

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, December 10, 2017 | 27th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Euphrasius of Alexandria
Saint Joasaph, Bishop of Belgorod (1754)
Martyr Gemellius of Paphlagonia (ca. 361)

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled after Divine Liturgy in the church school room.

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

Wednesday: Repose of Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1837)

Saturday: December 16 – If necessary, continue Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree before Vespers (around 2:00pm).

Saturday: December 16 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: December 17 – Sunday of the Forefathers
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
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!”

Troparion (Tone 8 – Martyrs)

Having slain the fiery ragings and fierce movements of the passions through their ascetic labors, / the Martyrs of Christ, Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus, / received grace to dispel the afflictions of the infirm and to work wonders both while alive and after death. / It is a truly great wonder that naked bones pour forth healing. // Glory to our only God and Creator!

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Martyrs)

The Lord snatched thee from the temporal army, / making thee a fellow inheritor of the eternal, O Menas; / together with Hermogenes and Eugraphus / with whom thou didst suffer, // thou art granted an incorruptible crown.

Prokeimenon (Tone 2)

The Lord is my strength and my song / He has become my salvation.
v. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 2)

- v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:12-19

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

We would like to say **"Thank You"** to all of those who spent their time yesterday and brought their energy, rags, buckets, sponges, soaps, brushes, polishes, and vacuum cleaners to assist in cleaning the Church. The whole inside area including the choir loft, altar area and vestibule look beautiful.

May God Grant You All Many Happy, Healthy, and Blessed Years!

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...

The example of Saint Alexis and his parish in returning to Orthodoxy was an encouragement to hundreds of other Uniates. The ever-memorable one was like a candle upon a candlestick giving light to others (Mt.5:15), and his flock may be likened to the leaven mixed with meal which leavened the whole (Mt.13:33). Through his fearless preaching he uprooted the tares which had sprung up in the wheat of true doctrine, and exposed the false teachings which had led his people astray. Although he did not hesitate to point out errors in the doctrines of other denominations, he was careful to warn his flock against intolerance. His writings and sermons are filled with admonitions to respect other people and to refrain from attacking their faith.

While it is true that he made some strong comments, especially in his private correspondence with the church administration, it must be remembered that this was done while defending the Orthodox Church and the American Mission from unfounded accusations by people who used much harsher language than Father Toth. His opponents may be characterized by intolerance, rude behaviour, unethical methods and threats against him and his parishioners. Yet, when Father Alexis was offended or deceived by other people he forgave them, and he would often ask his bishop to forgive his omissions and mistakes.

In the midst of great hardships, this herald of godly theology and sound doctrine poured forth an inexhaustible stream of Orthodox writings for new converts, and gave practical advice on how to live in an Orthodox manner. For example, his article "How We should Live in America" stresses the importance of education, cleanliness, sobriety, and the presence of children in church on Sundays and Holy Days.

Although the Minneapolis parish was received into the Orthodox Church in March, 1891, it was not until July, 1892 that the Holy Synod of Russia recognized and accepted the parish into the Diocese of Alaska and the Aleutians. This resolution reached America only in October, 1892. During that time there was a climate of religious and ethnic hostility against the new converts. Father Alexis was accused of selling out his own Carpatho-Russian people and his religion to the "Muscovites" for financial gain.

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
Family and Friends offered by the Daria LeRoy
Emily Albrecht, Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John Rabik Sr offered by his son Joseph Rabik
Sophie Herbert, Michael Spack Sr 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 at 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 minutes from the Fall General Parish Meeting have been posted on the bulletin board (where the sign up sheets are located). Please review them between now and the Annual Parish Meeting in January so we won't need to spend time discussing them at said next meeting.

Also, the current year-to-date financial statement report is posted on the bulletin board in its normal location. Please familiarize yourself with the current financial activity of the parish to be informed of the parish financial status when it is discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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/December)

<u>Week of Nov 27 to Dec 3</u>	<u>November Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance: 37	32 (average)
<i>Vesperal Liturgy (12/5) 8</i>	
Funds In: \$ 1,795.09	\$ 5,610.09
Funds Out: \$ 3,552.20	\$ 3,890.60
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$ 1,757.11)	\$ 1,719.49

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 Divine Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
4th 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!

TODAY – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room (2nd Sunday of each month)! All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include updates on the actions taken at the last meeting and Hall & House updates!

TODAY - 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.

Christmas Eve Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) – Sunday, December 24th – Time: approximately 12:30PM. As discussed last week after Liturgy, Christmas Eve services of Great Complines and a condensed version of Matins is scheduled for 12:30PM (About an hour after Divine Liturgy). This should give enough time for parishioners to relax and grab a quick bite (Lenten) during Fellowship Coffee Hour. Please make every effort to attend this service on the eve of Christ's Birth!

The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ Service Monday, December 25th – Hours: and Liturgy: To Be Determined!



Martyr Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus of Alexandria [Dec 10th]

The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus suffered for their faith in Christ under the emperor Maximian (305-313).

Saint Menas was sent by the emperor from Athens to Alexandria to suppress the riots that had arisen between the Christians and the pagans. Distinguished for his gift of eloquence, Menas instead openly began to preach the Christian Faith and he converted many pagans to Christ. Learning of this, Maximian sent Hermogenes to Alexandria to place the saints on trial. Moreover, he gave orders to purge the city of Christians.

Hermogenes, although he was a pagan, was distinguished by his reverent bearing. And struck by the endurance of Saint Menas under torture and by his miraculous healing after the cruel torments, he also came to believe in Christ. Maximian himself then arrived in Alexandria. Neither the astonishing stoic endurance of Saints Menas and Hermogenes under torture, nor even the miracles manifested by God in this city, mollified the emperor. Instead, they vexed him all the more. The emperor personally stabbed Saint Eugraphus, the secretary of Saint Menas, and then gave orders to behead the holy Martyrs Menas and Hermogenes.

The relics of the holy martyrs, cast into the sea in an iron chest, were afterwards found (see February 17) and transferred to Constantinople in the ninth century. The emperor Justinian built a church in the name of the holy Martyr Menas of Alexandria. Saint Joseph the Hymnographer (April 4) composed a Canon in honor of these holy martyrs.

