

+St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church+

A Parish of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania of the Orthodox Church in America
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Rev. Fr. Adam R. Sexton, Pastor - Reader Joseph Paprota, Senior Warden



~March 6, 2011

Schedule of Services:

Monday, March 7 – Great Canon of St. Andrew 6 pm

Tuesday March 8 - Great Canon of St. Andrew 6 pm

Wednesday, March 9 - Great Canon of St. Andrew 6 pm

Thursday March 10 -Great Canon of St. Andrew 6 pm

Friday March 11 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 6 pm

Saturday, March 12 - Great Vespers 4 pm

Sunday, March 13 - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

NEXT WEEK! – Sunday of Orthodoxy – Wilkes Barre Cathedral – 4:00 pm

Lenten Retreat in Stroudsburg: Tomorrow, March 7th, 2011, - the First day of Great Lent, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Stroudsburg will offer a retreat entitled “The Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim”. The keynote speaker for this event will be the Very Reverend Paul Lazor, former Dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary. Even lasts from 9:30 am -3:00 pm.

Happy Birthday, St. John's! We're having a party! Who should we invite? - Please remember to bring in those lists of names and addresses of your loved ones or other people of importance to this parish who you think would like an invite to our New Century festivities. We need names and addresses if possible. We don't want to leave anyone out! Return these to Mary Ann Oram, or to Father Adam directly.

St. John's church school children would like your donations! Downstairs in the church parlor the children will be collecting monetary donations for the New Century Celebration. These donations will be collected until Memorial Day weekend. We will accept pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters or cash. No donation is too small. There will be 2 prizes drawn throughout this time. To be eligible for one of the drawings: for every \$1.00 donation given at one time your name will be placed in the drawing basket. The first prize will be drawn from the first batch of donators on Palm Sunday. The prize will be a basket with a homemade Pascha basket liner and cover along with little goodies. The second prize will be drawn Memorial Day weekend. Prize will be announced later. There will

be children at the donation table to help direct you with your donation. If you have any questions please see Helen Conner. Thank you so much in advance for your donations.

Pierohies are Coming! - Mark your calendars – We pinch cheese rogies on Monday 3/28 and tater rogies on 4/4. Orders in by 3/19 – Call 829-3832 to place orders.

Installation of Officers – We will install the Parish Council officers for 2011 next Sunday after Divine Liturgy

Please join us downstairs after Divine Liturgy for our weekly potluck coffee hour!

Memory Eternal! - Departed: March. 10 Michael Kokinda (1955)

Many Years! - Birthdays & Anniversaries: March 11 Charlotte Ebert (1985)

March. 4 Justin Matos (1999)

Forgiveness Sunday

On this last Sunday before Great Lent, the last day that traditionally Orthodox Christians eat dairy products until Pascha, the Church remembers the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. God commanded them to fast from the fruit of a tree (Gen. 2:16), but they did not obey. In this way Adam and Eve and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption.

On Forgiveness Sunday many attend Forgiveness Vespers on the eve of Great Lent. They hear on the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness and enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive them. *If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses* (Matthew 6:14).

The Gospel reading of the day also gives advice on fasting. *Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.* (Matthew 6:16-18).