

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Tone 2 – Sunday of Meatfare. Sunday of the Last Judgement.
Apostles of the Seventy Archippus (Arkhipp)
and Philemon, and Martyr Apphias. (1st).

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Weekly Schedule

[Today is the last day before Lent for eating meat until the Sunday of Pascha, but otherwise, there is no fasting this week of eggs, cheese, butter, milk and fish which are permitted each day, including Wednesday & Friday]

Today: Annual Roast Pork Sandwich Luncheon on the Sunday of Meatfare after Divine Liturgy.

Today: Church Life Discussion Lecture on the History of the Divine Liturgy following the Luncheon upstairs in Church

Saturday: February 25 – Church Hall Clean Up and Minor Work Construction.
Time: 1pm to 4:45pm. Please come out to assist and bring any family member or friends with construction work experience.

Saturday: February 25 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: February 26 – Sunday of Cheesefare. Forgiveness Sunday
The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise
Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS immediately after Divine Liturgy!

Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Kontakion (Tone 1 – Lenten Triodion)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble, / and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; / the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Great is our Lord and abundant in power; / His understanding is beyond measure!
v. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

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.)

The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on January 22, 2017 and the Minutes from the Special Parish Meeting held on February 5, 2017 have been posted on the bulletin board in the church basement (bulletin board where the sign up sheets are located) for your reading pleasure. Please ensure you review these minutes before our next parish meeting (scheduled to be held sometime during the month of May) since a motion to accept these minutes will be voted on during said meeting.

A Special “**Thank You**” to everyone who is serving on the Property Committee, especially co-chairs Lena Helen and Martha Palubniak. Much work, time and determination has been put in by the committee to organize and enhance the parish properties over the year, especially the Hall which is close to be rented out soon. May God Grant you all many years in your continuous efforts to enrich the Church area!

First Week of Great Lent - Monday, February 27 to Saturday, March 4

Service schedule is as follows:

- Monday, February 27 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
- Tuesday, February 28 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
- Wednesday, March 1 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
- Thursday, March 2 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
- Friday, March 3 – The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts begins at 6:30PM
- Saturday, March 4 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM

Any changes in the schedule or time will be announced in church & bulletin.

Our **Charity collection next week (February 26)** will be earmarked for the appeal to aid Fr John and Matushka Kyra Nightingale. Fr John is considered a paraplegic after a fall from his porch last year left him with injuries to his neck, vertebrae and spinal cord. He has been in the VA hospital in the Bronx, NY for the past year. Matushka Kyra has not only traveled to the VA hospital to care for Fr John, she is also caring for her own parents. There has been work done in their home for handicap accessibility including a doorway and ramp to the house along with a handicap bathroom. More details in a letter from the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania is posted on the bulletin board.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Emily & David Albrecht offered by M/M Herbert
Melanie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Alfonso Vasallo, Helen Herbert, Reader Leonty Macalush, George Taninatz
offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Dave Albrecht Sr (on his recovery from surgery and rehabilitation); Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery); 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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2017 House Blessing – Final week of this season remains!!

If you wish to have your home blessed before Great Lent begins, please make sure you speak with Father Mark for remaining date availability this week to schedule a house blessing. The last day Father plans on blessing homes this winter season is next **Sunday, February 26**. 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 to maneuver in the rooms you wish to be bless.

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 (2016-17)
- 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 (February)

	<u>Week of Feb 6 to Feb 12</u>	<u>February Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	29	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,520.00	\$ 3,531.00
Funds Out:	\$ 800.00	\$ 4,005.54
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 720.00	(\$ 474.54)

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 - Annual Roast Pork Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday after Divine Liturgy!

Please plan on staying after Liturgy and join us during Fellowship hour for this annual pre-Lenten Meatfare luncheon. All are invited and any contributions towards this luncheon that helps support the parish is always very much appreciated! A special Thank You to Catherine Kavalkovich for coordinating this event.

TODAY - Church Life Discussion Lecture - after the Meatfare Luncheon upstairs in the church. Topic – History of the Divine Liturgy

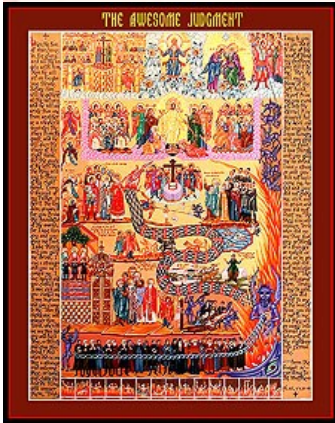
Please note that Forgiveness Sunday occurs next Sunday which is the **4th Sunday** this month. Since Forgiveness Sunday Vespers is served right after Divine Liturgy, this month's Church Life Discussions on the History of the Divine Liturgy will be held **TODAY**, which is the **3rd Sunday** of the month!

Parish Hall Clean Up and Minor Work Construction Day **Saturday Afternoon, February 25 from 1:00p to 4:45p.**

The Property Committee is asking parishioners to come out and volunteer to assist in cleaning up and performing some light minor construction work in the parish Hall this coming Saturday afternoon (February 25). Please come out on Saturday along with any family members or friends, especially if they have some type of construction work experience.

Vespers will be served at its normal time at 5:00pm. Please plan on staying for vespers especially since this is the Saturday before Great Lent begins!

Forgiveness Sunday Vespers – Sunday, February 26 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The parish traditionally serves this vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading “Vouchsafe, O Lord”) that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!



Sunday of Meatfare.
Sunday of the Last Judgement
[February 19th]

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a

sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.