

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> St. & Snyder Ave.)  
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### Sunday, December 3, 2017 | 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) (635-605 B.C.)

Venerable Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Zvenigorod (1406)

St. Theodulus, Eparch of Constantinople (ca 440)

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

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*Parish President - Peter Parsells*

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### Weekly Schedule

Tuesday: December 5 – Vespers Divine Liturgy at 6:30pm for the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas The Wonderworker (Dec 6).

Saturday: December 9 – Clean-up Day **Inside** the Church beginning around 10:00am!  
See Bulletin for details!

Saturday: December 9 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: December 10 – Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, & Eugephus

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

*Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: December 10 – Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree after Divine Liturgy.

Tuesday: December 12 – Bible Study at 6:30 PM in the church basement.  
Continue reading the Book of Numbers.

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 1)**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

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

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

### **Kontakion (Tone 1)**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 8 – Prophet Zephaniah)**

Thou hast been revealed by the Spirit of God to be brilliant, O Prophet Zephaniah, / for thou didst proclaim the coming of God: / “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem! // Behold, your King is coming to save mankind!”

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 1)**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!  
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

### **Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:9-19**

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David,  
His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27 (from the 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday)**

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with 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

### Advent Season Tutelage - 2017

We are once again providing an Advent 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 Life of one of the North American Saints: Saint Alexis Toth. So let's continue...

As a historian and professor of Canon Law, Father Toth knew his rights under the terms of the Unia and would not accept Archbishop Ireland's unjust decisions. In October of 1890, there was a meeting of eight of the ten Uniate priests in America at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania under the chairmanship of Father Toth. By this time the American bishops had written to Rome demanding the recall to Europe of all Uniate priests in America, fearing that Uniate priests and parishes would hinder the assimilation of immigrants into American culture. Uniate bishops in Europe refused to listen to the priests' pleas for help.

Archbishop Ireland sent a letter to his parishes ordering their members not to attend Father Toth's parish nor to accept any priestly ministrations from him. Expecting imminent deportation, Father Toth explained the situation to his parishioners and suggested it might be best for him to leave and return to Europe.

"No," they said. "Let's go to the Russian bishop. Why should we always submit ourselves to foreigners?" It was decided to write to the Russian consul in San Francisco in order to ask for the name and address of the Russian bishop. Ivan Mlinar went to San Francisco to make initial contact with Bishop Vladimir; then in February, 1891 Father Toth and his church warden, Paul Podany, also made the journey. Subsequently, Bishop Vladimir came to Minneapolis and on March 25, 1891 received Father Toth and 361 parishioners into the Orthodox Church of their ancestors. The parishioners regarded this event as a new Triumph of Orthodoxy, crying out with joy: "Glory to God for His great mercy!"

This initiative came from the people themselves, and was not the result of any coercion from outsiders. The Russian Orthodox Church was unaware of the existence of these Slavic Uniate immigrants to America, but responded positively to their petition to be reunited to the Orthodox Church.

Saint Alexis Toth's Life to be continued in next week's bulletin

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
Laura Kalish offered by the Pellack Family  
Emily Albrecht offered by M/M Herbert  
**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Florence Savchak, Florence Telichan offered by the Pellack Family  
John & Julia Jugan, Anna & William Zuzulock offered by the Pellack Family  
Pauline Mahulick, Kay Maliniak offered by M/M Herbert  
Benjamin Macalush offered by M/M Herbert

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Emelie Albrecht; Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); 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 New York City, NY; the parishioners and their families of the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX; the five victims in Tehama County, CA along with the one child injured at the Rancho Tehama Elementary School; and the attack in the mosque in North Sinai, Egypt that killed 305 worshippers, including 27 children, and injuring 128.

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*The Tentative Schedule for Christmas Eve Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for between 12:30pm and 1:00pm that afternoon. This is approximately an hour after Divine Liturgy is completed. This should give enough time for parishioners to relax and grab a quick bite (Lenten) during Coffee Fellowship Hour before the Great Complines and Matins begins.*

**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 20 to Nov 26</u>	<u>November Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	43	32 (average)
Funds In:	\$1,535.00	\$ 5,608.00
Funds Out:	(\$ 33.00) <i>reimbursement</i>	\$ 3,890.60
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,568.00	\$ 1,717.40

**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.

**Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers!** We have begun collecting for Christmas flowers. There are 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!

### **Saturday, December 9, 2017 and Sunday, December 10, 2017** **Advent Retreat:**

#### **Become a Healing Presence...**

A Retreat Presented by Dr. Albert Rossi

Sponsored by Holy Trinity Orthodox Church – 1236 Juniper Street – Pottstown, PA  
[www.holytrinitypottstown.org](http://www.holytrinitypottstown.org)

**Time:** Saturday – Vespers at 5:30pm | Lenten Dinner served at 6:30pm, then First Retreat Session from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. Then Sunday – Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, then Coffee Hour and Second Retreat Session immediately following.

**Saturday, December 9 - Indoor Church Cleaning schedule for 10:00AM.** Bring your rags, buckets, feather dusters, and cleaning supplies to assist with the cleaning of the church. Dusting, vacuuming, polishing...you name the item or area...most likely it needs to be cleaned!

**Sunday, December 10 - Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree.**  
**Time: After Divine Liturgy.** Please see either Debbie Kavalkovich or Matthew Andrews today regarding the detail schedule of decorating the church and Christmas tree.

**Sunday, December 17 - Special Parish BY-LAWS Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church basement.** According to Article 10, Section 2 of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Special Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the Amvon at least one Sunday preceding the date of the meeting. This special meeting is being held for the specific purpose only of discussing the Parish By-Laws and its compliance with the OCA Statutes by December 31, 2017.



## **Prophet Zephaniah** [Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>]

The Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Prophetess Oldama. He was from the tribe of Simeon, and was the ninth of the Twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. The prophet lived at the royal court, where he preached repentance and helped King Josiah eliminate idol-worship.

He prophesied about the calamities that were to come for the people of Judea and the surrounding regions: Gaza, Ascalon, Crete, and against the Moabites, the Ammonites and the Ninevites.

## **Prophet Habakkuk** [Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>]

The Holy Prophet Habakkuk, the eighth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, was descended from the Tribe of Simeon, and he prophesied around 650 B.C.

The Prophet Habakkuk foresaw the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, the Babylonian Captivity and the later return of the captives to their native land. During the war with the Babylonians the prophet withdrew to Arabia, where the following miracle occurred. When he was bringing dinner to the reapers, he met an angel of the Lord, and instantly by the strength of his spirit he was transported to Babylon, where at the time the Prophet Daniel was languishing in prison. The food intended for the reapers assuaged the hunger of the exhausted Prophet Daniel (Dan. 14:33-37).

After the end of the war with the Babylonians, the Prophet Habakkuk returned to his homeland and died at a great old age. His relics were found at the time of Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450), together with the relics of the Prophet Micah (August 14).

The Fourth Ode of the Psalter (“O Lord, I have heard thy report, and was afraid...”) is based on Habakkuk 3:2-19.