

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, February 5, 2017 | [Lenten Triodion Begins]

Tone 8 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord into the Temple
Holy Martyr Agatha of Palemo in Sicily (251)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President -

Phone:

Weekly Schedule

Today: Soup N' Bowl II Challenge immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement. Be prepared to indulge in some of the best warm and tasty soups/stews/chilis today!

Today: *Special Parish Meeting concerning Parish President position*

Saturday: February 11 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: February 12 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 12 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church schoolroom. Discussions to include the lease agreement and the work performed in the Hall.

Throughout the following week there is a general dispensation from all fasting! (February 4, 2016 to February 14, 2017)

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Troparion (Tone 1 – The Meeting of our Lord)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! / From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / enlightening those who sat in darkness. / Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, / thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, / Who grants us the Resurrection!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Lenten Triodion)

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! / Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears! / Let us cry to our Savior: “Have mercy on us, // O only merciful One!”

Kontakion (Tone 1 – The Meeting of our Lord)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb / and didst bless Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God. / Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. / Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, / O only Lover of Man!

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Pray and make our vows / before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel!

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:10-14

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

[Instead of “It is truly meet..” we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians,
protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee!

In the shadow and letter of the Law, / let us, the faithful, discern a figure: / every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. / Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of a Father Who has no beginning, // the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord.
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 – Only a few weeks remain this season!!

If you wish to have your home blessed before Great Lent begins, please make sure you speak with Father Mark for remaining date availability to schedule a house blessing. The last day Father plans on blessing homes this winter season is Sunday, February 26. 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.

Annual Pork and/or Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday – Sunday, February 19 after Divine Liturgy! Plans on organizing the luncheon have already begun last week (January 29). Please see Catherine Kavalkovich if you wish to provide a dish for this annual pre-Lenten luncheon.

Our parish will **NOT be hosting a Mission Vesper Service during Lent this year.** Since the parish hosted a Mission Service last year, both the Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery of our Diocese and the Spiritual Leader of the Greater Philadelphia Pan-Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood decided that other parishes should host and that a parish should not be burden with hosting a Mission Service two years in a row.

Speaking of Mission Vesper Services, once the parish is informed of this year's Lenten schedule, it will be announced in church and also printed in the bulletin. Keep checking your bulletin regularly for the Mission Service locations.

Bible Study – Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The bible study group will gather together at this time and continue reading and studying the Book of Exodus. Keep attentive in your reading and be prepared to continue learning about God's rescue of his people from Egypt, their journey to Sinai, and the covenant between them.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Dave Albrecht Sr. offered by Nina Patterson
Dave Albrecht Sr. offered by Emelie Albrecht
Daria LeRoy and Rick Leroy offered by Melanie Albrecht
Walker Family offered by the Pellack Family
Ronald Kavalkovich Sr, Dave Albrecht Sr, and Anastasia Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Ronald Kavalkovich Sr offered by Barbara Andrews
Dave Albrecht Sr offered by Hourahan Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Deborah Archie offered by Pellack Family
Neil and Gloria Jean Hourahan offered by Hourahan Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: + Father John Udics (on his one year anniversary of his falling asleep); + Archimandrite Athanasy [Mastalski] (on his one year anniversary of his falling asleep); Matushka Juliana Ossorguine Schmemann (newly fallen asleep);

Dave Albrecht Sr (on his recovery from surgery and rehabilitation); Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery); 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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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 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 (2016-17)
- 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 23 to Jan 29</u>	<u>January Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	35	36 (average)
<i>Vespertal Liturgy (2/1)</i>	8	
Funds In:	\$ 2,051.00	\$ 7,401.00
Funds Out:	\$ 2,123.70	\$10,005.01
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 72.70)	(\$ 2,604.01)

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.

Soup N' Bowl II Challenge - TODAY after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)!

- * Participants have prepared their best soup, stew, or chili and will faceoff against each other (no fasting restrictions today). Any soup, stew, or chili can be prepared. Any type of crackers or bread can be included as a compliment to the dish.
- * Participants should make enough soup, stew, or chili for the parishioners and guest (between 30-35 people).
- * Parishioners & guests will indulge in each one of the soups, stews, and chili (at least try ½ bowl or cup of each soup) and then cast a ballot for which one they enjoyed the most.
- * The results (“Score”) will be announced by the Commissioner: Fr. Koczak
- * The winner gets to enjoy for the year that their soup, stew or chili 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 a parish council member.

A Special call to order has been given to hold a General Parish meeting TODAY (during the Soup ‘N Bowl luncheon). This special call for a general parish meeting is due to the current vacancy of the office of Parish President. This topic will be the only business discussed during this special general parish meeting and hopefully we will elect a parishioner for this vacant position.

Property Committee Meeting - Sunday, February 12, 2017 after Divine Liturgy! Property Committee members are asked to attend this meeting to discuss the continued preparation of the lease agreement for the Hall and further details on the Hall construction project.

Church Life Discussion Lecture - Sunday, February 19, 2017 after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship hour in the church. [Note Change of Date]

The Topic – History of the Divine Liturgy!

Please note that Forgiveness Sunday occurs on the **4th Sunday** this month (along with having Forgiveness Sunday Vespers right after Divine Liturgy), this month’s Church Life Discussions on the History of the Divine Liturgy will be held on **February 19**, which is the **3rd Sunday** of the month!



Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee [February 5th]

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.