

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, February 21, 2016 | [Lenten Triodion Begins]

Tone 5 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.
Venerable Timothy of Symbola in Bithynia (9th c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week and Pascha begins today after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour.

Saturday: February 27 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: February 28 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son.
Reading of Hours – **9:30am [note time change]**
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Throughout the following week there is a general dispensation from all fasting!
(February 20, 2016 to March 1, 2016)

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 – Venerable Timothy)

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 Saints Timothy and Eustathius.

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 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 4 – Venerable Timothy)

Blessed wonderworker, Timothy, / you rose from the east like a brilliant star / causing virtue to spring in the hearts of the faithful / through your miracles.

Prokeimenon (Tone 5)

Thou, O Lord, shall 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: 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 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 18:10-14

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.

Communion Hymn:

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

Announcements

THANK YOU...for those that baked and purchased desserts during last week's bake sale. The parish received proceeds of \$124!

THANK YOU...for those who attended the Readers class last week. Much was learned and shared. Upcoming classes will be scheduled in the near future!

THANK YOU...for those who spent the time repairing the motor to the heating unit on the street side of the church. We now have full heat in the church and basement!

THANK YOU...to all of those who have shoveled the snow and rock salted the stairs and sidewalk around the church property!

MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY BLESSED, HAPPY, AND HEALTHLY YEARS!

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.)

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Lenten Season:

The next 40 Days for Life has begun during the Great Lent (February 10 to March 20). Meanwhile the killing continues at Planned Parenthood. Thank you so much in advance for signing up for this list and being willing to continue standing up for those that can't speak for themselves.

Information:

- * Contacts: Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084
- * Email: roobearoo@hotmail.com
- * Website: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/philadelphia/>

- * Prayer vigil located at 12th & Locust St, Philadelphia – Planned Parenthood
- * Vigils open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.
- * Try to have at least one person there to cover the hour.
- * There are more abortions performed there than at any other Planned Parenthood in Pennsylvania!

The 40 Days For Life is not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves. They offer support to mothers and fathers who would like an alternative to abortion but do not know where to turn. They encourage healing for families who have chosen abortion and have a deep feeling of sadness and regret. Their message is one of compassion and love for all people as well as hope for an end to this “culture of death” which we have embraced in our world.

Soup N’ Bowl I Challenge – Thank you to all who prepared and thoroughly enjoyed the tasty and delicious soups and stew two Sundays ago! However, the parish did not decide as to which soup/stew they felt was their favorite. Therefore, there are ballots in the church basement. Please cast your vote and make a selection as to which one you most enjoyed. Below is the line-up of the cooks and their soups/stew:

Catherine Kavalkovich’s Chicken Noodle Soup
Herbert’s “Lenten” Lentil Soup
J Spack’s “Sea Surf’n” Lobster Bisque
Pellack’s Pumpkin Curry
Heather’s “Pipe’n Hot” Beef Stew

Commissioner M Koczak will announce the tally during Fellowship Hour.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Mary Herbert, Simon Herbert, Thomas Herbert, Daniel Herbert, Catherine Kavalkovich, Albert Kavalkovich offered by M/M Herbert
Anastasia Kavalkovich offered by M/M Kavalkovich
Anastasia Kavalkovich offered by Barbara Andrews
Barbara and Norman Andrews offered by Pellack Family
John Rabik, Marissa Rabik, Lila Rabik, Mia Rabik, Katerina Rabik, Marie Fortner offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Father John Udics, Leonard Macalush, Onufrey Spack, William Brasko Sr, Helen Herbert, Julia Shuda offered by M/M Herbert
Father John Udics offered by M/M Kavalkovich
Father John Udics offered by Barbara Andrews
John and Julia Jugan offered by Pellack Family
Father John Udics, Julia Brasko, William Brasko Sr., William Brasko Jr. offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Anastasia Kavalkovich; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; + Father John Udics; + Father Athanasy Mastalski; 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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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 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 (February)

	<u>Week of Feb 8 to Feb 14</u>	<u>February Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	24	28 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,485.00	\$ 3,566.00
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,496.59
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,485.00	\$ 69.41

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

TODAY - Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week & Pascha begins today after Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour! 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 today and Holy Week!

Annual Roast “Pork” (and Mini Meatball) Sandwich Luncheon on Sunday, March 6 [Meatfare Sunday] after Divine Liturgy! Plans on organizing the luncheon will begin TODAY. Please see Catherine Kavalkovich if you wish to provide a dish for this annual pre-Lenten luncheon. Catherine will prepare the roast pork and mini meatball. We will need volunteers to bring or prepare other food items!

Bible Study – Tuesday, March 8 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.

Forgiveness Sunday Vespers – Sunday, March 13 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The parish traditionally serves this vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading “Vouchsafe, O Lord”) that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!

First Week of Great Lent - Monday, March 14 - Saturday March 19. The parish will have scheduled services during this first week of Great Lent. Currently, the overall Lenten service schedule has not been finalized. Once the time and dates are confirmed, a separate Lenten calendar will be printed and provided to the parishioners as well as located on the parish website under the calendar section. As usual, the service schedule will be printed in the bulletin for your reading pleasure.

Our parish will be hosting a Mission Vesper Service during Lent on Sunday, April 10 (Fourth Sunday of Great Lent – St John of the Ladder (Climacus) This is just an early FYI for your Lenten plans. We will begin coordinating the schedule and Lenten meal menu sometime next month once lent was started. We have time to plan for this service!!!



Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

[February 21st]

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.