

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### Sunday, November 13, 2016 | 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – St John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (407) Martyrs Antoninus, Nicephorus, Germanus, and Manetha of Caesarea in Palestine (307-308)

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

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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### Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church schoolroom.

Today: Pre-Advent Dinner after Divine Liturgy! All are welcome!

Tuesday: November 15 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the Church Basement!  
Reading the Book of Exodus.

Tuesday: November 15 – Beginning of the Nativity (St Philip's) Fast  
**ADVENT FAST BEGINS!**

Saturday: November 19 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: November 20 – Forefeast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Saturday: November 19 – Firebird Fantasy Festival! – 12p to 4p

Sunday: November 20 – Firebird Fantasy Festival! – 12p to 4p  
St. Nicholas Church – Philadelphia, PA

## 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 8 –Saint John Chrysostom)**

Grace shining forth from thy lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. / It has shown to the world the riches of poverty. / It has revealed to us the heights of humility. / Teaching us by thy words O Father John Chrysostom, / intercede before the Word Christ our God, to save our souls!

### **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 6 –Saint John Chrysostom)**

Having received divine grace from heaven, / with thy mouth thou dost teach all men to worship one God in Trinity. / All-blessed and venerable John Chrysostom, / we worthily praise thee, for thou art our teacher, revealing things divine.

### **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: Galatians 2:16-20**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

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: Luke 10:25-37**

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves? And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: The readings for Saint John Chrysostom is as follows:  
Epistle – Hebrews 7:26-8:2 and Gospel - John 10:9-16]*

**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.)

*[...continued from last page of this bulletin (Life of Saint John Chrysostom)...]*

Timothy, Titus, and the Psalms. In his homily on the Epistle to the Ephesians, St John denounced a schism in Antioch, "I tell you and I witness before you, that to tear asunder the Church means nothing less than to fall into heresy. The Church is the house of the heavenly Father, one Body and one Spirit."

The fame of the holy preacher grew, and in the year 397 with the death of Archbishop Nectarius of Constantinople, successor to St Gregory the Theologian, St John Chrysostom was summoned from Antioch, and elected to the See of Constantinople. At the capital, the holy archpastor was not able to preach as often as he had at Antioch. Many matters awaited the saint's attention, and he began with the most important -- the spiritual perfection of the priesthood. He himself was the best example of this. The financial means apportioned for the archbishop were channeled by the saint into the upkeep of several hospices for the sick and two hostels for pilgrims. He fasted strictly and ate very little food, and usually refused invitations to dine because of his delicate stomach.

The saint's zeal in spreading the Christian Faith extended not only to the inhabitants of Constantinople, but also to Thrace to include Slavs and Goths, and to Asia Minor and the Pontine region. He established a bishop for the Bosphorus Church in the Crimea. St John sent off zealous missionaries to Phoenicia, to Persia, and to the Scythians, to convert pagans to Christ. He also wrote letters to Syria to bring back the Marcionites into the Church, and he accomplished this. Preserving the unity of the Church, the saint would not permit a powerful Gothic military commander, who wanted the emperor to reward his bravery in battle, to open an Arian church at Constantinople. The saint exerted much effort in enhancing the splendor of the church services: he compiled a Liturgy, he introduced antiphonal singing for the all-night Vigil, and he wrote several prayers for the rite of anointing the sick with oil.

The saintly hierarch denounced the dissolute morals of people in the capital, especially at the imperial court, irrespective of person. When the empress Eudoxia connived to confiscate the last properties of the widow and children of a disgraced dignitary, the saint rose to their defense. The arrogant empress would not relent, and nursed a grudge against the archpastor. Eudoxia's hatred of the saint blazed forth anew when malefactors told her that the saint apparently had her in mind during his sermon on vain women. A court was convened composed of hierarchs who had been justly condemned by Chrysostom: Theophilus of Alexandria, Bishop Severian of Gabala, who had been banished from the capital because of improprieties, and others.

This court of judgment declared St John deposed, and that he be executed for his insult to the empress. The emperor decided on exile instead of execution. An angry crowd gathered at the church, resolved to defend their pastor. In order to avoid a riot, St John submitted to the authorities. That very night there was an earthquake at Constantinople. The terrified Eudoxia urgently requested the emperor to bring the saint back, and promptly sent a letter to the banished pastor, beseeching him to return. Once more, in the capital church, the saint praised the Lord in a short talk, "For All His Ways."

The slanderers fled to Alexandria. But after only two months a new denunciation provoked the wrath of Eudoxia. In March 404, an unjust council was convened, decreeing the exile of St John. Upon his removal from the capital, a fire reduced the church of Hagia Sophia and also the Senate building to ashes. Devastating barbarian incursions soon followed, and Eudoxia died in October 404. Even pagans regarded these events as God's punishment for the unjust judgment against the saint.

In Armenia, the saint strove all the more to encourage his spiritual children. In numerous letters (245 are preserved) to bishops in Asia, Africa, Europe and particularly to his friends in Constantinople, St John consoled the suffering, guiding and giving support to his followers. In the winter of 406 St John was confined to his bed with sickness, but his enemies were not to be appeased. From the capital came orders to transfer St John to desolate Pityus in Abkhazia on the Black Sea. Worn out by sickness, the saint began his final journey under military escort, traveling for three months in the rain and frost. He never arrived at his place of exile, for his strength failed him at Comana.

At the crypt of St Basiliscus (May 22), St John was comforted by a vision of the martyr, who said, "Despair not, brother John! Tomorrow we shall be together." After receiving the Holy Mysteries, the hierarch fell asleep in the Lord on September 14, 407. His last words were, "Glory to God for all things!"

The holy relics of St John Chrysostom were solemnly transferred to Constantinople in the year 438. The disciple of St John, the venerable Isidore of Pelusium (February 4), wrote: "The house of David is grown strong, and the house of Saul enfeebled. He is victor over the storms of life, and has entered into heavenly repose."

Although he died on September 14, St John's celebration was transferred to this day because of the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. St John Chrysostom is also celebrated on January 27 and January 30.

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Jane Kelly, Emelie Albrecht, and Mary Herbert offered by Nina Patterson  
Family and Friends offered by the Daria LeRoy  
Emelie Albrecht and David Albrecht Sr offered by Melanie Albrecht

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Anna Zuzulock offered by brother Joseph Rabik

**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); Mat. Jan Koczak; Rick LeRoy, 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!

Also for the repose of the handmaiden of God Catherine Elizabeth Maymon, the mother of his Eminence Archbishop Mark, who passed away early morning on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. May her Memory be Eternal!

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The Witiak Family would like to express their hearth felt thanks to all of their family, friends, and parishioners who sent sympathy cards and offered donations on behalf of the handmaiden of God, Annamae Witiak, who fell asleep in the Lord back on September 10, 2016. She will be remembered as a dedicated parishioner for all of the help she offered our parish from cleaning the church, to helping prepare food, to singing in the choir.  
May her Memory be Eternal!

**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 (October /November)**

	<u>Week of Oct 31 to Nov 6</u>	<u>October Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	38	32 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,361.14	\$ 7,633.62
Funds Out:	\$ 3,397.93	\$ 6,429.26
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	<b>(\$2,036.79)</b>	\$ 1,204.36

**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

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.(if needed)  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy.

**Today - Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy!** Property Committee members are asked to attend this meeting to discuss the preparation of a lease agreement for the Hall and discuss further details on the Hall kitchen area.

**Today - Pre-Advent Dinner after Divine Liturgy :**

The parish will hold its annual Pre-Advent Dinner with non-Lenten food. The dinner will be a free will offering and any monetary donations towards the dinner are always appreciated! Also, we will need volunteers to set up before Liturgy and clean up after the dinner. Thank You!

**Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers!** We will begin collecting for Christmas flowers starting Today! There will be special envelopes available to be used for your offering for flower donations. Please give the envelopes to Debbie Kavalkovich or a member of the parish council. Thank you for your support!

**Bible Study – Tuesday November 15, 2016 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.

**Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church 2016 Pierogie Sale!**

Call in orders ONLY!!! Orders taken Monday or Tuesday from 9AM to 11AM and pick up on Friday from 1PM-2PM. November order date: November 14 & 15. Pick Up Date: November 18.

Phone number: 302.798.4588. Church location: 1406 Philadelphia Pike – Wilmington, DE.

Cost: Potato = \$8/dozen    Sauerkraut = \$8/dozen    Cheese = \$12/dozen

**St. Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church – Philadelphia, PA**  
**hosting their 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethnic (Firebird Fantasy) Festival**  
**Weekend of November 19 & 20.**

The parish is located at 817 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Phone # 215.922.9671. The time for both Saturday & Sunday (November 19-20) is from 12pm to 4pm!



## Saint John Chrysostom, the Archbishop of Constantinople [Nov 13<sup>th</sup>]

Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, one of the Three Hierarchs [January 30], was born at Antioch in about the year 347 into the family of a military commander. His father, Secundus, died soon after the birth of his son. His mother, Anthusa, widowed at twenty years of age, did not seek to remarry but rather devoted all her efforts to the raising of her son in Christian piety. The youth studied under the finest philosophers and rhetoricians. But, scorning the vain disciplines of pagan knowledge, the future hierarch turned himself to the profound study of Holy Scripture and prayerful contemplation. St Meletius, Bishop of Antioch (February 12), loved John like a son, guided him in the Faith, and in the year 367 baptized him.

After three years John was tonsured as a Reader. When St Meletius had been sent into exile by the emperor Valens in the year 372, John and Theodore (afterwards Bishop of Mopsuestia) studied under the experienced instructors of ascetic life, the presbyters Flavian and Diodorus of Tarsus. The highly refined Diodorus had particular influence upon the youth. When John's mother died, he embraced monasticism, which he called the "true philosophy." Soon John and his friend Basil were being considered as candidates for the episcopal office, and they decided to withdraw into the wilderness to avoid this. While St John avoided the episcopal rank out of humility, he secretly assisted in Basil's consecration.

During this period St John wrote his "Six Discourses on the Priesthood," a great work of Orthodox pastoral theology. The saint spent four years struggling in the wilderness, living the ascetic life under the guidance of an experienced spiritual guide. And here he wrote three books entitled, "Against the Opponents of Those Attracted to the Monastic Life", and a collection entitled, "A Comparison of the Monk with the Emperor" (also known as "Comparison of Imperial Power, Wealth and Eminence, with the True and Christian Wisdom-Loving Monastic Life"), both works which are marked by a profound reflection of the worthiness of the monastic vocation.

For two years, the saint lived in a cave in complete silence, but was obliged to return to Antioch to recover his health. St Meletius, the Bishop of Antioch, ordained him deacon in the year 381. The following years were devoted to work on new theological writings: "Concerning Providence" ("To the Ascetic Stagirois"), "Book Concerning Virginity," "To a Young Widow" (2 discourses), and the "Book of St Babylos, and Against Julian and the Pagans."

In the year 386 St John was ordained presbyter by Bishop Flavian of Antioch. St John was a splendid preacher, and his inspired words earned him the name "Golden-Mouthed" ("Chrysostom"). For twelve years the saint preached in church, usually twice a week, but sometimes daily, deeply stirring the hearts of his listeners.

In his pastoral zeal to provide Christians with a better understanding of Holy Scripture, St John employed hermeneutics, an interpretation and analysis of the Word of God (i.e. exegesis). Among his exegetical works are commentaries on entire books of the Holy Scripture (Genesis, the Psalter, the Gospels of Matthew and John, the Epistles of the Apostle Paul), and also many homilies on individual texts of the Holy Bible, but also instructions on the Feastsdays, laudations on the Saints, and also apologetic (i.e. defensive) homilies (against Anomoeans, Judaizers and pagans). As a priest, St John zealously fulfilled the Lord's command to care for the needy. Under St John, the Antiochian Church provided sustenance each day to as many as 3,000 virgins and widows, not including in this number the shut-ins, wanderers and the sick.

St John began his commentary on Genesis at the beginning of Great Lent in 388, preaching thirty-two homilies during the forty day period. During Holy Week he spoke of how Christ was betrayed, and about the Cross. During Bright Week, his pastoral discourse was devoted to the Resurrection. His exegesis of the Book of Genesis was concluded only at the end of October (388).

At Pascha in the following year the saint began his homilies on the Gospel of John, and toward the end of the year 389 he took up the Gospel of Matthew. In the year 391 the Antioch Christians listened to his commentary on the Epistles of the holy Apostle Paul to the Romans and to the Corinthians. In 393 he explained the Epistles to the Galatians, the Ephesians,

***[...continue the Life of Saint John Chrysostom on page 4 in this bulletin...]***