

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### **Sunday, June 26, 2016 | 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 8 – Synaxis of All Saints | Feast of All Saints of Georgia  
St David of Thessalonica (ca. 540) | St Dionysius, Archbishop of Suzdal (1385)

### **V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector**

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### **Weekly Schedule**

Today: ~~Readers Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church school room.~~  
**CANCELLED!**

Monday & Tuesday Beginning of the Apostles' (Saints Peter and Paul) Fast!  
*(This fast is only two days (June 27 and June 28) this year!)*

Tuesday: June 28 – Vespers Divine Liturgy at 6:30PM for the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29)

Saturday: July 2 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: July 3 – Sunday of All Saints of America and Russia!  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: July 3 – Parish Outdoor Cookout/Picnic after Divine Liturgy in the church hall-yard basement.

## 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 4)**

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, / Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world. / She cries to Thee, O Christ God: / "Send down Thy bounties on Thy people, // Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

### **Kontakion (Tone 8)**

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs, / as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. / By their prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace // through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 8)**

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

### **Another Prokeimenon (Saints) (Tone 4)**

God is wondrous in His saints, the God of Israel.

### **Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:33-12:2**

They who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their troubles. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, and the Lord will deliver them out of them all. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30**

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

**Communion Hymn:**

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

**[...continued from last page...Synaxis of All Saints...]**

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Sts Joachim and Anna, St Joseph the Betrothed, St Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of St Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

**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.

**Independence Day Picnic/Cook Out – Sunday, July 3, 2016):**

The Parish is going to have a picnic/cook out next Sunday (Fourth of July Weekend) in the back of the church Hall Yard (weather permitting), We are going to keep this as simple as possible since it's a holiday weekend and attendance this weekend cannot be determined. We will have and need the following for next weekend. The guestimate amount for what is needed should be in the range of about 25 top 30 people.

**Items needed for this event:**

- \* Hamburgers and Hot Dogs Only!
- \* Rolls for Hamburgers and Hot Dogs
- \* WE DO NOT NEED KETHCUP OR MUSTARD  
WE HAVE ENOUGH KETHCUP AND MUSTARD IN FRIG!!!
- \* Toppings (Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions, Cheese, Pickles , Relish, etc...)
- \* Sides (Regular Green Salad, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Fruit Salad)
- \* Snacks/Chips (Potato Chips, Corn Chips, Pretzels, etc...)\_
- \* Beverages (Soda, Juice, Ice Tea, Lemonade, Water, etc...)
- \* Anything else you wish to bring

We have two small grills – a gas grill and a charcoal grill.  
We do need a bag of charcoal for the charcoal grill for us to use.

We will also need people to assist in setting up tables and chairs before Liturgy, setting up the food, grilling the food, and finally cleaning up at the end of the picnic.

We will have a short discussion after Divine Liturgy in the church basement as to how many people will be present in church next weekend and who can volunteer to assist in either brining a food/beverage item or setting up/cleaning up the event.

**The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians (FOCA) of the Central PA Chapter is sponsoring a Family Picnic at Knobel's Grove Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA on Sunday, July 17 following Divine Liturgy.** All families are Invited! Free Parking and Admission! Pay as you go on rides! At 6pm in Pavilion K, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs with sides and soda will be served. Cost is \$5 per person, children under 6 are free. Please RSVP Greg Ressetar (Christ Our Savior Church – Harrisburg) by July 10 by calling Greg at 717.439.0527 or emailing him at ressetar@yahoo.com

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Ronald Kavalkovich and Alex Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Nina Patterson  
David Albrecht Jr offered by M/M David Albrecht  
David Albrecht Sr offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Mary Herbert offered by Albrecht Family  
The Witiak Family offered by M/M Peter Witiak  
Ronald Kavalkovich Sr, Alexander, Anastasia, Patricia, Hope, Catherine, Matthew, John, Jude,  
Marc Sr, Matthew, Obelue (on her delivery of baby), Christina (birthday), James, and Survivors of  
Orlando, FL shooting offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Emma Burychka, John Burychka, Helen (Paytas) Wallace, Mary (Paytas) Wlazelek, Joanne  
Wanenchak, offered by M/M Herbert  
Andrew Gerasimoff, Albert Kavalkovich, John Rabik offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
John Pellack, Peter Zuzulock, M/M William Zuzulock, M/M Michael Pellack offered by Pellack  
Family  
Stephen Spack, David Albrecht offered by M/M David Albrecht  
Anne Ashmore, Helen Gerisamoff, Vito Maturo (Debbie's Father), Al Kavalkovich (Pop), John  
Salamone, Tony Salamone, Anthony Salamone Jr., Frank, Mr Davis, William, David, and the  
Victims of Orlando, FL shooting offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Dolores  
Helms (Fr. Mark's Mother); Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery this week); Julia  
Makara; Sharon Orr; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; 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)
- 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 (June)

	<u>Week of June 13 to June 19</u>	<u>June Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	45	38 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,065.00	\$ 5,059.00
Funds Out:	\$ 2,655.54	\$ 5,238.90
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	<b>(\$ 590.54)</b>	<b>(\$ 179.90)</b>

*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 – Readers Meeting after Divine Liturgy** CANCELLED!!! Next meeting Date TBD. All Readers are asked to attend the meeting. Father Mark, and those knowledgeable with the readings, will offer additional instructions and information regarding the readings for both the Hours and the Epistle.

**Tomorrow (June 27) Begins of the Apostles' (Saints Peter and Paul) Fast!** After a Fast Free week this past week as prescribed by the church after the Feast of Pentecost, we begin the Fast of the Apostles (also known as Saints Peter and Paul Fast). This year, the Apostles' Fast will last exactly TWO days and concludes on Wednesday, June 29 with the Feast Day of The Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul. Please make every effort to do your best to adhere to your fasting practice over these TWO days!

**Tuesday, June 28 – Vespersal Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29<sup>th</sup>) at 6:30PM!**

On the eve of the Feast Day of The Holy Glorious and All Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul, the parish will have Vespers and Divine Liturgy that evening starting at 6:30PM. Per discussions during the Spring General Parish Meeting two Sundays ago, this is being scheduled to accommodate those parishioners who are unable to attend Divine Liturgy in the morning during the weekdays due to their work schedules.

**The Great and Holy Council of the Orthodox Church** is still taking place until tomorrow (June 27) on the island of Crete. This Council will, for the first time ever, gather representatives from all fourteen autocephalous Orthodox Churches from around the globe. There will be five topics of discussion to be covered during this time ranging from: a common calendar; adapting an ancient faith to a modern reality; regulations of fasting and marriage in a multicultural and interreligious world; role of Orthodox Church in non-Orthodox countries (often referred to as Orthodoxy in the “diaspora”); and the manner of achieving the proper canonical status of one bishop per diocese (or city) when an existing diocese currently has a number of ethnic Orthodox Churches and, therefore, more than one bishop.

**Sunday, July 3 – Parish Independence Day Outdoor Picnic/Cook Out after Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall Yard-Basement!** As was mentioned during the Spring General Parish Meeting, it was decided to hold an outdoor picnic/cook out on the Sunday of the Independence Day weekend (July 3). During today's dinner and next week, please speak with either Catherine Kavalkovich and/or members of the Parish Council to discuss what items are needed for this event and what food/dishes you wish to contribute.

**Sunday, July 10 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy**  
**Tuesday, July 12 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in Church Basement**



## Synaxis of All Saints [June 26<sup>th</sup>]

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

St Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories. The list of St Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous....."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. St Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks & nuns are useless and unproductive, St John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31).