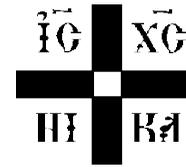


Weekly Schedule

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

Sunday Reading of Hours, 9:40 a.m.
Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy

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. The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world. The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death. Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament. The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example. The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, St John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31). The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Sts Joachim and Anna, St Joseph the Betrothed, St Juliana of Lazarevo, and others. The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful. Even before the death of St Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.



Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Rev. Matthew Cantrell, Acting Rector

Rev. Sergius Willis, Associate 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)

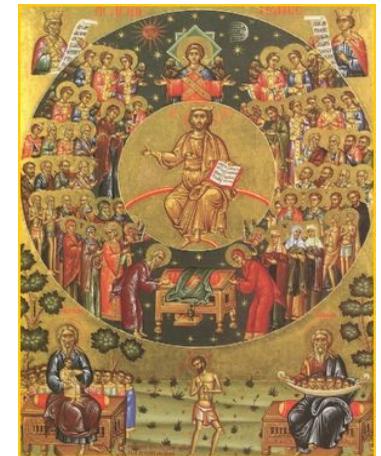
The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation, in abiding peace// through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

May 30, 2010
1st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST —
Tone 8. All Saints.

Prayers for The Faithful and Departed

Barbara, Alex, Pellack family, parishioners and clergy, Witiak family, John, Barbara, Kavalkovich family and friends, Janet, Mary Anne, John, Catherine, Albert, Patricia. **May God Grant Them Many Years!**

Pauline, Tim, John, John, Julia. **May Their Memories Be Eternal!**



Epistle Reading

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel Reading

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

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny 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 after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Welcome to our Visitors!

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 that have properly prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession of sins should approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Collection

Please bring any food you would like to donate to church. We, as a church, will offer food to one of the local food banks, Philabundance.

Church Telephone Number

Our church's telephone number is 215-468-3535. If there is inclement weather, do please call the number and wait for the answering machine. If church is canceled, it will be announced here.

Months of Evangelism and Youth

We've entered our "Month of Evangelism," here at Holy Assumption. I would ask that everyone of you invite someone to attend our services sometime this month. This is the key to our growth—your willingness to invite others to partake of the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Next week we will introduce our new topic, "Youth and the Church."

NYC or Bust

Our youth are planning for a trip to NYC on June 26-27, which will include a visit to the American Museum of Natural History and to St. Vladimir's Seminary.

Church Cleaning, Coffee Hour, and Reading Schedule

Our sign-up sheets for the above have been looking a bit bare lately. Please do volunteer some time.

St. Tikhon's Seminary Pilgrimage

Tomorrow, Memorial Day, is a great time to visit St. Tikhon's, as they are having their annual pilgrimage. It is a great time for prayer and some good food. If you would have any questions, please see Fr. Matthew.