

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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<http://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionphilly>

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**Sunday, November 20, 2016 | 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 5 – Forefeast of the Entry of the Most-Holy  
Theotokos into the Temple. Ven Gregory Decapolites (816).  
St Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople (446-7)

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

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*Parish President – Matthew Andrews*

*Phone: 856-217-8075*

### **Weekly Schedule**

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church schoolroom.  
(Postponed from last week).

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

Monday: The Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple

Thursday: November 24 – Thanksgiving!  
Remember to Give Thanks for the Blessings You Have In Your Life.

Saturday: November 26 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: November 27 – Greatmartyr Jacob (James) the Persian  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

## **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 – Forefeast of the Entrance into the Temple)**

Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow, / by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin. / In fulfillment of her vow, / today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord // the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – Ven Gregory & St Proclus)**

The twofold lamps of divine gifts, / Proclus, shepherd of New Rome, and Gregory, scion of Decapolis, / guide us by the light of grace as divinely-inspired fathers! / Let us draw near and eagerly beseech them, // that we may receive forgiveness and salvation of our souls!

### **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 3 – Ven Gregory)**

The Church knows thee to be a brilliant sun / enlightening all with the rays of healing and the beauty of virtue. / Therefore, as we celebrate thine honored memory, We glorify thy struggles, // ever-blest and all-wise Father Gregory.

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Forefeast of the Entrance into the Temple)**

Today the universe is filled with joy / at the glorious feast of the Mother of God, // and cries out: “She is the heavenly tabernacle.”

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 5)**

Thou, O Lord, shalt 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: Galatians 6:11-18**

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

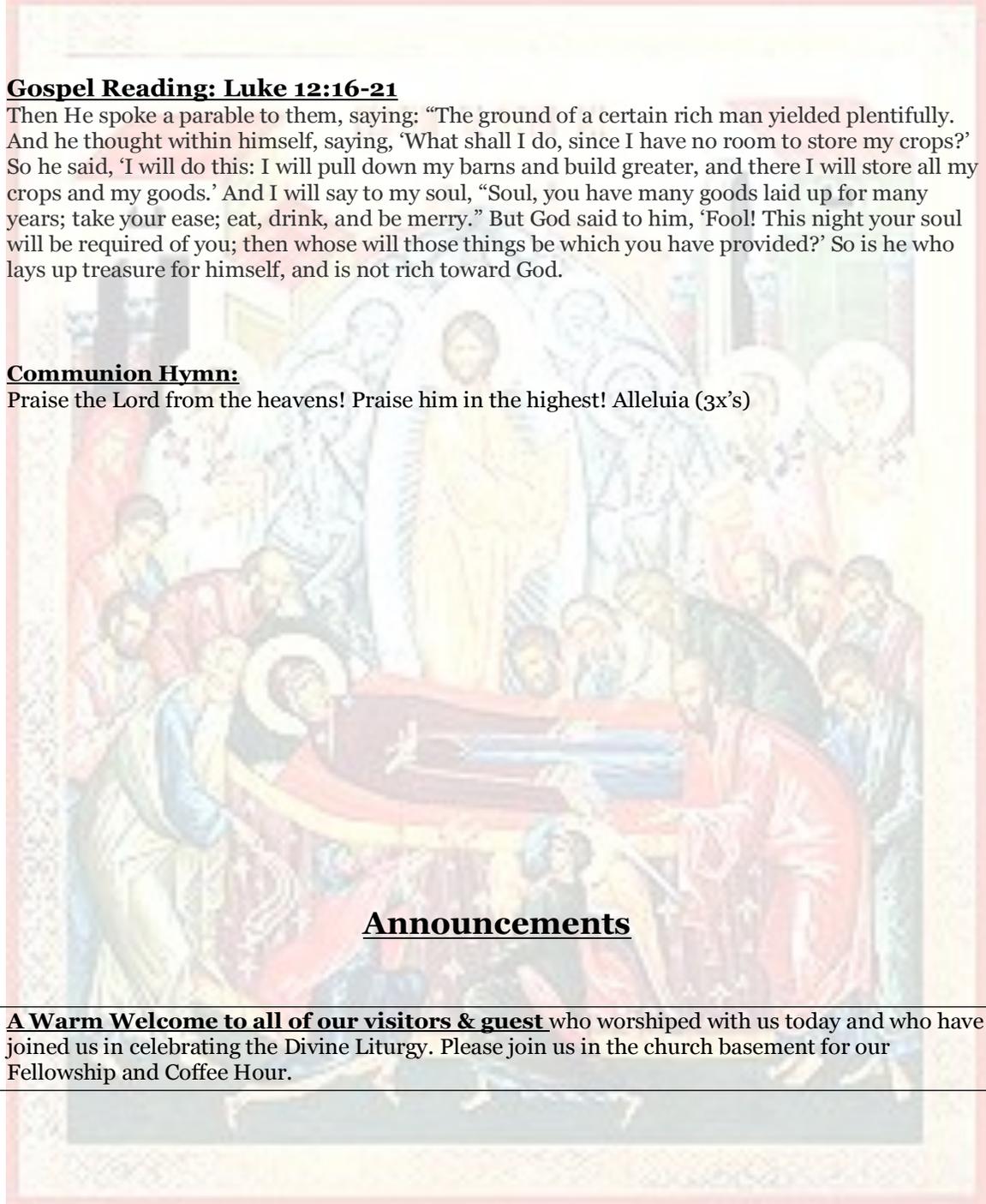
- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: "Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 12:16-21**

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.' And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

**Communion Hymn:**

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



**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.)

### **Advent Season Tutelage - 2016**

We are providing this tutelage for those who are unable to attend or view either the Bible Study or Church Life Discussion Classes during the Advent Season but wish to still remain closer to God as we prepare for the Holy Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This season we will provide information on the Ranks of Angels, the Hierarchies, and the names of the Archangels. So let's begin!

There are Nine Ranks of Angels and the Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies: highest, middle, and lowest. This week we will provide information on the Three Ranks of Angels in the Highest Hierarchy which include the Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones.

#### **Highest Hierarchy:**

##### **SERAPHIM:**

The six-winged SERAPHIM (Flaming, Fiery) (Is 6:12) stand closest of all to the Most Holy Trinity. They blaze with love for God and kindle such love in others.

##### **CHERUBIM:**

The many-eyed CHERUBIM (outpouring of wisdom, enlightenment) (Gen 3:24) stand before the Lord after the Seraphim. They are radiant with the light of knowledge of God, and knowledge of the mysteries of God. Through them wisdom is poured forth, and people's minds are enlightened so they may know God and behold His glory.

##### **THRONES:**

The THRONES (Col 1:16) stand after the Cherubim, mysteriously and incomprehensibly bearing God through the grace given them for their service. They are ministers of God's justice, giving to tribunals, kings, etc. the capacity for righteous judgment.

Next week we will provide information on the next Three Ranks of Angels in the Middle Angelic Hierarchy which include Dominions, Powers, and Authorities.



**GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS!!!**



## Announcements (cont.)

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

#### **Health for the Living:**

Benjamin Macalush offered by M/M Herbert  
Albert Kavalkovich, Catherine Kavalkovich, and Barbara Andrews offered by Emelie Albrecht  
Margaret Pellack offered by Pellack Family  
Naomi offered by Melanie Albrecht

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

#### **Memory for the Departed:**

Dolores Helms offered by Nina Patterson  
Dolores Helms offered by Albrecht Family  
Robert Olberman offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Christopher Homa offered by Homa Family  
Dolores Helms offered by Pellack Family

#### **May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; + Dolores Helms (newly departed and Fr. Mark's Mother); Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery); Mat. Jan Kozzak; 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!

In addition, for the health of Emelie Albrecht on her birthday and for Simon & Mary Herbert on their wedding anniversary this past week.

Also for the repose of the handmaiden of God Dolores Helms, the mother of Father Mark, who passed away last Saturday evening, November 12<sup>th</sup>. May her Memory be Eternal!

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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 (November)**

	<u>Week of Nov 7 to Nov 13</u>	<u>November Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	33	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,428.28	\$ 2,787.28
Funds Out:	\$ 858.11	\$ 4,256.04
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 570.17	(\$ 1,468.76)

***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, discuss further details on the Hall kitchen area, and the status of the bidding process for a construction contractor.

**Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers!** We have begun collecting for Christmas flowers! 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!

**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!

**Saturday – December 10, 2016 – Advent Adult Education Presentation:**

**The Mary & Martha in Us!**

With Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis Ph.D., guest speaker and facilitator

Sponsored by St. Irene Philoptochos Society of St Thomas Greek Orthodox Church

Time: 9:15am to 2:30pm

Location: St Thomas Greek Orthodox Church – 615 Mercer St – Cherry Hill, NJ

Fee: \$10 (includes breakfast, lunch, and refreshments)

Registration Deadline: **December 3, 2016**

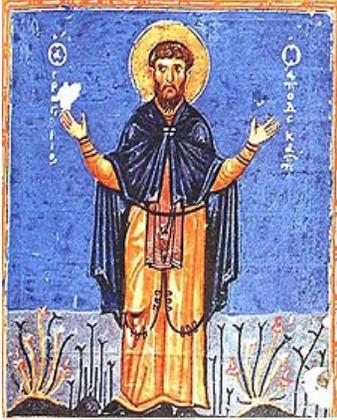
Please bring your Holy Bible & writing materials. Childcare service is available by reservation. Please see Flyer & Registration Form up on the bulletin boards.

**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.  
December order date: December 5 & 6. Pick Up Date: December 9.

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

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



## **Venerable Gregory Decapolite [Nov 20<sup>th</sup>]**

Saint Gregory the Decapolite was born in the Isaurian city of Decapolis (ten cities) in the eighth century. From his childhood he loved the temple of God and church services. He read the Holy Scripture constantly and with reverence.

In order to avoid the marriage which his parents had intended for him, he secretly left home. He spent all his

life wandering: he was in Constantinople, Rome, Corinth, and he lived as an ascetic on Olympus for a while. St Gregory preached the Word of God everywhere, denouncing the Iconoclast heresy, strengthening the faith and fortitude of the Orthodox, whom the heretics in those times oppressed, tortured and imprisoned.

Through his ascetic effort and prayer, St Gregory attained the gifts of prophecy and wonderworking. After overcoming the passions and reaching the height of virtue, he was permitted to hear angelic singing in praise of the Holy Trinity. St Gregory left the monastery of St Menas near Thessalonica, where he had labored for a long time, and he went again to Constantinople in order to combat the Iconoclast heresy. At the capital, a grievous illness undermined his strength, and he departed to the Lord in the year 816.

St Gregory was buried at a monastery in Constantinople, and many miracles took place at his tomb. As a result, the monks removed the holy relics of St Gregory and enshrined them in the church where people could venerate them.

When Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453, the relics of St Gregory were carried to the region of the Danube by a Turkish official. In 1498 Barbu Craiovescu, the Ban of the Romanian Land (Wallachia) heard of the miracles performed by the holy relics and bought them for a considerable sum of money. Barbu Craiovescu placed the relics in the main church of Bistritsa Monastery which he founded in Rimnicu Vilcea, where they remain to the present day.

A small book describing the miracles and healings performed by St Gregory the Decapolite in Romania has been written by Abbess Olga Gologan, who reposed in 1972.