

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, January 29, 2017 | 32nd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 7 – Sunday of Zacchaeus

Translation of the Relics of Hieromartyr Ignatius the Godbearer,
Bishop of Antioch (107). New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia.

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President -

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.
Topic: History of the Divine Liturgy

Monday: January 30 – Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom. **No Services!**

Wednesday: February 1 – Vespertal Liturgy for The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple at **6:00PM!**

Saturday: February 4 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: February 5 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
[Beginning of the Lenten Triodion]
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 5 – Soup N' Bowl II Competition after Divine Liturgy in church basement. See bulletin Calendar of Events for details.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, / and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4 – New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, / praising her new martyrs and confessors; / hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, / venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. / Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, / they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. // By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Kontakion (Tone 7)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / “The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 – New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the new martyrs of Rus’ stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, / and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: / “Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, / and power, and strength be to our God // unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

Prokeimenon (Tone 7)

The Lord shall give strength to His people / The Lord shall bless His people with peace!
v. Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 7)

- v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

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)

*[Note: The readings for the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia is as follows:
Epistle – Romans 8:28-39 and Gospel - Luke 21:8-19]*

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.)

2017 House Blessing

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses has begun. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

The **53rd Diocesan Assembly** was held this past week (Thursday, January 26 and Friday, January, 27) at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Harrisburg, PA. Both Father Mark and Matthew Andrews will provide a brief summary report after Divine Liturgy on any pertinent information or action taken during the Assembly.

Annual Pork and/or Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday – Sunday, February 19 after Divine Liturgy! Plans on organizing the luncheon will begin TODAY (Jan 29). Please see Catherine Kavalkovich if you wish to provide a dish for this annual pre-Lenten luncheon.

Our parish will again be hosting a Mission Vesper Service during Lent. An exact date is still to be determined (on a Sunday between March 12 and April 2). This is just an early FYI for your Lenten plans. We will begin coordinating the schedule and Lenten meal menu sometime in late February once Lent has started. Once a decision has been made on which Sunday our parish will host the Mission Service, it will be announced in church and in the bulletin.

Pictures of the Great Blessing of Water along the Schuylkill River. Please check out the front page of the Dioceses website (www.doepa.org) and our parish Facebook page to view pictures of this great event from last Sunday. You may have to scroll a few slides before pictures of this event display on the Dioceses website.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Dave Albrecht Sr. offered by Nina Patterson
Dave Albrecht Sr. offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich
Ronald Kavalkovich Sr offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich
Ronald, Marc, David, Alexander, Patricia, Albert, Catherine, Sharon, Jude, Edward, David
Andrews (birthday) and Alexander Kavalkovich (birthday) offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John, Helen, Al, Andrew, Anne, William, John, Margaret offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald
Kavalkovich; 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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Did you see...His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Bishops, and priest from the OCA at the
March for Life event in Washington, D.C. this past Friday, January 27. His Beatitude,
Metropolitan Tikhon was interviewed by Catholic TV station EWTN at 9:40am that morning.
Later that day during the march on Constitution Avenue around 2:40pm, Father Chad Hatfield,
CEO of St Vladimir's Seminary, was also interviewed by EWTN. Both spoke on the importance of
the right for life and the Orthodox Christian position on the innocent who have no voice.

**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 2017 Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items for 2017 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 (January)

	<u>Week of Jan 16 to Jan 22</u>	<u>January Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	37	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,182.00	\$ 5,345.00
Funds Out:	\$ 857.48	\$ 7,881.31
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 324.52	(\$ 2,536.31)

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.

Today – Church Life Discussion Lecture after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship hour in the church. The Topic – History of the Divine Liturgy

Please note for February with Forgiveness Sunday occurring on the **4th Sunday** of the month (along with having Forgiveness Sunday Vespers right after Divine Liturgy), the February Church Life Discussions on the History of the Divine Liturgy will be held on **February 19**, which is the **3rd Sunday** of the month!

Soup N’ Bowl II Challenge - Sunday, February 5, 2017 after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)!

- * We are still looking for participants to prepare their best soup, stew, or chili and faceoff against each other (no fasting restrictions on that Sunday). Any soup, stew, or chili can be prepared. Any type of crackers or bread can be included as a compliment to the dish.
- * Participants should make enough soup, stew, or chili for the parishioners and guest (between 30-35 people).
- * Parishioners & guests will indulge in each one of the soups, stews, and chili (at least try ½ bowl or cup of each soup) and then cast a ballot for which one they enjoyed the most.
- * The results (“Score”) will be announced by the Commissioner: Fr. Koczak
- * The winner gets to enjoy for the year that their soup, stew or chili was the best and select a charity of their choosing from the coffee hour proceeds from this event.
- * Donation of “free-will” offering will be accepted for this coffee hour event.
- * Any other ideas or suggestions, please inform a parish council member.

Special call to order has been given to hold a General Parish meeting on Sunday, February 5 (during the Soup ‘N Bowl luncheon). This special call for a general parish meeting is due to the current vacancy of the office of Parish President. This topic will be the only business discussed during this special general parish meeting and hopefully we will elect a parishioner for this vacant position.

Property Committee Meeting - Sunday, February 12, 2017 after Divine Liturgy! Property Committee members are asked to attend this meeting to discuss the continued preparation of the lease agreement for the Hall and further details on the Hall construction project.



Sunday of Zacchaeus

[January 29th]

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3).

The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection “Today salvation has come to the world,” which echoes the Lord’s words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.