

December 27, 2009 – 29th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 4. Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James (Jacob) the Brother of the Lord. Holy Firstmartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34 A.D.). Ven. Theodore Graptus (“the Branded”), Confessor and brother of St. Theophanes the Hymnographer (ca. 840). St. Theodore, Archbishop of Constantinople (ca. 686). **Epistle:** Gal. 1:11-19. **Gospel:** Matt. 2:13-23.

Next Sunday, Jan. 3 – 30th Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday before Theophany – Tone 5. Epistle: 2 Tim. 4:5-8. **Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN’S (Dec. 27, 2009)

TODAY

11:15 PM **Choir Christmas Concert**
12:00 PM **Choir Christmas Caroling**

FRIDAY

9:30 AM **Divine Liturgy:** Circumcision of Christ; St. Basil the Great

SATURDAY

6:00 PM **Great Vespers**

SUNDAY (Jan. 3)

9:30 AM **Divine Liturgy:** Sun. before Theophany
11:15 AM **Sunday School & Coffee Hour**

THANK YOU to all who provided food and gifts for those in need this Christmas season. May we always be attentive to those around us in need of God’s mercy and help, and our ability to supply what is lacking.

As a result of giving food for Christmas, our **FOOD PANTRY** is once again severely depleted. Please help restock our Pantry by donating non-perishable food items as you are able. Glory to Jesus Christ!

**PRAYER AT THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
FOR SPIRITUAL CHILDREN**

O Master, Lord god Almighty: When You were born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea, with trembling creation was illumined and the world rejoiced at Your Birth; Who made man according to Your image and likeness, and gave him Baptism for repentance; Who led Your servants to these most-honorable days by abstinence from the passions in the hope of the Resurrection; having directed them to the truth of Your divinity, do You open their hearts and minds that they may know You, the Son of God, Who took up the sins of the whole world. Do You now also, O Master and Lover of Mankind, accept Your servants as once You accepted Peter who was drowning in the sea, and who denied You three times, and having wept bitterly, was again accepted by You. Do You accept now also, O Master, the tears and groans and repentance of You servants as You accepted the groaning of the Tax Collector, and the Prostitute who, weeping, wetted Your feet with tears and wiped them with her hair; Who, because of mercy, accepted the Thief to Yourself, who cried out unto You on the cross, “Remember me, O Lord, when You come into Your kingdom,” and You said to him, “Today you shall be with me in Paradise.”

We have heard voices speaking also of the Magi worshiping with gifts, of shepherds piping, and Angels singing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men,” and of Herod greatly troubled, for God has revealed Himself in the flesh for the salvation of the human race. Now, O Master and Lover of Mankind, all creation hymns You, saying, “Christ is born, glorify Him; Christ is from heaven, meet Him; Christ is on earth, exalt Him.” Now the assemblies of Angels are rejoicing and the choirs of Martyrs make glad, having seen the glorious and honorable Birth. Let all of us meetly give praise with hearts and lips. And now, O Lord God and Lover of Mankind, accept these Your servants who are repenting of their sins, whether known or unknown, whether voluntary or involuntary. And out of Your customary love for mankind, accept the bowing of the knee and the fasting of Your servants, that having fulfilled Your commandments, and now having attained to Your holy and honorable Birth, cleansed and without reproach, they may become partakers of Your Most-pure Body and Precious Blood; for to You is due glory, together with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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...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

GENERAL INFORMATION

12-20-09: 120 (attendance); **\$3,543.00** (collection).

12-27-09: candle commemorations – Theotokos: health of St. John's Choir; **Altar:** blessed memory of George Tutoki, Jr.; **Christ:** blessed memory of Charles Fedash.

Please Pray for:

Living: Vera (Campbell, at home); **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); **Aaron** (Meterko); **Helen** (Stan); **Maryann** (Lalli) & **Craig** (Parana, friends of the DiGiacobbes); **Raymond** (Flannery); **Linda** (Cuckovich).

Departed: Teresa (Kloss, aunt of Vera Campbell); **Jason** (Tutoki; d. 11/25/09); **Mary** (Wainwright; d. 11/28/09, aunt of Karen and Norman George); **Archbishop Job** (d. 12/18/09).

This Month's Charity – December 2009:

[charity envelope or baskets after Liturgy]

St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Monastery (in Cleveland)

COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

- Jan. 1** **Circumcision of Christ; St. Basil the Great** (Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM)
- Jan. 6** **Theophany; Mahoning River Blessing** (by the Warren Amphi-theatre; 4:00 PM)
- Jan. 7** **Gathering of St. John the Baptist**
(patronal feast day; Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM followed by brunch); *House Blessings begin*

+ A schedule for House Blessings 2010 will be printed in next week's bulletin.



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 December: St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Monastery.** St. Mary's Monastery is led by Abbess Mother Theonymphie and provides valuable physical and spiritual assistance to many needy persons and families in the heart of Cleveland. For more information, you may visit the Monastery website, www.saintmaryofegypt.org, or see its newsletter on the bulletin board.

+ **Looking ahead...**the *annual Blessing of the Waters of the Mahoning River* will take place on Theophany, January 6, at 4:00 PM. *Children are encouraged to attend after school.* We also plan to provide a brunch after Liturgy on our patronal Feast Day, Jan. 7, *the Synaxis (Gathering) of St. John the Baptist.*

+ Our **annual Parish Meeting** will take place on Sunday, **February 21, 2010.** At that meeting we will review events of the past year, adopt a fiscal budget for 2010, and consider the work God has placed before us for the coming year and beyond.

+ **Compact Disc of Christmas Music** – St. John's Choir recorded Christmas music which will be available on a compact disc sometime around this Christmas season. If you would like a copy of the CD, speak with our Choir Director, Vadim Stehnach, to reserve one.

+ **Charity of the month, January, 2010:** the Monastery of St. John the Theologian in Hiram, Ohio. Please continue to give as you are able to our charity of the month using the Charity envelope in your envelope packet and after Liturgy in the basket collections.

+ **ALTAR SERVERS' RALLY – Monday, January 18, 2010, at St. Michael's Church (Broadview Heights, Ohio):**

- All Altar Servers are encouraged to attend!
- Sponsored by the Cleveland Deanery.
- For further details, contact Fr. Jonathan, who is also the coordinator for the event.

+ The funeral for Archbishop Job (of blessed memory) took place at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois, this past Tuesday and Wednesday. Vladyka Job was buried yesterday in Black Lick, Pennsylvania. Eight hierarchs served at the funeral, along with over 60 priests and 300 laypeople. A Panikhida for Archbishop Job was served at St. Theodosius Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio, on Wednesday evening, December 23; hundreds of the faithful attended from Ohio, Michigan, and other states. May God grant Archbishop Job's memory to be eternal; may he have rest in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the presence of God.

+ **Our next bishop?** – a new bishop for the Midwest Diocese will be chosen by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America upon the recommendation of candidates from our Diocese. In the meantime, a *Locum tenens* (acting Bishop) will be appointed from the Holy Synod. Pray for our leaders!