

Announcements?

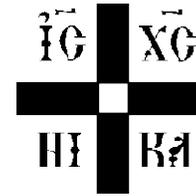
Do you have any announcements for the parish that you would like to see included in the weekly bulletin? If so, please email or call Fr. Matthew by Tuesday.

Weekly Schedule

Saturday Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
Confessions following Great Vespers

Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit. The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost. This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him. St Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology. St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories. The list of St Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28. The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...." Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. St Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.



HOLY ASSUMPTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. Matthew Cantrell, Pastor

Call to arrange sacraments, services, instruction, counseling, home visits, sick calls.

Troparion-Tone 8

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!/You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!/O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Troparion-Tone 4

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,/ Your Church has been adorned with Your martyr's blood shed throughout all the world./She cries to You, O Christ God:"Send down Your bounties on Your people,/ grant peace to Your habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

Kontakion-Tone 8

The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs/as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator./By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation, in abiding peace/through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Prokeimenon-Tone 8

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God! (Ps 75/76:11)

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps 75/76:1)

June 14, 2009
1st Sunday after
Pentecost. Tone 8.
All Saints

Altar Candles and Bulletin Sponsors

Altar candles for this week are for all the parishioner at Holy Assumption Orthodox Church. **May God Grant Them Many Years!**

Bulletins for this week are for the memory of all the beloved departed servants of God of Holy Assumption Orthodox Church. **May Their Memories Be Eternal!**



Epistle Reading

Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

BRETHREN, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us for our Fellowship Hour in the Church Hall . **Please note: Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and confession of sins may approach the Chalice to receive Holy Communion.**

Announcements

Thank you

Thank you to all for the warm welcome last week. I and Matushka look forward to our continued prayers together. I am certain that we can accomplish great things at Holy Assumption if this be God's will.

General Parish Meeting

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 28, there will be a general parish meeting. This will be a time for Fr. Matthew to outline some of his goals for Holy Assumption, as well as a time for the faithful to ask any questions they might have. Together we will set some goals for our beloved parish! All are invited to attend.

Invite Someone to Church!

It has been said that the number one way to find new parishioners is simply to invite them. I would ask all of you to invite any friends, family, or acquaintances to come and pray with us. This does not mean that we coerce anyone; but it does mean that we mustn't shy from our duties to evangelize. Whether or not these invitees come is up to them. I ask only that you invite them.

Kittens

One of the priests in our clergy brotherhood of Philadelphia has two kittens needing a good home. If you are interested, please see either Fr. Matthew or Fr. Sergius.

Bulletin board

Please do periodically check the bulletin board. I will post cultural events and the like there for any who are interested.