

# The Forerunner

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HE MUST INCREASE.....AND I MUST DECREASE. (JOHN 3:30)

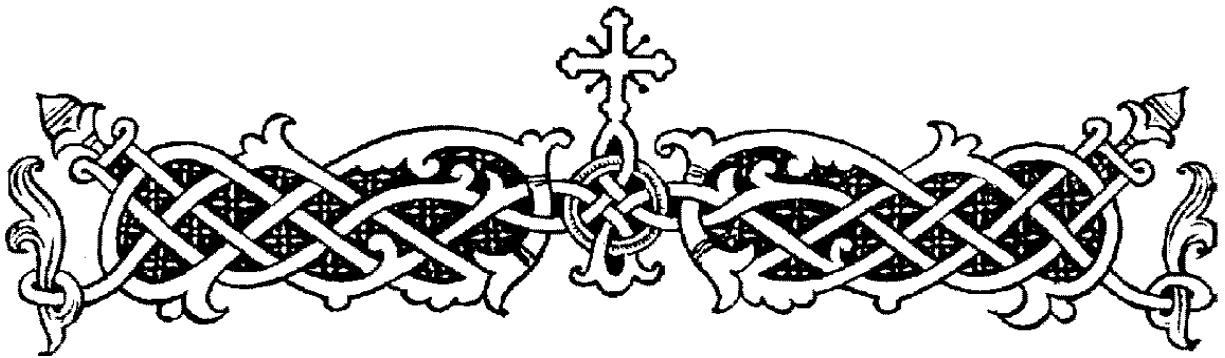
## **The Beheading of St. John, the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord**

The divine Baptist, the Prophet born of a Prophet, the seal of all the Prophets and beginning of the Apostles, the mediator between the Old and New Covenants, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, the God-sent Messenger of the incarnate Messiah, the forerunner of Christ's coming into the world (Isaiah 40:3; Mal. 3: 1); who by many miracles was both conceived and born; who was filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb; who came forth like another Elias the Zealot, whose life in the wilderness and divine zeal for God's Law he imitated: this divine Prophet, after he had preached the baptism of repentance according to God's command; had taught men of low rank and high how they must order their lives; had admonished those whom he baptized and had filled them with the fear of God, teaching them that no one is able to escape the

wrath to come if he do not works worthy of repentance; had, through such preaching, prepared their hearts to receive the evangelical teachings of the Savior; and finally, after he had pointed out to the people the very Savior, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (Luke 3:2-18; John 1: 29-36), after all this, John sealed with his own blood the truth of his words and was made a sacred victim for the divine Law at the hands of a transgressor.

This was Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Galilee, the son of Herod the Great. This man had a lawful wife, the daughter of Arethas (or Aretas), the King of Arabia (that is, Arabia Petraea, which had the famous Nabatean stone city of Petra as its capital. This is the Aretas mentioned by Saint Paul in II Cor. 11:32). Without any cause, and against every commandment of the Law, he put her away and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his deceased brother Philip, to whom Herodias had borne a daughter, Salome. He would not desist from this unlawful union even when John, the preacher of repentance, the bold and austere accuser of the lawless, censured him and told him, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife" (Mark 6: 18). Thus Herod, besides his other unholy acts, added yet this, that he apprehended John and shut him in prison; and perhaps

he would have killed him straightway, had he not feared the people, who had extreme reverence for John. Certainly, in the beginning, he himself had great reverence for this just and holy man. But finally, being pierced with the sting of a mad lust for the woman Herodias, he laid his defiled hands on the teacher of purity on the very day he was celebrating his birthday. When Salome, Herodias' daughter, had danced in order to please him and those who were supping with him, he promised her -- with an oath more foolish than any foolishness -- that he would give her anything she asked, even unto the half of his kingdom. And she, consulting with her mother, straightway asked for the head of John the Baptist in a charger. Hence this transgressor of the Law, preferring his lawless oath above the precepts of the Law, fulfilled this godless promise and filled his loathsome banquet with the blood of the Prophet. So it was that that all-venerable head, revered by the Angels, was given as a prize for an abominable dance, and became the plaything of the dissolute daughter of a debauched mother. As for the body of the divine Baptist, it was taken up by his disciples and placed in a tomb (Mark 6: 21 - 29). The findings of his holy head are commemorated on February 24 and May 25.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# September

Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> - Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**- Sunday Divine Liturgy – 9:30 PM**

Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – Nativity of the Theotokos

- Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**- Sunday Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> – Exaltation of the Cross

- Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – 5:00 PM

Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

- Adult Ed. Class – 3:30 PM

- Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> – Afterfeast of Exaltation**

**- Sunday Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Great Vespers – 5:00 PM

Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

- Adult Ed. Class – 3:30 PM
- Great Vespers – 5:00 PM

**Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

- **Sunday Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 5:00 PM

## October

**Wed., October, 1<sup>st</sup> – Protection of the Theotokos**

- **Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM**

Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Diocesan Leaders Day (in Black Lick) – 10:00 AM
- NO ADULT ED THIS SATURDAY!

- Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

- **Sunday Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – 5:00 PM

Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

- Adult Ed. Class – 3:30 PM
- Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

- **Sunday Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> - Perogie Workshop**

- **Morning – 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
- **Evening – 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

**Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – Perogie Workshop and Pickup**

- Workshop – 8:00 AM – Done
- Pickup – 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> - Stuffed Cabbages**

- Workshop – 8:00 AM – Done

**Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL**

- Festival – 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**NO GREAT VESPERS**

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

- Sunday Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – Daily Vespers – 5:00 PM

Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – St. Demetrius

- Divine Liturgy (St. Demetrius) – 9:00 AM
- Adult Ed. Class – 3:30 PM
- Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

- Sunday Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – 5:00 PM

Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

- Adult Ed. Class – 3:30 PM
- Great Vespers – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

- Sunday Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

## ALTAR CANDLES

**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** - donated by David and Carolyn Klimenko, in memory of Anastasia Klimenko.

**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Seraphim and Mary Joyce, in for the health and well-being of Robert Joyce.

**Candles at St. Panteleimon** are donated by Father Paul and Matushka Helen Ziatyk for the health and well-being of V. Rev. John and Matushka Irene Sidor.

**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>** - donated in memory of Alan Kennedy, Stanley Zalupski, and Harry Fritzky, and for the health and well-being of Jay Rinebolt and Martin Miller by Mark, Susan, Jayme, and Megan Kennedy

**Candles at the Golgotha** are donated by Christine Scott in memory of George Eror, Infant twins George & Mary, Ann Adams, Brandon A. Sanford, Sean J. Kelly, Nicholas, Anna, George, Pete & Louise, Thomas Sprock, Mile Eror & Mary Eror.

**Candles at the Golgotha** are donated by Judith Goldberg and Joan Mitchum in memory of John Fritzky.

**Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> (Peter and Paul)** - donated by Fr. Paul Ziatyk.

**Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Valerie Kennedy for the health and well-being of Martin and Dawn Miller on their wedding anniversary.

**Sunday, July 12th** - donated by Valerie Kennedy for the health and well-being of Dawn Miller on her birthday!

**Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>** - donated for the health and well-being of the Rusnak and Havaran Families.

**Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Valerie Kennedy, for the health and well-being of Alan Miller on his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday!

**Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>** - donated by Alice Eframo for the health and well-being of Fr. Paul and Matushka Helen.

**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Fr. Nikolai for the health and well-being of Ruth Koos while she undergoes illness.

**Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> (Dormition)** - were donated for the health and well-being of all those in the Rusnak and Havaran families.

**Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Joan Hughes for the health and well-being of Hope Cain on her birthday.

**Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>** - donated by Father Paul and Matushka Helen Ziatyk, in memory of John Ziatyk. Memory Eternal!

**Candles at St. Panteleimon:** are donated by Garrette M. and Nancy Jean Blubaugh for the health and well-being of Leon Parshook.

**Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>** - donated by the parish Youth Group, in memory of Leon Parshook. Memory Eternal!

**Candles at the Golgotha:** are donated by Garrette M. and Nancy Jean Blubaugh in memory of Leon Parshook.



## Perogie Making

The next Perogie workshops will be:

October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

THANK YOU!

PEROGIES: Valerie Kennedy, Mark and Susan Kennedy, Alan Miller, Marilyn Lucas, Zachary and Samantha Ziatyk, Bruce and Linda Parshook, Alexis Parshook, Pam Kraynik, Jean Trebilcock, Donald and Dorothy Chlodney, Frank Kaminsky, Don Rywak, Matushka Mila, Becky Hanes, Joan Hughes, Nick Bia, Fr. Paul and Fr. Nikolai.

PIES: Valerie Kennedy, Barbara Haught, Joan Kennedy, Deacon Joseph Rabickow, Ellie and Leon Parshook, Fr. Nikolai

## VIGIL DONATIONS (5/17 – 8/16)

Alan Kennedy – 13	Grace Veresik – 1	Miabella June
Theresa Klos - 1	Stanley and Pearl	Scarano – 1
Ron Trebilcock – 2	Zalupski – 1	Philip Weremechik – 1
Jayme Kennedy – 3	Faith Hughes – 1	Mary Weremechik – 1
Paul Eror – 1	Marian and Andy	Zachary Fry – 1
Hope Cain – 1	Kuniak - 1	

## **Falling Asleep**

Leon Parshook fell asleep in the Lord, on Friday, August 28th. Please remember to keep Leon in your prayers. May God grant him rest where there is no more pain, nor sorrow, but life everlasting!

## **Adult Education Class**

Starting on September 19<sup>th</sup> every Saturday till mid December will have an Adult Education class / Bible Study. The first several sessions will be devoted to the liturgical worship of the Orthodox Church. Specifically, the daily cycle of services. We will cover their order, how to assemble the movable portions, and what the various parts mean, theologically. Anyone is invited to attend!

## **Parish Accessibility**

After a very successful fund-raising campaign to purchase a new boiler for the Church, (Thank you to all who donated!) it was decided to pursue another need of our parish. With an aging population, the need for greater accessibility in both the Church temple and parish hall is keenly felt. Through several donations we have already received, we have about \$7,000 set aside to purchase an outdoor ramp, and two stair lifts. The likely cost of this project, however, will be about \$16,000. We are asking anyone who feels so called, to donate toward the cost of this project. Any donation is greatly appreciated!

## **Fall Slavic Food Festival**

The Fall Festival this year is set for **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup>**. Foods will be prepared the entire week leading up to the event. Mark your calendar for that week, and do your part to support this major fund-raising effort of St. John's Church. Because this is only a one day event, it should be possible for everyone to do something for the festival.

Cash donations to help offset the cost of the event are welcome. The expenses will run somewhere around \$2,000. An envelope is attached to the last page of this newsletter. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

An additional part of our festival will be the bake sale. There will be several types of Pies and Rolls available, but this alone is not enough to fill our tables. We need all bakers to make various cookies, cakes, bars, and breads to make a good selection of things to sell to the public. As is the case with everything else, cash donations to offset the cost of purchased baked goods are welcome.

Since we need as many workers as possible, a job sign-up sheet will be posted in the parish hall with a list of tasks open. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up freely so that they don't have to be assigned to something they might not like.

A Chinese Auction will also be held, and since the day will soon be upon us, it's not too early to donate a basket, or put money toward a basket.



# Fall Slavic Food Festival

Saturday,  
October 17<sup>th</sup> 2015  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church  
150 Elmtree Road, New Kensington, PA 15068**

**Delicious Ethnic Foods: Stuffed Cabbage! Perogies! Holushki!  
Kolbasi and Kraut! Homemade Borscht and Vegetable Soup!**

**Delectable Baked Goods: Nut, Poppyseed, Apricot, and Cream Cheese  
Rolls! Breads, Pies, and Cakes! As well as much more!**

**TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE!**