

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, January 28, 2018 | [Lenten Triodion Begins]

Tone 1 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Venerable Ephraim the Syrian (373-379)

New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy

Tuesday: January 30 - Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom. No Services!

Thursday: February 1 - Vespertal Liturgy for The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple at **6:30PM!**

Saturday: February 3 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: February 4 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 4 - Soup N' Bowl III Challenge immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement. Be prepared to indulge in some of the best warm and tasty soups/stews/chilis!

Sunday: February 4 – A Special Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church schoolroom will be held.

Throughout the following week there is a general dispensation from all fasting! (January 27, 2016 to February 6, 2017)

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 4 – New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, / praising her new martyrs and confessors; / hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, / venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. / Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, / they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. // By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Lenten Triodion)

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! / Let us learn humility from the Publican’s tears! / Let us cry to our Savior: “Have mercy on us, // O only merciful One!”

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – New Martyrs of Russia)

God is our refuge and strength, a help in afflictions that severely befall us.

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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)

Tone 4

- v. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:10-14

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord. O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: The readings for the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia is as follows:
Epistle – Romans 8:28-39 and Gospel - Luke 21:8-19]*

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

2018 House Blessing

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany which was on Saturday, January 6. 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 Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

2018 Mission Vespers Schedule – All services begin at **4:00PM**

Sunday, February 25 – Orthodoxy Sunday (Archbishop Mark presiding)
St. Stephen Cathedral (OCA) – Philadelphia, PA

Sunday, March 4 – St Gregory Palamas
St. George Church (ANT) – Philadelphia, PA

Sunday, March 11 – Sunday of the Cross
St Vladimir's Church (OCA) – Trenton, NJ

Sunday, March 18 – St John the Ladder
St Mary's Church (URK) – Chester, PA

Sunday, March 25 – St. Mary of Egypt
Assumption of the Holy Virgin (OCA) – Philadelphia, PA **THAT'S HERE!!!**

Since our Parish will be hosting a Mission Vespers this Lenten Season, a church cleaning is scheduled for Saturday, March 24 with a start time To Be Determined.

UPDATE: Annual Pork and/or Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday will be held on Sunday, February 11 after Divine Liturgy ONLY IF we have someone to oversee the organization of this luncheon.

Plans on organizing this luncheon will depend on whether someone will oversee this event. If not, then the parish will just have a regular Fellowship Coffee hour on that Sunday.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Emelie Albrecht, Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Emelie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson
Rick LeRoy and Emelie Albrecht offered by Daria LeRoy

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Michael Spack, Sophie Kozlowski offered by the M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

Emelie Albrecht (back in the hospital); Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Anastasia Kavalkovich (as she heads off to college); Margaret Pellack; Nancy Brasko Rabik; Michael Spack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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2018 St Tikhon's Lectionary Church Wall Calendars!

We no longer have any 2018 calendars for sale. We still a family who ordered a calendar who still needs to pick theirs up. Also, if you still owe for your calendar (\$5), please settle up your balance with a member of the parish council or someone at the candle desk. Thank You!

Parish Council Office Notification!!!

The Parish Secretary has informed the Parish Council that she will not be running for re-election for said position. Therefore, the Office of the Parish Secretary is open and the parish will be looking for a candidate to fill this vacancy during the election of parish officers 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 (January)

	<u>Week of Jan 15 to Jan 21</u>	<u>January Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	28	31 (average)
Vespers (1/20)	12	
Vespers (1/27)	10	
Funds In:	\$ 1,724.00	\$ 6,901.00
Funds Out:	\$ 3,639.45	\$ 8,025.53
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,915.45)	(\$ 1,124.53)

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.

TODAY - Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. The Spiritual Advisor will give his report and update on the 54th Diocesan Assembly. The Parish Council will give their report(s) as also will the committees of the parish. The voting on the 2018 budget as well as the election of officers will take place during the meeting. The meeting should last at least 90 minutes, but no more than 2 hours.

Sunday, February 4, 2018 – A Special Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (~~2nd Sunday of each month~~)! All property committee members are asked to attend this special meeting. Discussions will include addressing any issues regarding the Hall and the status with the tenant of the parish house. Also, any additional action(s) that need to be taken.

Soup N’ Bowl III Challenge - Sunday, February 4, 2018 after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)!

- * We are looking for participants (between 4 to 8 people) to prepare their best soup, stew, or chili and faceoff against each other (no fasting restrictions on that Sunday). Any soup, stew, or chili can be prepared. Any type of crackers or bread can be included as a compliment to the dish.
- * Participants should make enough soup, stew, or chili for the parishioners and guests (average between 30-35 people).
- * Parishioners & guests will indulge in each one of the soups, stews, and chili (at least try ½ bowl or cup of each soup) and then cast a ballot for which one they enjoyed the most.
- * The results (“Score”) will be announced by the Commissioner: Fr. Koczak
- * The winner gets to enjoy for the year that their soup, stew or chili was the best and select a charity of their choosing from the coffee hour proceeds from this event.
- * Donation of “free-will” offering will be accepted for this coffee hour event.
- * Any other ideas or suggestions, please inform a parish council member.

Bible Study – Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will be finishing up the readings and discussing of the Book of Numbers.



Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee [January 28th]

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.