal Liturgy for Thanksgiving

Dec. 5 4 PM Vespers at St. Nicholas Church



SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

1) Church (Sunday) School & Bible Class:

for all ages, following Divine Liturgy – adults are studying the Divine Liturgy.

2) Path to Salvation Class:

Tuesdays following Vespers (about 6:30 PM) – currently studying the Life and Feasts of the Theotokos;

3) Classic Literature Reading Group:

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM, at Borders Café (near the Eastwood Mall) – currently reading *Siddhartha*, by Hermann Hesse; engaging the culture with the Faith!

4) St. John's Society (for teens):

most Sundays at 6:00 PM, for fellowship, mutual education, service, and encouragement!

+ St. John's member **William Barrass** fell asleep in the Lord this past Monday evening at Trumbull Memorial hospital; his funeral was last Thursday at St. John's. May William's memory be eternal!

+ Holy Trinity Academy and Preschool – 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.

+ **Charity of the Month for November: Archpriest Michael and Janet Mihalick.** Janet is the daughter of our own Protodeacon Vladimir and Mary Maksimoff, and her husband, Fr. Michael, continues to struggle with muscular dystrophy.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10)



AKATHIST TO THE THEOTOKOS
Today, November 15, at 6:00 PM

at St. Nicholas Church (on North Rd.)

Come and join in prayer with our Orthodox Community in Warren to begin the Nativity Fast, the season of Advent.

+ **Fish Dinner News:** our organizing committee consists of *Denise Higgins, Paula Kapp, and Carol Nicholl*, who are in the process of securing persons for key positions in Dinner operations. If you plan on serving as you have in the past, please notify one or all of the committee members, as they may not know what you did, especially if you did not sign up on the list! Once again, we plan to resume our Fish Dinners in January 2010.

+ **Christmas Program Practice** continues each Sunday after Liturgy and Sunday School. There will be no practice Thanksgiving Weekend, November 29. The Program is scheduled for performance on Sunday, December 20, Christine DiGiacobbe directing.

+ **Stand at Eastwood Mall** (aka Mall Kiosk): if you can volunteer to work at the Mall Stand – even if you're just interested and don't want to commit right now – speak with Tammy Krafft or Fr. Jonathan. We plan on running the Mall Stand in March 2010. This project is funded by a grant awarded to the parish from our Midwest Diocese Parish Health Department.

+ This coming Saturday, November 21, is the ***Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple***. Vigil for the Feast will be served at 6 PM Friday evening, with Divine Liturgy at 9:30 PM Saturday morning.