

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, July 24, 2016 | 5th Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 4 – Holy Martyrs and Passion-bearers Boris and Gleb (1015)
Martyr Christina of Tyre (ca. 300)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Monastery of St Tikhon of Zadonsk hosting St Anna's Day. At 2pm, the Monastery will have an Akathist, procession and anointing in honor of the Miraculous Icon of St Anna that resides at the Monastery.

Saturday: July 30 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: July 31 – Forefeast of Procession of Lifegiving Cross
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Monday: August 1 – **Beginning Of The Dormition Fast!**

Monday: August 1 – Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Lifegiving Cross of the Lord (First of the three “Feasts of the Savior” in August).

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 4)

When the women Disciples of the Lord / learned from the Angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the Apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 2 – SS Boris and Gleb)

Righteous passion-bearers and true fulfillers of the Gospel of Christ, / chaste Boris and guileless Gleb, / Ye did not resist the attacks of your brother, the enemy, / when he killed your bodies but could not touch your souls. / Therefore, let the evil lover of power mourn / while ye rejoice with the Angels standing before the Holy Trinity. / Pray that those who honor your memory may be pleasing to God, // and that all Orthodox Christians may be saved!

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 3 – SS Boris and Gleb)

Today your most glorious memory shines forth, / noble participants in the passion of Christ, holy Boris and Gleb, / for you call us together to sing praises to Christ our God. / Praying to Him before your sacred images, / We receive the gift of healing by your prayers, for ye are indeed divine healers.

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works / in wisdom hast Thou made them all!
v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

Epistle Reading: Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:28-9:1

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Communion Hymn:

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

"Be the first to arrive at church for services and the last to leave, especially for the Divine Liturgy."

St Symeon the Studite (also called Symeon the Pious; +1021)

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.

[...continued from last page...Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah...]

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiastes 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her Baptism St Olga (July 11) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elijah in her native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Ronald Kavalkovich, Sharon Orr, Sean Welsh offered by Albrecht Family
Ronald and Lorraine Kavalkovich offered by the Pellack Family
Witiak Family offered by M/M Witiak
Mary Herbert offered by Hourahan Family
Ronald, Lorraine, Andrew, Sharon Orr offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

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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2016 PARISH CALENDAR:

A computer printout version of the 2016 church calendar for the months of July and August are located on the back pew in the church. We will continue to generate the remaining months for 2016.

Also, for those who have access to the Internet, the calendar for July and August 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 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 (July)

	<u>Week of July 11 to July 17</u>	<u>July Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	32	35 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,068.00	\$ 3,649.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5,649.15
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 432.00)	(\$ 2,000.15)

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

St Tikhon Monastery Summer Events:

St Anna's Day Sunday July 24 at 2pm with Akathist and anointing in honor of the Miraculous Icon of St Anna that resides at the Monastery.

Patronal Feast Day of St Tikhon of Zadonsk will be held on Saturday, August 13 at 9am with Metropolitan Tikhon and the Monastery Brotherhood celebrating Divine Liturgy. A festive meal will be held following the Divine Liturgy.

Saturday, August 6 – The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (the Second of the Three “Feast of the Savior” in August) - Divine Liturgy will be served beginning at 9:00AM!!

On this day after *Divine Liturgy*, Father Mark will bless *Baskets of Fruits* (and vegetables). Please bring your baskets that day to get your *fruit* (and vegetables) blessed

Bible Study – Tuesday, August 9 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. The Group may finish the Book of Genesis during this study session. Be ready to bring learning the next book in the Bible.

Sunday, August 14 - Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room!

All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Reports and discussions on the status of the walk thru of the Church Hall by independent realtors will be on the agenda and deliberation regarding the agents' professional opinions of the property.

Monday, August 15 – The Dormition (“Falling Asleep”) of our Most-Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary - Divine Liturgy for this Feast Day To Be Determined!

Father Mark will announce within the next two weeks when services for this Feast Day will occur. This Feast day is also the names day of our parish.

August 16: Translation of the Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople (the Third of three “Feast of the Savior” in August)

August 29: The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John – *Strict Fast Day!*



Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah [July 20th]

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

St Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: “When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames.” The name Elijah (the Lord’s

strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1) The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.