

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>

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

Sunday, February 7, 2016 | 36th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
St Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont (4th c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302-322-0943 | Mobile: 302-547-4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com or mkoczak05@aol.com

Parish President – Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856-217-8075

Weekly Schedule

Today: 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!

Today: Parish Council Meeting following Soup N' Bowl I Challenge.
Main Agenda: Property Committee's Role & Responsibilities

Tuesday: February 9 – Panikhida for Father John Udics at 8:00pm.
The Church will open at 7pm. Archbishop Michael will preside.

Saturday: February 13 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: February 14 – Sunday of Zacchaeus!
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 14 – Readers class after Divine Liturgy in the Church. Anyone wishing to learn how to read the Hours and Epistle are encourage to attend this discussion.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the firstborn of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 1 – 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!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Saint Parthenius)

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; / your humility exalted you; / your poverty enriched you. / Hierarch Father Parthenius, / entreat Christ our God / that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion (Tone 3)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

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!

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Saint Parthenius)

"Today the Virgin..." / You received divine grace to work miracles, / wise and holy God-bearing wonderworker Parthenius. / You cleansed the passions of all the faithful / and drove out evil spirits. / Therefore, we praise you as a great initiate of the grace of God.

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v. Clap our hands, all ye people, shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 3)

v. In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame.

Alleluia (3x's)

v. Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me.

Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

[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!
We faithful saw the figure in the shadow of the law and the scriptures:
every male child that opened the womb was holy to God.
Therefore, we also magnify the first begotten Son of the unoriginate Fathers,
the first-born Son of the unwedded Mother!

Communion Hymn:

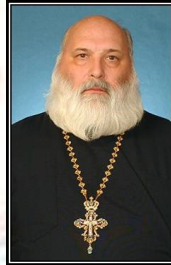
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord.
Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

Welcome to all of our visitors & guest worshiping 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.)

In Memoriam + Archpriest John J. Udics



The Very Reverend John J. Udics fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday afternoon, February 3, 2016, at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital here in Philadelphia, PA. He had undergone serious surgery and treatment recently in response to a long and difficult period of illness.

Father John served as rector of our parish for over 24 years from January 30, 1985 until May 31, 2009. It was on that feast day of the Three Hierarchs (1/30/85) that Father John was ordained into the priesthood after serving as a laymonk over in Japan. Eventually, Father John would end up becoming the longest serving priest of this parish. Also during his time here, Father John served as Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) and as Secretary of the Brotherhood of the Orthodox Clergy of Greater Philadelphia. Father John received his Masters of Divinity degree from Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in 1972. Father John was born in Cleveland, Ohio.

During his hospital stay, many clergy from the area and parishioners would often visit Father John on a regular basis to see how his progress was coming along, keep him company and abreast of the church and local events.

Father John was currently the rector at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church (OCA) in Herkimer, New York. In addition, he also served as rector of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Plainfield, NJ from June 2009 to September 2010.

A Panikhida service will be held here in the church on Tuesday evening, February 9, 2016 at 8:00pm. The church will be open at 7:00pm with Philadelphia area clergy invited to serve. His Eminence Archbishop Michael (Diocese of New York and New Jersey - OCA) will preside.

May the Lord God grant rest eternal in blessed repose to His faithful servant, the Archpriest John, and make his memory to be eternal!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Mary Herbert, Helen Riley, Daniel Riley, Helen Wanenchak, Olga Macalush, Father John Udics offered by M/M Herbert

Maxima Kavalkovich and Fr John Udics offered by Katherine Kavalkovich

Father John Udics offered by Pellack Family

Father John Udics offered by Nina Patterson

Fr John Udics and Witiak Family offered by M/M Witiak

Peggy Williamson and Sean Walsh offered by Albrecht Family

Marc, William, Ronald, Anastasia, Alexander, Hope, Jude, Patricia, Catherine, Albert, Father John Udics, and Maxima Kavalkovich offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Helen (Paytas) Wallace, Mary (Paytas) Wlazelek, Nicholas Varga, Susan Dacey offered by M/M Herbert

Helen, Anne, Vito, John, Andrew, Francis, John, Bridget, Al, Marion, Dennis offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

#####

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!

#####

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~~ 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 25 to Jan 31</u>	<u>January Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	40	33 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,035.75	\$17,449.19
Funds Out:	\$ 45.00	\$ 5,413.33
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,990.75	\$12,035.86
[NOTE: \$11,521.44 from insurance claim proceeds for Hall repairs]		

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

Soup N' Bowl I Challenge – TODAY 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.

Parish Council Meeting – TODAY following Divine Liturgy and the Soup ‘N Bowl I Challenge Main topic on the agenda to be discussed will be the role and responsibilities of the newly created Property Committee

Panikhida for Fr John Udics – Tuesday, February 9 at 8:00PM!

The church will be open at 7:00pm. The Most Reverend Michael (Archbishop of New York and New Jersey – OCA) will preside.

Bake Sale on Sunday, February 14 following Divine Liturgy.

Please contact Debbie Kavalkovich for information by email: pigletpoohmom@verizon.net

Reading the Hours and Epistle Discussion begins on Sunday, February 14 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.

Bible Study – Tuesday, February 16 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.

Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week & Pascha begins on Sunday, February 21 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!



Saint Parthenius the Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont [February 7th]

Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus, was a native of the city of Melitoupolis (in northwestern Asia Minor), where his father Christopher served as deacon. The youth did not receive adequate schooling, but he learned the Holy Scripture by attending church services. He had a good heart, and distributed to the poor the money he earned working as a fisherman.

Filled with the grace of God, St Parthenius from age eighteen healed the sick in the name of Christ, cast out demons and worked other miracles. Learning of the young man's virtuous life, Bishop

Philetus of Melitoupolis educated him and ordained him presbyter.

In 325, during the reign of Constantine the Great, Archbishop Achilles of Cyzicus made him bishop of the city of Lampsacus (Asia Minor). In the city were many pagans, and the saint fervently began to spread the faith in Christ, confirming it through many miracles and by healing the sick.

The people began to turn from their pagan beliefs, and the saint went to the emperor Constantine the Great seeking permission to tear down the pagan temple and build a Christian church in its place. The emperor received the saint with honor, gave him a decree authorizing the destruction of the pagan temple, and provided him with the means to build a church. Returning to Lampsacus, St Parthenius had the pagan temple torn down, and built a beautiful church of God in the city.

In one of the razed temples, he found a large marble slab which he thought would be very suitable as an altar. The saint ordered work to begin on the stone, and to move it to the church. Through the malice of the devil, who became enraged at the removal of the stone from the pagan temple, the cart overturned and killed the driver Eutylian. St Parthenius restored him to life by his prayer and shamed the devil, who wanted to frustrate the work of God.

The saint was so kind that he refused healing to no one who came to him, or who chanced to meet him by the wayside, whether he suffered from bodily illnesses or was tormented by unclean spirits. People even stopped going to physicians, since St Parthenius healed all the sick for free. With the great power of the name of Christ, the saint banished a host of demons from people, from their homes, and from the waters of the sea.

Once, the saint prepared to cast out a devil from a certain man, who had been possessed by it since childhood. The demon began to implore the saint not to do so. St Parthenius promised to give the evil spirit another man in whom he could dwell. The demon asked, "Who is that man?" The saint replied, "You may dwell in me, if you wish." The demon fled as if stung by fire, crying out, "If the mere sight of you is a torment to me, how can I dare to enter into you?"

An unclean spirit, cast out of the house where the imperial purple dye was prepared, said that a divine fire was pursuing him with the fire of Gehenna. Having shown people the great power of faith in Christ, the saint converted a multitude of idol-worshippers to the true God.

St Parthenius died peacefully and was solemnly buried beside the cathedral church of Lampsacus, which he built.