

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, December 11, 2016 | 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Sunday of the Forefathers

Venerable Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople (489-90)

Venerable Nikon the Dry of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves – 12th c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy!

Today: Annual Phila. Deanery St Herman's Lecture. Time: 4:00pm
Saint Stephen's Cathedral – 8598 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19111-1367
Topic: Theological Foundations of Icons and Iconography

Tuesday: December 13 – Repose of Saint Herman of Alaska

Tuesday: December 13 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the Church
Basement! Reading the Book of Exodus.
(Also, *Hymns to Saint Herman of Alaska*)

Saturday: December 17 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: December 18 – Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ
Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

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 2 – Forefathers)

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / she who bore Thee without seed. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Forefathers)

Ye did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, / but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, / ye were glorified in a trial by fire. / From the midst of unbearable flames ye called on God, crying: / “Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid, // for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 4– Songs of our Fathers)

Blessed are Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

v. For Thou are just in all that Thou has done for us!

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. They called to the Lord and He answered them. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:16-24

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.' For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "

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)

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 continue...

This week we will provide information of Holy Scripture and Tradition that gives us the names of the Archangels and how they are depicted in accordance to the character of their service:

GABRIEL: strength (power) of God, herald and servitor of Divine omnipotence (Dan 8:16, Luke 1:26). He announces the mysteries of God. On his icon he is depicted with a branch from Paradise, presented by him to the Most Holy Virgin, or with a shining lantern in his right hand and with a mirror made of jasper in his left.

RAPHAEL: the healing of God, the curer of human infirmities (Tobit 3:16, 12:15) He is depicted on his icon holding a vessel with healing medications in his left hand, and with his right hand leads Tobias, carrying a fish for healing (Tobit 5-8).

URIEL: the fire or light of God, enlightener (3 Ezdras 5:20). We pray for him to enlighten those with darkened minds. He is depicted on his icon raising his right hand as he holds a naked sword at the level of his chest, and in his lowered left hand "a fiery flame."

SELAPHIEL: the prayer of God, impelling to prayer (3 Ezdras 5:16). He prays to God for mankind. In his icon, he is in a prayerful posture, gazing downwards, hands folded on the chest.

JEHUDIEL: the glorifying of God, encouraging exertion for the glory of the Lord and interceding for the reward of efforts. On his icon he holds a golden crown in his right hand, in his left, a whip of three red (or black) thongs.

BARACHIEL: distributor of the blessings of God for good deeds, entreats the mercy of God for people. He is shown on his icon with a white rose on his breast.

JEREMIEL: the raising up to God (3 Ezdras 4:36) and he holds balance-scales in his hand in his icon.

With next week being the last Sunday before the Feast of the Nativity, we will conclude with the final Archangel, the Chief Commander and faithful servitor of God himself, the Holy Archangel Michael.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Olga Macalush offered by M/M Herbert
Matesy Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Margaret Pellack offered by Nina Patterson
Margaret Pellack offered by Pellack Family
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy
Anastasia, Alexander, Marc, William, Ronald, Barbara, Sharon, Family and Friends offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich
Barbara Andrews offered by her God Children
David Albrecht Sr offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
David Albrecht Jr offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John Pellack offered by Pellack Family
Veterans and those who perished at Pearl Harbor offered by Pellack Family
Anne Sabata offered by Pellack Family
Paul and Mary Koran offered by Pellack Family
Benjamin Macalush offered by M/M Herbert
John Rabik Sr offered by son Joseph Rabik
Barbara Warfel & Diane Bence 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 Kozak; 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!

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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/December)

<u>Week of Nov 28 to Dec 4</u>	<u>November Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance: 34 <i>St Nicholas Liturgy (12/6) 13</i>	36 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,713.08	\$ 6,515.95
Funds Out: \$ 3,348.00	\$ 6,205.74
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$ 1,634.92)	\$ 310.21

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

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

Sunday, December 11, 2016 – Philadelphia Deanery presents the 2016 Annual St Herman's Lecture! **Topic:** Theological Foundations of Icons and Iconography with Iconographer Ivan Rumiantsev. **Time:** 4:00pm.
Location: St Stephen Orthodox Cathedral–8598 Verree Rd-Philadelphia, PA
Please see Flyer up on the bulletin boards.

Bible Study – Tuesday December 13, 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.

FYI – The December Church Life Discussion will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month [December 18th] as a result of Christmas occurring on the 4th Sunday of December this calendar year. Please make a note of this change and mark it in your calendars for this month! Thank You!

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!

Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree - Sunday, December 18th. **Time: After Church Life Lecture.** Please see either Debbie Kavalkovich or Matthew Andrews today regarding the detail schedule of decorating the church and Christmas tree.

Christmas Eve Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) – Saturday, December 24th – Time: 5:00PM As discussed last week after Liturgy, Christmas Eve services of Great Complines and a condensed version of Matins is scheduled for 5:00PM! Please make every effort to attend this service on the eve of Christ's Birth!

The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ Service Sunday, December 25th – Hours: 9:30AM and Liturgy: 10:00AM



Sunday of the Forefathers [Dec 11th]

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, “In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

Church Cleaning – Next Saturday on December 17 at 9:30am

Areas needing attention:

Church area:

Carpets need vacuuming, pews need to be dusted and cleaned, window sills and floor trims need to be dusted, windows wiped and cleaned, the tetrapod and icon stands need to be dusted and cleaned, walls need to be dusted and wiped down, iconostas could be dusted, and brass fixtures should be polished.

Choir loft:

Carpets need vacuuming, folding chairs need dusting and cleaning along with the back bench, window sills need dusting, windows wiped and cleaned, and walls need to be dusted and wiped down.

Altar area:

Carpets need vacuuming, windows wiped and cleaned, dust and clean altar table and table of oblation, walls need to be dusted and wiped down, iconostas could be dusted, brass fixtures should be polished, clean robe closet area, and clean altar boy station ‘only’ (do not reorganize or rearrange cabinet area or shelf, we don’t want to confuse the altar boys).

Vestible area:

Carpets need vacuuming including the stairs to both the choir loft and the basement, dust and clean both pews, walls need to be dusted down.

Downstairs entrance:

Clean bathrooms, vacuum ONLY the carpet around basement front door and stairs to the basement, and dust down the walls in that same area.

Please bring any supplies you will need to clean the church including rags, buckets, sponges, soap, brushes, polish, vacuum cleaner, bags, etc... Thank You!!!