

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, January 31, 2016 | 35th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia
Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus and John

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Annual Parish Meeting - after Divine Liturgy

Tuesday: February 2 – Meeting of the Lord into the Temple
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Saturday: February 6 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: February 7 – Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord
St. Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 7 – Soup N' Bowl I Challenge immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement. Be prepared to indulge in some of the best warm and tasty soups and stews today!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion (Tone 4 – New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, / praising her new martyrs and confessors; / hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, / venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. / Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, / they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. // By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the new martyrs of Rus’ stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, / and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: / “Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, / and power, and strength be to our God // unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

Prokeimenon (Tone 2)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.
v. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over unto death.

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:12-16

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, signing with the grace in your hearts to the Lord. Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 2)

v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the Name of the God of Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x’s)
v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call upon Thee! Alleluia (3x’s)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

Welcome to all of our visitors & guest worshipping with us today. A warm welcome to all of our visitors and guest who have joined us today in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

Announcements (cont.)

Synaxis of the Primates of the Orthodox Autocephalous Churches concluded their week-long meeting at the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambesy, Geneva, Switzerland this week (January 21 to 28, 2016).

The Primates of the Orthodox Churches convened to finalize the texts for The Holy and Great Council. During the Synaxis, whose sessions were held in the apostolic spirit of “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4.15), in concord and understanding, the Primates affirmed their decision to convene the Holy and Great Council. The Council will be held at the Orthodox Academy of Crete from June 16 to 27, 2016.

The items officially approved for referral to and adoption by The Holy and Great Council are: *The Mission of the Orthodox Church in the Contemporary World, The Orthodox Diaspora, Autonomy and its Manner of Proclamation, The Sacrament of Marriage and its Impediments, The Significance of Fasting and its Application Today, and Relations of the Orthodox Church with the Rest of the Christian World.* By decision of the Primates, all approved documents will be published.

The Primates also discussed and determined the establishment of a Pan-Orthodox Secretariat, the by-laws of the Council, the participation of non-Orthodox observers in the opening and closing sessions, and the budgetary costs related the Council.

St. Herman of Alaska exhibition at Villanova University!

In honor of the 45th Anniversary of the Glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska, an exhibition – “Russian America: The Alaskan Native Spiritual Legacy” – will open at Villanova University here on January 22, 2016 and run through May 16, 2016. Exhibit organized by Archpriest John J. Perich.

Detail information:

www.ArtGallery.Villanova.edu

www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/artgallery/current_exhibit.html

Villanova University Art Gallery location
2nd Floor Connelly Center (University Campus)
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085
Phone: 610-519-4612

Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday: 8am-11pm | Sat-Sun: 11am-11pm

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

No Divine Liturgy served last week due to snowstorm!

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

No Divine Liturgy served last week due to snowstorm!

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; Father John Udics; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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The January 24th (last Sunday's) church bulletin is available on the parish website. Please take a look to review any information that would have been mentioned last Sunday if Divine Liturgy were served. Thank you!

2016 PARISH CALENDAR:

A computer printout version of the 2016 church calendar for the months of January and February are located on the back pew in the church. If this version is acceptable, we will continue to generate the remaining months for 2016.

Also, for those who have access to the Internet, the calendar for January and February are posted in color on the parish website for your convenience under the "Service Schedule" tab section. Thank you!

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items for **2016** are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon. In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Youth Fund
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (January)

	<u>Week of Jan 18 to Jan 24</u>	<u>January Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	No Liturgy Served	31 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 0.00	\$15,413.44
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,368.33
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 0.00	\$10,045.11

[NOTE: \$11,521.44 from insurance claim proceeds for Hall repairs]

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

*[Note: The readings for the New Martyrs of Russia are as follows:
Epistle – Romans 8:28-39 and Gospel - Luke 21:8-19]*

Calendar of Events

Annual Parish Meeting – rescheduled for TODAY after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. (Due to the snow storm last weekend).

The Spiritual Advisor's report, the Treasurer's report, the voting on the 2016 budget, and the election of officers will take place during the meeting along with any other business that needs to be discussed. A report of the Diocesan Assembly (held January 28-29) will be presented. Meeting should take about 90 minutes with information from Diocesan Assembly being reported.

Soup N' Bowl I Challenge - Sunday, February 7, 2016 after Divine Liturgy!

- * At least two participants to prepare their best soup. Any type of soup can be prepared (no fasting restrictions on that Sunday). Any type of crackers or bread can be included as a compliment to the soup. We do have one participant who will be preparing their favorite Stew!
- * Make enough soup for the parishioners & guest (between 30-35 people)
- * Parishioners & guests will indulge in each one of the soups (at least try 1/2 bowl or cup of each soup)
- * Parishioners & guests will cast a ballot for which one they enjoyed.
- * The results ("Score") will be announced by the Commissioner: M Koczak
- * The winner gets to enjoy for the year that their soup was the best and select a charity of their choosing from the coffee hour proceeds from this event
- * Donation of "free-will" offering will be accepted for this coffee hour event.
- * Any other ideas or suggestions, please inform the parish council member.

Bible Study – Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30pm in the church basement. The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Genesis.

Reading the Hours and Epistle Discussion begins on Sunday, February 14, 2016 after Divine Liturgy!

Anyone wishing to learn how to read the Hours and the Epistle are welcome to attend this discussion. Father Mark, and those knowledgeable with the readings, will offer instruction and information on how the readings are presented.

Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week & Pascha begins on Sunday, February 21, 2016 after Divine Liturgy! Choir members and anyone wishing to sing during Holy Week & Pascha are highly encouraged to attend. Nina plans on holding five or six rehearsals between Feb 21 & Holy Week!



Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom [January 30th]

During the eleventh century, disputes raged in Constantinople about which of the three hierarchs was the greatest. Some preferred St Basil (January 1), others honored St Gregory the Theologian (January 25), while a third group exalted St John Chrysostom (November 13).

Dissension among Christians increased. Some called themselves Basilians, others referred to themselves as Gregorians, and others as Johnites.

By the will of God, the three hierarchs appeared to St John the Bishop of Euchaita (June 14) in the year 1084, and said that they were equal before God. “There are no divisions among us, and no opposition to one another.”

They ordered that the disputes should stop, and that their common commemoration should be celebrated on a single day. Bishop John chose January 30 for their joint Feast, thus ending the controversy and restoring peace.

Three Hierarchs Troparion — Tone 1

Let us who love their words gather together / and honor with hymns the three great torch-bearers of the triune Godhead: / Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. / These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine doctrines. / They are sweetly-flowing rivers of wisdom / filling all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge. / Ceaselessly they intercede for us before the Holy Trinity!

Three Hierarchs Kontakion — Tone 2

O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest / and to the enjoyment of Your blessings / the divinely-inspired heralds, the greatest of Your teachers, / for You have accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice, / for You alone are glorified in Your saints!