

November 29, 2009 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 8. Martyr Paramon and 370 Martyrs in Bithynia (250). Martyr Philumenus of Ancyra, and with him Martyrs Valerian and Phaedrus (ca. 274). Ven. Acacius of Sinai, who is mentioned in *The Ladder* (6th c.). Ven. Nectarius the Obedient, of the Kiev Caves (12th c.). Hieromartyr Abibus, Bishop of Nekressi in Georgia (6th c.). **Epistle:** Eph. 4:1-6. **Gospel:** Luke 13:10-17.

Next Sunday, Dec. 6 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker – Tone 1. **Epistle:** Heb. 13:17-21. **Gospel:** Luke 6:17-23.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (Nov. 29, 2009)

TODAY

11:15 AM **Sunday School & Bible Class**
6:00 PM **St. John's Society** (for teens)

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**

SATURDAY

4:00 PM **Great Vespers** (at St. Nicholas Church; NO VESPERS at St. John's)

SUNDAY (December 6)

9:30 AM **Divine Liturgy: St. Nicholas**
11:15 AM **Sunday School & Coffee Hour**

 **Thank you to all who contributed turkeys and food for the Thanksgiving Food Boxes. Remember, Christmas Food Boxes will be distributed on Dec. 21, so please help us re-stock our food pantry with non-perishable food items.**

ORTHODOXY AND AMERICAN CULTURE

The relationship of the Church and its surrounding non-Christian culture has a long history. The guiding principle goes way back to God's word to Abra(ha)m: "Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation..." (Gen. 12:1f.). This led to the eventual establishment of Israel, not a nation in the conventional, humanly political sense of the term, but God's special possession, "a royal priesthood and a holy nation" (Ex. 19:6).

Israel was the Christian Church in the making, awaiting the coming of God in the flesh, Christ the King (see Isa. 9:5-6). The nature of Christ's Kingdom became apparent with His eventual Crucifixion and Resurrection. "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 19:36). Prior to this Jesus prayed concerning His flock, the Church of disciples: "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world" (John 17:16).

Thus the Church, the Body of Christ, is *in the world* but not *of it*. Far from rejecting the world as inherently evil, or seeking to sever all ties with the world, the Church exists to call all peoples to realize their highest life goals in the communion of the Holy Trinity and the saints. After all, God became a Man to transform all persons through participation in the one true, divine life.

Orthodoxy (i.e., the Orthodox Church in its local setting) has the same mission as Abraham, Israel, the Apostles, and Christ Himself – to live and work in its surrounding culture transforming it to worship God the Holy Trinity. As with the Sumerians, Canaanites, Romans, and Jews, we Orthodox are called to live in Christ lifting American *hearts, minds, and bodies* to heaven in the faith and love of God. For this purpose we keep the fast, maintain our prayers, and prepare to celebrate the coming Feast.



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

11-22-09: 110 (attendance); **\$2,316.00** (collection).

11-29-09: candle commemorations – Theotokos: blessed memory of Greg and Mary Ontko & John and Mary Bobosh; **Altar:** health of the Sterchak family; **Christ:** blessed memory of Margaret Bolock.

Please Pray for:

Living: 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); **Melanie** (Smith, cousin of Vera Campbell); **Michael** (Nuzzo, father of Kathy Stehnach); **Archpriest Thomas** (Succarote, Madison, IL); **Adrian** (Puz, friend of Clarks); **Ann** (Gyurek, surgery in Columbus); **Judy** (Rosko, at Trumbull Memorial); **Aaron** (Meterko, at Trumbull Memorial).
Departed: 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

Dec. 12-13 Youth (Teen) Retreat at St. John's Monastery (in Hiram, OH)

Dec. 19 Hierarchical Liturgy & Ordination

Dec. 20 Children's Christmas Program

+ **Youth (Teen) Retreat at St. John's Monastery in Hiram, OH – December 12-13, 2009; Topic: PEER PRESSURE.** The retreat is sponsored by St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore; see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information. Let Fr. Jonathan know TODAY if you would like to attend!



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!

+ **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.

+ **Holy Resurrection Church Christmas Nut-roll and Sausage Sale – see the flyer on the bulletin board – orders taken through December 13.**

+ **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.

+ Thank you to all who helped prepare sausage this past Friday, Nov. 20, especially to James Stan who spear-headed the operation. **Extra sausage remains for purchase at \$4/lb. See Jim to order.**



GREAT VESPERS for the FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS
Saturday, December 5, at 4:00 PM
at St. Nicholas Church (on North Rd.)

We are invited to join our brothers and sisters to celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas at St. Nicholas Church. Vespers WILL NOT be served at St. John's on December 5.

+ **Holy Resurrection Church** is sponsoring a **Retreat on Confession** Saturday, **December 12, from 10 AM to 4 PM**. On the same day, they have invited all to share Christmas carols beginning at 6 PM. We will not be participating officially due to our Great Vespers at 6 PM, but you are invited to attend as Vespers will be served at Holy Resurrection at 5 PM prior to the singing of carols.

+ With Christmas approaching, St. John's will again participate in the ***Angel Tree gift program through Children's Services of Trumbull County*** (our next door neighbor). We have also received requests for gifts for ***the Cox family (at St. Vladimir's Seminary)***, and for ***children of families we help with food*** for the holidays. Recipients and their needs will be made available in the next couple of weeks. Thank you in advance for sharing God's wealth with those around us. Glory to Jesus Christ for His love to us!

+ **Upcoming Charity of the Month – December 2009: St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Monastery** (Mother Theonymphie, Abbess; in Cleveland, OH).

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)