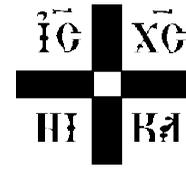


## Weekly Schedule

<b>Saturday</b>	Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m. Confessions following Vigil
<b>Sunday</b>	Reading of Hours, 9:40 a.m. Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy</i>

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt. 14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ. Following the Baptism of the Lord, St John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus). The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom. The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of St John and to give it to Salome. According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of St John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated (February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done. After the murder of St John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12). The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck. Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of St John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligula (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain. The Beheading of St John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.



## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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(215) 468-3535 (Church)  
Email: frmatthew@comcast.net

**Rev. Matthew Cantrell, Acting Rector**  
**Rev. Sergius Willis, Associate Pastor**  
Call to arrange sacraments, services,  
instruction, counseling, home visits, sick  
calls.

### **Troparion (Tone 5)**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead//by His glorious Resurrec-  
tion.

### **Troparion (Tone 2)**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner. You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the steams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, you proclaimed to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh.// Who takes away the sin of the world and grants us great mercy.

### **Kontakion (Tone 5)**

You descended into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrect-  
ing the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,

**August 29, 2010**  
**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST —**  
**Tone 5. THE BEHEADING OF THE**  
**HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORE-**  
**RUNNER, AND BAPTIST JOHN.**

//and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

### **Kontakion (Tone 5)**

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner became an act of divine dispensation, for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life, //but that which is false and temporal.

### **Prayers for The Faithful and Departed**

Nina, Kavalkovich family and friends,  
Corba family, clergy, Rt. Rev. Tikhon,  
Edward, June, Zack, Matthew, Simon,  
Daniell, David, Edward, Riley family,  
Paul, Katie, Drimack family. **May God**  
**Grant Them Many Years!**

Mary, MaryAnn, Ana, Barbara. **May**  
**Their Memories Be Eternal!**

### **Epistle Reading**

#### **2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4**

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **Matthew 22:1-14**

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.' ' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 'Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen.

### **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.

#### **Bulletin Board**

Please do check the bulletin board for announcements.

#### **Community Picnic**

The council and I have decided that it would be good to have a picnic the end of September or the beginning of October. I would need help in planning and running this event, especially as it relates to community outreach. If you could help plan the event, please see me.

