

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### Sunday, November 19, 2017 | 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 7 – Prophet Obadiah (Abdias) (9<sup>th</sup> c. B.C.)  
Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea in Cappadocia (ca. 304)  
Venerable Barlaam and Joasaph, Prince of India

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

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### Weekly Schedule

- Today: St Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church Pieorgi Firebird Fall Festival continues from 12pm to 5pm!
- Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church school room.  
*(Rescheduled from last Sunday)*
- Monday: Vespersal Divine Liturgy for The Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple (11/21) beginning at 6:30pm!
- Thursday: November 23 – Thanksgiving! Remember to Give Thanks for the Blessings You Have In Your Life.
- Saturday: November 25 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!
- Sunday: November 26 – Venerable Alypius the Stylite  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 7)**

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

### **Troparion (Tone 2 – Prophet Obadiah)**

We celebrate the memory / of Thy Prophet Obadiah, O Lord; / through him we beseech Thee: // “Save our souls!”

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – Martyr Barlaam)**

Armed with youthful fervor, / Thou didst endure martyrdom in old age and glorified Christ. / Thou didst offer Him thy right hand as a whole burnt offering / and thy holy soul as a blameless sacrifice. // Intercede that all that be granted forgiveness, Great-martyr Barlaam!

### **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, thou faithful, into the Resurrection!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 1 – Prophet Obadiah)**

The great Obadiah, acquiring a mind luminous with divine splendor, / speaks through the Holy Spirit, proclaiming things to come. / Today we honor him with faithful minds, // celebrating his holy memory which enlightens the hearts of men.

### **Kontakion (Tone 3 – Martyr Barlaam)**

Though weak with old age thou didst vanquish the Evil One / in thy mighty contest, O Barlaam. / Thou didst endure the rack like one without a body, / and steadfastly endured the burning of thy hand. / Therefore, God the Word has crowned thee with a crown of glory.

### **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: Ephesians 2:14-22**

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 7)

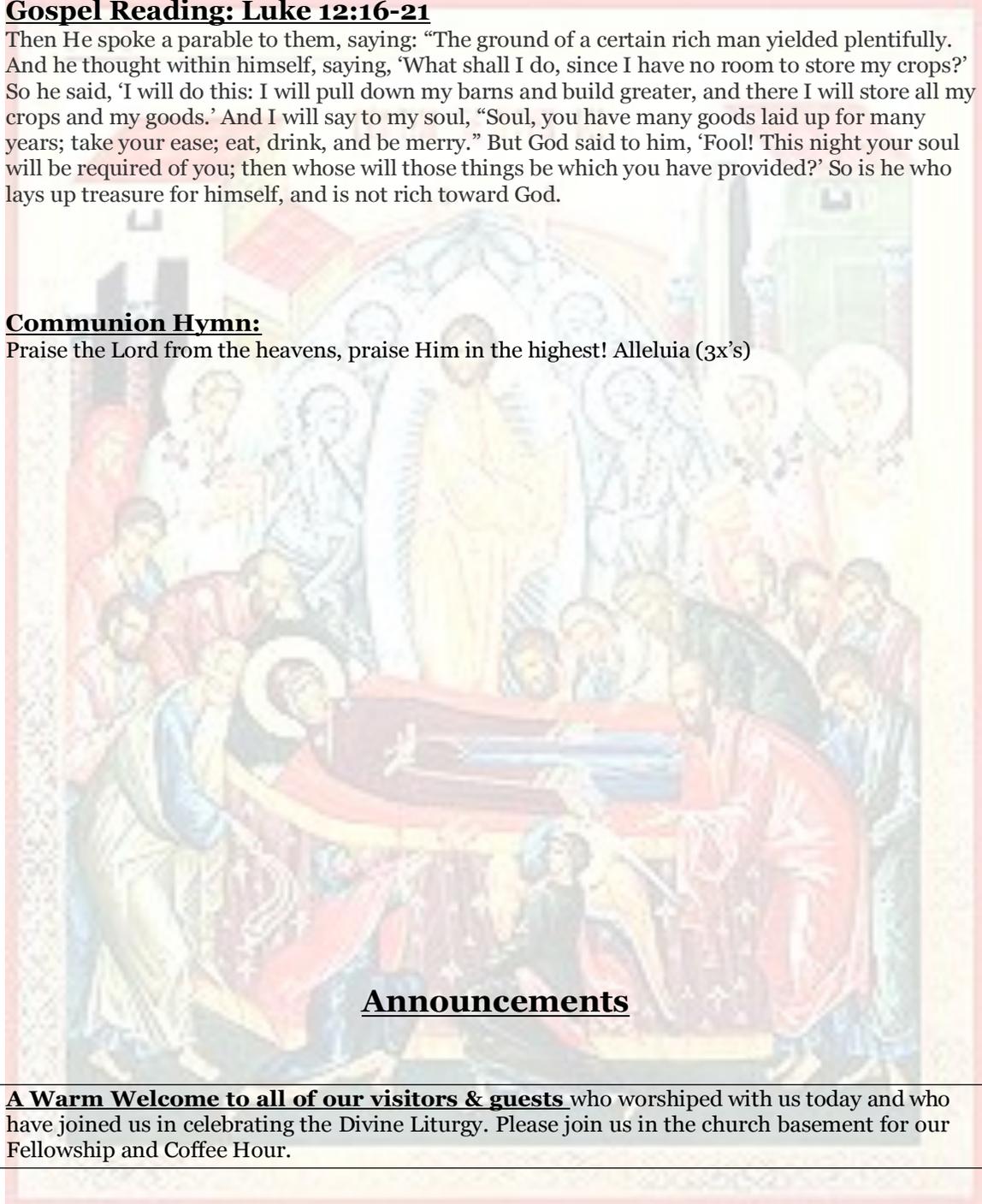
- v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning and Thy truth by night Alleluia(3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 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 & 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**

### **Many Years, Your Beatitude!**

This past Monday, November 13 – with deep love, respect and heartfelt thanksgiving – we mark the fifth Anniversary of the election of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon at the 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, which was held at Holy Trinity Church, Parma, OH on November 13, 2012.

On behalf of the Holy Synod of Bishops and the clergy, monastics and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, we assure Metropolitan Tikhon of our ongoing love and prayers today and in the many years to come. May our Lord continue to grant him peace, prosperity, safety, honor, health and length of days “rightly dividing” the word of God’s truth as he marks this milestone in his life and in the life of the Church!

Axios! Axios! Axios! Eis polla eti despota!

May God grant you many, many years, Your Beatitude!

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### **Minutes, reports of the Metropolitan Council Fall 2017 Session**

Minutes and reports of the Fall Session of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America, held September 19-22, 2017, are now available on the OCA website. The minutes and reports have been approved by the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops during their Fall Session this past week.

The Metropolitan Council is the permanent executive body of the Church Administration which exists for the purpose of implementing the decisions of the All-American Council and continuing its work between sessions. Members include the Metropolitan, who serves as Chair; the Chancellor, the Secretary, and the Treasurer; one priest and one layperson elected by each diocese; and three priests and an equal number of laypersons elected by the All-American Council.

The minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Standing Synod and the 2017 Fall Session of the Metropolitan Council are posted on the bulletin board for your convenience and reading pleasure.

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### **Diocesan Council Meets at Holy Trinity Church, Pottstown, PA**

On Thursday, November 9, the Diocesan Council gathered at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church for their quarterly meeting. Father John Edward and parishioners welcomed members of the council with warm hospitality.

The Council discussed many matters affecting the Diocese. Much of the early discussion included the recent listing of the Diocesan Center property with a realtor, and the efforts to find a new location. Areas included in the search are Philadelphia, Lehigh Valley, and Harrisburg area. Also discussed were the 2018 All American Council, as well as the 2018 Diocesan Assembly to be held in Delaware. More information regarding both is forthcoming.

Minutes from the November meeting will be posted as they become available.

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Emelie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson  
Emelie Albrecht offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Sharon and James offered by Barbara Andrews  
Family and Friends offered by M/M Rick LeRoy  
Sharon and James, Daria, Kathleen, Patricia, Kathleen, Susan, John, Ken, Catherine, Albert, Ronald, Matthew, Christina, Anastasia, and Marrison on her birthday offered by M/M Kenneth Kavalkovich and Family

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Irene Kavcsak offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Parents Jayne, Basil, Jesse, Dolores; godparents; Natalia, Dmitri, Reader Robert, Michael offered by Father Mark & Matuska Jan Kozak

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Emelie Albrecht; Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Paul Filanowski (recovering); Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Matushka Jan (recovery after eye surgery) Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Additionally, remember the victims and injured from the senseless tragedy in Las Vegas, NV; New York City, NY; the parishioners and their families of the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX; and the five victims in Tehama County, CA along with the one child injured at the Rancho Tehama Elementary School.

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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 (2016-17)
- 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 (November)

	<u>Week of Nov 6 to Nov 12</u>	<u>November Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	41	32 (average)
Vespers (11/18)	7	
Funds In:	\$ 1,421.00	\$ 3,435.00
Funds Out:	\$ 177.05	\$ 2,196.05
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,243.95	\$ 1,238.95

**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 Divine 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 Divine Liturgy.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

### **Today - Fall Orthodox Church Festival:**

St Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church – Philadelphia, PA – P#215.922.9671  
Sunday – 12PM to 5PM. It's the parish's Annual Firebird Pierogi Festival!  
See Flyers on bulletin boards within our Church for more information!

**Today – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month)!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-up from the previous meeting, status regarding the drains of the church and hall, the outdoor cleaning from November 5, and any additional action(s) that need to be taken. ***(Rescheduled from last Sunday,)***

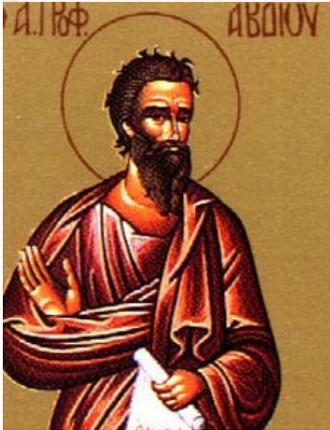
### **Vesperal Divine Liturgy Service at 6:30PM:**

Monday, November 20 – Eve of The Entry of the Most Holy  
Lady Theotokos into the Temple

### **November 26 - Church Life Discussion class after Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour. (The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month)**

The Topic— Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. It's history and the stories displayed on them.

**Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers!** We will begin collecting for Christmas flowers starting next Sunday, November 26! 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!



## **Prophet Obadiah (Abdia)** [Nov 19<sup>th</sup>]

The Holy Prophet Obadiah [or Abdia] is the fourth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, and he lived during the ninth century B.C. He was from the village of Betharam, near Sichern, and he served as steward of the impious Israelite King Ahab. In those days the whole of Israel had turned away from the true God and had begun to offer sacrifice to Baal, but Obadiah faithfully served the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in secret.

When Ahab's wife, the impious and dissolute Jezebel, hunted down all the prophets of the Lord (because of her quarrel with the Prophet Elias), Obadiah gave them shelter and food (3/1 Kgs 18:3 ff). Ahab's successor King Okhoziah [Ahaziah] sent three detachments of soldiers to arrest the holy Prophet Elias (July 20). One of these detachments was headed by Saint Obadiah. Through the prayer of Saint Elias, two of the detachments were consumed by heavenly fire, but Saint Obadiah and his detachment were spared by the Lord 4/2 Kgs 1).

From that moment Saint Obadiah resigned from military service and became a follower of the Prophet Elias. Afterwards, he himself received the gift of prophecy. The God-inspired work of Saint Obadiah is the fourth of the Books of the Twelve Minor Prophets in the Bible, and contains predictions about the New Testament Church. The holy Prophet Obadiah was buried in Samaria.

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## **Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea, in Cappadocia** [Nov 19<sup>th</sup>]

The Holy Martyr Barlaam lived in Antioch of Syria. During Diocletian's persecution against Christians, the aged Saint Barlaam was arrested and brought to trial, where he confessed himself a Christian.

The judge, wanting to compel the saint to renounce Christ, ordered that Saint Barlaam be brought to the pagan altar. His right hand was placed over it, and a red-hot censer burning with incense was put into his hand. The torturer thought that a physically weak old man could not endure the pain and would drop it on the altar. In this way he would involuntarily be offering sacrifice to the idol. However, the saint held on to the censer until his hand fell off. After this, the holy Martyr Barlaam surrendered his soul to the Lord.