

THE ICON OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

St. John the Baptist enjoys a distinction among the saints of the Church. One of the days of the week is dedicated to him. The Church observes his birth as a feastday - joining the Holy Virgin as the only saints so distinguished. But the greatest tribute to John is from Christ Himself, Who said that he is greatest "among those that are born of women . . ."

St. John is the Forerunner of Christ, that is, the one who prepared the way for the coming of the Lord. He is the Baptizer of Christ, performing this rite in the waters of the Jordan River. He is also a Martyr and Prophet, with his words echoing through the centuries: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand . . . The axe is laid to the root of the trees: therefore every tree which brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire . . ."

This finely executed icon of John graphically tells the story of his life, his ministry, and his death. He is portrayed with the wings of an Angel, not only because he was the unique messenger of God preparing the way for Christ, but also because of the sanctity and austerity of his life. He was, so to speak, an Angel in the flesh.

Clothed in an inner garment of camel's hair, John is poised in the stance of a preacher proclaiming repentance in the country about the Jordan. The rocky formations astride the Baptist represent the wilderness of Judea where he dwelt. The bush and the axe are references to his teaching. The plate with his decapitated head is a reminder of his martyrdom at the hands of King Herod. John stands facing the half-Figure of Christ (in the upper corner of the icon) for Whom the Forerunner prepared the way and Whom he pointed out to the people: "Behold the Lamb of God . . ."

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SAINT JOHN

- ⊗ Forerunner
- ⊗ Baptist
- ⊗ Prophet
- ⊗ Earthly Angel
- ⊗ Martyr

*Sent
by God
to prepare
the way
for the
coming of
the Lord.*

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>>>> NEW WEBSITE: www.theotokou.org www.facebook.com/dormitionaliquippa <<<<

August 28, 2016

10th Sunday of Matthew

St. Moses the Black of Skete; Sts. Diomedes & Laurence

COFFEE HOUR – Hosted by Athena Sarris and Wayne & Kitsa Lipecky

THERE ARE NO SPECIAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

TUE. AUG. 30	– Preparing Mousaka & Pastitsio for Mini-Festival	9:00 AM
THU. SEP. 1	– Rolling Grapeleaves for Mini-Festival	9:00 AM
	G.A.P.A. Meeting	6:30 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION is taking place today and next Sunday, September 4, in the Community Center following Divine Liturgy. More information is included in flyer on candle stands.

G.A.P.A. MEETING taking place this Thursday, September 1, at 6:30 PM in the Community Center. Your attendance is vital since we will be discussing the GAPA Convention being held in Pittsburgh this year. Please mark the date on your calendar. We welcome new members interested in finding out more about our organization.

SENIOR CITIZENS ANNUAL MEMORIAL BREAKFAST for all deceased Senior Citizens will take place on Sunday, September 11, following Divine Liturgy. Price \$8.00/person. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Senior Citizens group!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS/HOSTESSES – Next Sunday, **September 4**, need volunteer Hosts/Hostesses; Sunday, **September 11**, Senior Citizens Annual Memorial Breakfast; Sunday, **September 18**, Church's Mini-Festival; Sunday, **September 25**, families of Steven & Liz Valsamidis and Daniel & Georgia Tanweer. Hosts or hostesses can add their names on the Sunday of their choosing for the rest of 2016; you can honor people for their birthdays, namedays, accomplishments, etc. Please insert your names in the dates you prefer on the boards that are on the wall in the Small Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS – 1) Senior Citizens 40th Anniversary Memorial Breakfast Sunday, September 11; 2) Church's Annual Mini Festival, September 15-17; 3) AHEPA Annual Picnic, Sunday, September 18, at Center Township Municipal Park, Center Township; 4) OPA! September 24 at St. Elijah Serbian Center; 5) Ladies Philoptochos "Fall Luncheon Fashion Show", Saturday, October 1.

AHEPA SUMMER PICNIC this year will take place at Center Township Municipal Park on **Sunday, September 18**. Please note change of date. Food and drinks will be provided by the sister churches of Aliquippa and Ambridge. A covered dish of any type brought to the picnic would be appreciated.

THANK YOU to all those who have filled out their Stewardship Pledges for 2016. Your generosity is deeply appreciated as this is the single most important source of income for our Church. If you do not currently pledge, we encourage you to speak to Lynne Kakiou, our Financial Secretary. All pledges remain in strict confidence.

EPISTLE – St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16

BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

GOSPEL according to Matthew 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him". And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. The the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."