

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### **Sunday, July 16, 2017 | 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 5 – Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils.  
Hieromartyr Athenogenes, Bishop of Heracleopolis, and his ten disciples (ca. 311).

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

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*Parish President - Peter Parsells*

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### **Weekly Schedule**

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy  
*(Postponed from last week!)*

Thursday: July 20 – Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah

Saturday: July 22 - Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: July 23 – Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus and the 13 others in Lycia.  
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 8 – Holy Fathers)**

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God! / Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. / Through them Thou hast guided us to the true Faith. //  
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

### **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 8 – Holy Fathers)**

The Apostles’ preaching and the Fathers’ doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // it defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

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

Thou, O Lord, shall 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: Romans 12:6-14**

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 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: Matthew 9:1-8**

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just! Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for the Holy Fathers are as follows:  
Epistle – Hebrews 13:7-16 and Gospel - John 17:1-13]*

**“Be the first to arrive at church for services and the last to leave, especially for the Divine Liturgy.”**

*St Symeon the Studite (also called Symeon the Pious; +1021)*

**Announcements**

**A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests** 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

The Church Life Discussion class has completed its topic discussion of the History of the Divine Liturgy. Now we are asking from those participants and parishioners what area of the Church Life they would like to discuss next. There is a suggestion box down in the church basement on the center table. Please drop off your suggestions in the box. The last day for providing a suggestion will be Sunday, July 30! Thank You!

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Dining out in Delaware at the Iron Hill Brewery in Wilmington, DE is a summer social event for our parish. We will be dining on Sunday, August 27 at 2:00pm. Please inform Matushka Jan if interested in attending so reservations can be made. Deadline for notifying Matushka Jan is **Tuesday, August 15!!!** You can contact Matushka Jan by phone (Home: 302-322-0943) or by email [jakoczak@gmail.com](mailto:jakoczak@gmail.com). Thank You!

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### **Downsizing our Diocesan Center for our Transition**

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! Hopefully, the Monastery and the Diocese will formally divide the former St Tikhon's Orphanage Property in the next few weeks, approximately 7 acres, adjacent to St. Tikhon's Monastery property, and we will receive title to 1.93 acres of the land on which our Diocesan Center is located. The other land and buildings will be merged with the monastery and become their property. As initiated by Metropolitan Tikhon, when he was your Diocesan Bishop and discussed and approved at our Diocesan Assembly in January, our Diocesan Council will begin marketing the property to allow us to move our Diocesan Center closer to our parishes. Part of preparing the Diocesan Center for listing and marketing is to make it as presentable as possible. In doing so, we need to remove excess furnishings and simultaneously downsize for the transition to a new Diocesan Center which will likely be smaller.

Though, we intend to keep and use as much as we can, there may be some things we are simply unable to keep. If there is anything your parish or parishioners have donated that you would want back (if we choose to donate or liquidate it) please call the Diocesan Center to inquire about your specific item(s) no later than July 10th. Be as specific as possible and we will create a list of items not to be liquidated.

We ask your prayers as we seek to finalize the dissolution of the Orphanage Property (which has been closed for nearly 50 years) and begin the process of marketing the current Diocesan Center and search for an affordable and appropriate property to use as a Diocesan Center. Be assured, the Orphanage Board composed of His Beatitude; myself; Archimandrite Sergius, Abbott of St Tikhon's monastery; Fr John Jillions, Chancellor of the OCA; Fr. Stephen Voytovich, Dean of the seminary; David Yeosock, Judge Ray Lanier, OCA legal counsel; attorney Greg Nescott, Fr Daniel Donlick and Fr John Perich have worked this solution out together. In the process Judge Ray Lanier represented the OCA; attorney John Krisa represented the Orphanage Board; attorney John Petorak represented the Monastery and Brett Woodburn represented the Diocese. The dissolution of the Orphanage Property between the two entities was submitted by all parties to the state of Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office and has received the approval of the Assistant Attorney General, Mary Kinney.

Your unworthy father in Christ,  
+ Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

**Source:** From *The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (OCA) website.*

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Matesy Herbert, Emelie Albrecht, Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Emelie Albrecht, Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Nina Patterson  
Emelie Albrecht, Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Emelie Albrecht, Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Daria LeRoy

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Olga Macalush, Benjamin Macalush, and the Reader Leonty Macalush offered by M/M Herbert  
Infant child Ivanna Alexandra Parsells offered by Daria LeRoy

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Infant child Ivanna Alexandra Parsells (*newly departed*); Emelie Albrecht; Cantrell Family;  
Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack;  
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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Building Fund – In Memory of the infant child Ivanna Alexandra Parsells:

- \* M/M Ken Kavalkovich                      \* Barbara Andrews
- \* Matthew Andrews

**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 (July)

	<u>Week of July 3 to July 9</u>	<u>July Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	37	34 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,066.00	\$ 2,992.00
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,958.82
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,066.00	(\$ 966.82)

**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** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – NO Church Life Discussion Class in July or August!

**Today – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (~~2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month~~)! [POSTPONED FROM LAST WEEK]!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting, Hall status rental update, prioritize additional work that needs to be done over at the Hall now that the tenants have officially moved into the Hall, and any additional action(s) that need to be taken.

**UPDATE!!!! – There will be NO Church Life Discussion classes during the summer (July and August). The Discussion will resume on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in September (the 24<sup>th</sup>).** The Topic – To Be Determined!!!!

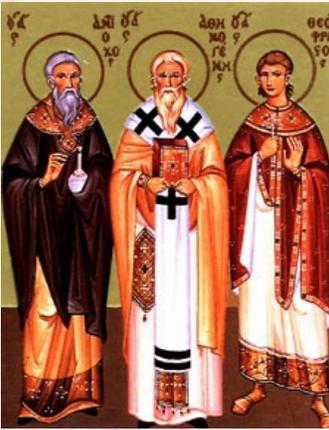
We are now taking suggestions on a topic to be discussed once the class resumes in September. Please drop off your topic suggestion in the box located on the center table in the church basement. Topic deadline is July 30<sup>th</sup>! Thanks You!

**The exhibit of “Blood & Soul – The Russian Revolution of 1917” continues until September 1, 2017 at Villanova University’s Falvey Memorial Library (First Floor).**

Father John Perich, priest of St Herman’s of Alaska Orthodox Church in Gradyville, PA is one of the co-curators of this exhibit commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the 1917 Russian Revolution and the Enthronement of St. Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow. Please contact the Villanova University Library for more information regarding the days and times scheduled for tours and/or visits of the exhibit.

**St Tikhon Monastery Summer Events:** St Anna’s Day Sunday July 23 at 2pm with Akathist and anointing in honor of the Miraculous Icon of St Anna that resides at the Monastery. Patronal Feast Day of St Tikhon of Zadonsk on Sun Aug 13 @ 9am Join the Monastery Brotherhood celebrating the Divine Liturgy & a festive meal.

**Sunday, August 27 at 2:00PM - Dining Out in Delaware - Ironhill Brewery Restaurant in Wilmington, DE (a social event for the parish)!** Please contact Matushka Jan by phone (House #302.322.0943) or email (jakoczak@gmail.com) whether you will be attending so reservations can be made. The reservation deadline is Tuesday, August 15!!!



## **Hieromartyr Athenogenes the Bishop of Heracleopolis [July 16<sup>th</sup>]**

Hieromartyr Athenogenes and his Ten Disciples suffered for Christ during the persecution of Christians in the city of Sebastea in Cappadocia. The governor Philomachos arranged a large festival in honor of the pagan gods and called upon the citizens of Sebastea to offer sacrifice to the idols.

Most of the inhabitants of Sebastea were Christians, and refused to participate in the impious celebration. Soldiers were ordered to kill

those who resisted, and so many Christians received a martyr's crown.

It came to the governor's attention that Christianity was spreading because of the grace-filled preaching of Bishop Athenogenes. Soldiers were ordered to find the Elder and arrest him. Bishop Athenogenes and ten of his disciples lived in a small monastery not far from the city. The soldiers did not find the bishop there, so they arrested his disciples. The governor ordered that they be bound with chains and thrown into prison.

Saint Athenogenes was arrested when he came to Sebastea to inform the judge that those who had been jailed were innocent. While in prison, Saint Athenogenes encouraged his spiritual children for their impending struggle. Led forth to trial, all the holy martyrs confessed themselves Christians and refused to offer sacrifice to idols.

After undergoing fierce tortures, the disciples of the holy bishop were beheaded. After the execution of the disciples, the executioners were ordered to torture the bishop. Strengthened by the Lord, Saint Athenogenes underwent the tortures with dignity. His only request was that he be executed in the monastery.

Taken to his own monastery, the saint gave thanks to God, and he rejoiced in the sufferings that he had undergone for Him. Saint Athenogenes asked that the Lord would forgive the sins of all those who would remember both him and his disciples.

The Lord granted the saint to hear His Voice before death, announcing the promise given to the penitent thief: "Today you shall be with Me in Paradise." The hieromartyr willingly bent his neck beneath the sword.