

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
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<http://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionphilly>

Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, January 15, 2017 | 30th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Venerable Paul of Thebes (341) and
John Calabytes (“the Hut-dweller”) (5th c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church schoolroom. Also scheduled to be in attendance around noontime is Pastor Gregory S. Morgan from God’s House who will address any questions or concerns the committee has regarding the Hall rental.

Tonight: 80th Annual Novogodny Ball sponsored by St Stephen OCF at the Radisson Hotel in Trevoise, PA.

Saturday: January 21 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: January 22 – Apostle Timothy of the Seventy
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: January 22 – Annual Parish Meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

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 Resurrection.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Vens Paul and John)

O God of our Fathers, / always act with kindness towards us; / take not Thy mercy from us, / but guide our lives in peace / through the prayers of venerable Paul and John!

Kontakion (Tone 5)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, / resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Ven. John “the Hut-Dweller”)

Longing for poverty in imitation of Christ, / thou didst abandon thy parents’ wealth, wise Father John; / grasping the Gospel in thy hands, thou didst follow Christ God, / unceasingly praying for us all.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Ven Paul of Thebes)

Today we gather and praise thee with hymns / as an unwaning ray of the spiritual Sun; / for thou dost shine on those in the darkness of ignorance, / leading all mankind to the heights, / venerable Paul, adornment of Thebes and firm foundation of the fathers and ascetics.

Prokeimenon (Tone 5)

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!

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 5)

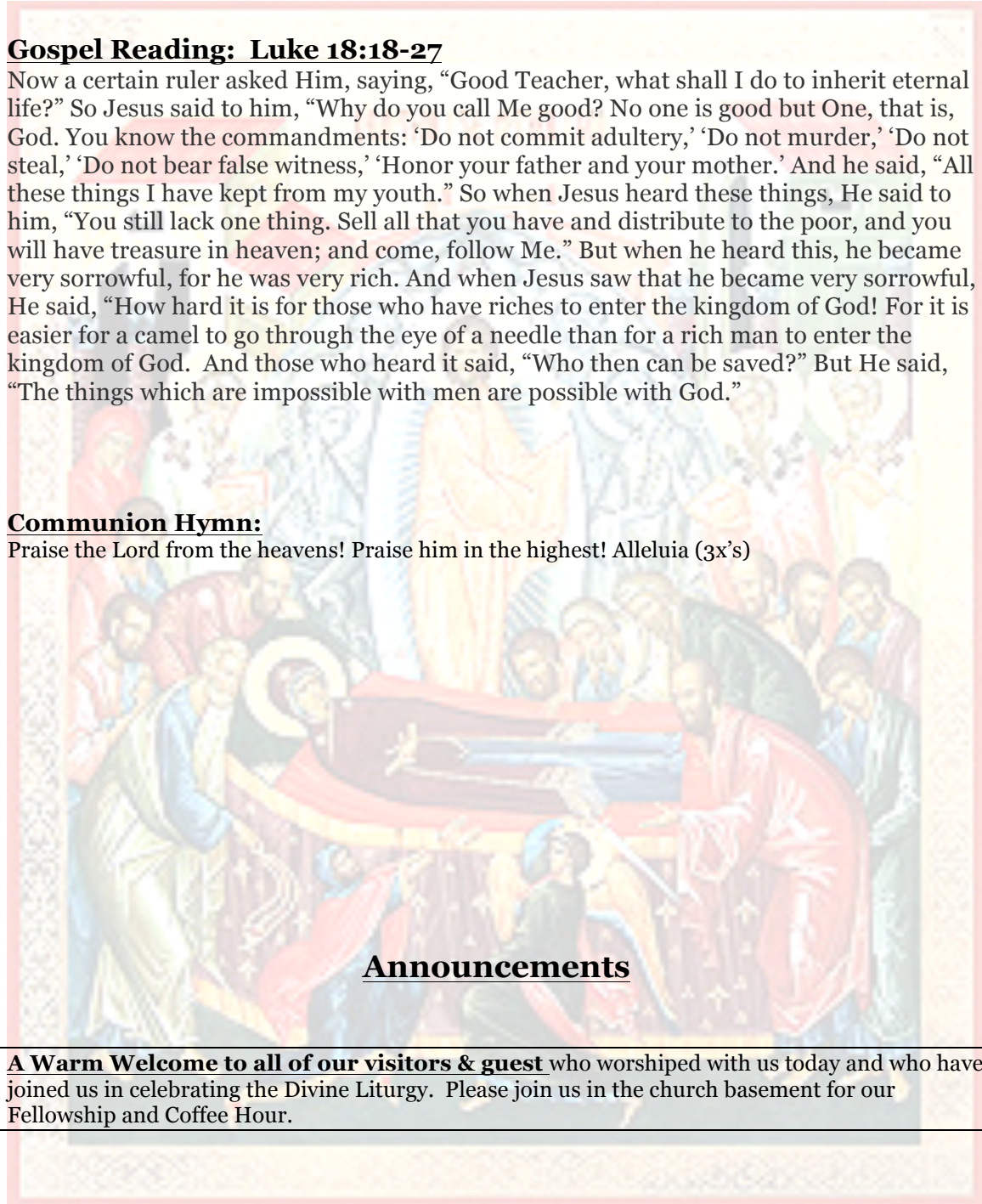
- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)



Announcements

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

Announcements (cont.)

2017 House Blessing

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses has begun. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

Great Blessing of the Waters along the Schuylkill River

Join us as we celebrate the Holy Feast of Epiphany with the Great Blessing of Waters, followed by the Blessing of the Schuylkill River.

The Greater Philadelphia Brotherhood of Pan-Orthodox Christian Clergy to conduct the service at 2 Kelly Drive (Boat House Row), Philadelphia, PA. The event is being hosted by the Anglican Fellowship of Delaware Valley.

Next Sunday, January 22, 2017 – 3pm to 6pm

Parking: (metered) Art Museum Over flow Parking Lot between the Water Works Restaurant and the Boat House. On Street Parking – South Side of Kelly Drive (same side as Boat House) and Sedgley Drive which is perpendicular to and North of Kelly Drive. Light Refreshments to Follow

For more information please see the flyers on the bulletin boards, speak with Father Mark Kozak or contact Vice-Chairman Protodeacon Gregory Moser at P: 215.794.8980 or email pdngmoser@gmail.com

As a result of our church holding its Annual Parish Meeting next Sunday, The next Church Life Discussion Lecture on the History of the Divine Liturgy will be held in two weeks on Sunday, January 29, 2017 after Divine Liturgy up in the Church.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Melanie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson
Olga Macalush, Joseph Herbert, Matesy Herbert and Albert Kavalkovich offered by M/M Herbert

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Sophie Herbert and Benjamin Macalush offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich; Julia Makara; Margaret Pellack; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; 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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2017 St Tikhon's Lectionary Church Wall Calendars!

We still have one 2017 calendar left for sale for \$6. We still have a family who ordered a calendar who needs to pick theirs up. Also, if you still owe for your calendar, please settle up your balance with a member of the parish council or someone at the candle desk. 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 2017 Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items for 2017 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 – Icon Fund (2016)
- 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 2 to Jan 8</u>	<u>January Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	31	35 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 755.00	\$ 2,734.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,476.83
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 245.00)	(\$ 2,742.83)

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

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.

Calendar of Events

1st Sunday of each month – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy. *(if needed)*
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy.

Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers! After Liturgy Today, please take any poinsettias that are located on the stage in the church basement. Please leave in the church the six large plants on the Altar steps AND the four large plants on the Tetrapod. Thank you!

80th Annual Novogodny Ball – Tonight - Sunday, January 15, 2017

St Stephen's OCF – Chapter #82 of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will host this annual event. This year's semi-formal gala will be located at the Radisson Hotel – Philadelphia Northeast | 2400 Old Lincoln Highway | Trevose, PA 19053. **Dinner and/or Dancing Ticket(s) and Hotel Room Reservation DEADLINE WAS LAST SATURDAY - JANUARY 7, 2017**

Dinner begins at 5:00PM Dancing from 7:30PM to 11:30PM

Dinner & Dancing

Age 23+: \$91 | Ages 13-22: \$81 | Age 12 & Under: \$54

Dancing & Treats Only

Age 23+: \$50 | Ages 13-22: \$39 | Age 12 & Under: \$34

Radisson Hotel Info & Room Reservations:

Phone#: 215.638.8300 Website: www.radisson.com/trevosepa

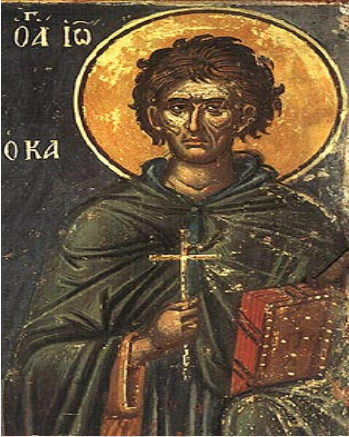
Room Rate: \$87/night between Jan 13 & Jan 16

Annual Parish Meeting – Sunday, January 22, 2017 after Divine Liturgy in the church

basement. This is Notice #3 of 3. According to Article 10, Section 1, of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22. Much will be discussed covering events over the past year and the upcoming 2017 calendar. Meeting should take about 90 minutes but should not exceed two hours since there will be election of officers taking place.

Soup N' Bowl II Challenge - Sunday, February 5, 2017 after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)!

We are looking for participants to prepare their best soup, stew, or chili and faceoff against each other. The parishioners & guest will indulge in each dish & cast a ballot for which one they enjoyed the most. Additional details to follow!



Venerable John Calabytes “the Hut-Dweller” [Jan 15th]

Saint John the Hut-Dweller was the son of rich and illustrious parents, and was born in Constantinople in the early fifth century. He received a fine education, and he mastered rhetoric and philosophy by the age of twelve. He also loved to read spiritual books. Perceiving the vanity of worldly life, he chose the path that was narrow and extremely difficult. Filled with longing to enter a monastery, he confided his intention to a passing monk. John made him promise to come back for him when he returned from his pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and take him to his monastery.

He asked his parents for a Gospel so that he might study the words of Christ. John’s parents hired a calligrapher to copy the text, and had the volume bound in a golden cover studded with gems. John read the Gospel constantly, delighting in the Savior’s words.

The monk kept his promise to come back for John, and they went secretly to Bithynia. At the monastery of the “Unsleeping” (Akoimitoi), he received monastic tonsure. The young monk began his ascetical labors with zeal, astonishing the brethren with his unceasing prayer, humble obedience, strict abstinence, and perseverance at work.

Saint John explained his situation to the igumen Saint Marcellus (December 29) and he asked to be released from the monastery. He begged the igumen for his blessing and prayers to return home. He bid farewell to the brethren, hoping that by their prayers and with the help of God, he would both see his parents and overcome the snares of the devil. The igumen then blessed him for his journey.

Saint John returned to Constantinople, not to resume his former life of luxury, but dressed as a beggar, and unknown to anyone. He settled in a corner by the gates of his parents’ home. His father noticed the “pauper,” and began to send him food from his table, for the sake of Christ. John lived in a small hut for three years, oppressed and insulted by the servants, enduring cold and frost, unceasingly conversing with the Lord and the holy angels.

Before his death, the Lord appeared to the monk in a vision, revealing that the end of his sorrows was approaching, and that in three days he would be taken into the Heavenly Kingdom. Therefore, he asked the steward to give his mother a message to come to him, for he had something to say to her.

At first, she did not wish to go, but she was curious to know what this beggar had to say to her. Then he sent her another message, saying that he would die in three days. John thanked her for the charity he had received, and told her that God would reward her for it. He then made her promise to bury him beneath his hut, dressed in his rags. Only then did the saint give her his Gospel, which he always carried with him, saying, “May this console you in this life, and guide you to the next life.”

She showed the Gospel to her husband, saying that it was similar to the one they had given their son. He realized that it was, in fact, the very Gospel they had commissioned for John. They went back to the gates, intending to ask the pauper where he got the Gospel, and if he knew anything about their son. Unable to restrain himself any longer, he admitted that he was their child. With tears of joy they embraced him, weeping because he had endured privation for so long at the very gates of his parental home.

The saint died in the mid-fifth century, when he was not quite twenty-five years old. On the place of his burial the parents built a church, and beside it a hostel for strangers. When they died, they were buried in the church they had built.

In the twelfth century the head of the saint was taken by Crusaders to Besançon (in France), and other relics of the saint were taken to Rome.