

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Tone 2 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Afterfeast of the Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Into the Temple
Venerable Isidore of Pelusium (ca 436-440)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: A Special Parish Meeting will be held to conduct the Election of the Parish Council during or after the luncheon.

Today: 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!

Today: A Special Property Committee Meeting after the luncheon and Special Parish Meeting in the church schoolroom will be held.

Saturday: February 10 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: February 11 – Sunday of the Last Judgment
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 11 – Annual Pork and Roast Beef Sandwich Meatfare Sunday Luncheon after 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 1 – The Meeting of our Lord into the Temple)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! / From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / enlightening those who sat in darkness. / Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, / thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, / Who grants us the Resurrection!

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. / And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; / receive me as a penitent, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

Kontakion (Tone 1 – The Meeting of our Lord into the Temple)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb / and didst bless Simeon’s hands, O Christ God. / Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. / Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, / O only Lover of Man!

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: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. 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 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!' 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

[Instead of "It is truly meet.." we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians,
protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee!

In the shadow and letter of the Law, / let us, the faithful, discern a figure: / every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. / Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of a Father Who has no beginning, // the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. 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

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, Daria LeRoy offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

+Father John Udics on the anniversary of his falling asleep;
Emelie Albrecht (back in the hospital); Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Nancy Brasko Rabik; 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 today 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 22 to Jan 28</u>		<u>January Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	33	32 (average)
Vespersal Liturgy (2/1)	5	
Vespers (2/3)	8	
Funds In:	\$ 1,421.00	\$ 8,322.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,861.63	\$ 9,887.16
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 440.63)	(\$ 1,565.16)

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 – Special Parish Meeting to conduct Election of Parish Council after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. As a result of the lack of a quorum at the point of last week’s Annual Parish Meeting when the Election of Officers was to be held, the Parish Council decided to table this action and postpone the Election of Officers to this week (Today)! The Election of Parish Council will convene either during or right after today’s Luncheon.

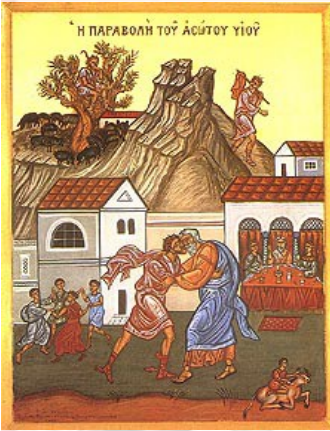
TODAY – A Special Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (~~2nd Sunday of each month~~)! All property committee members are asked to attend this special meeting. Discussions will include addressing any issues regarding the Hall and the status with the tenant of the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

TODAY - Soup N’ Bowl III Challenge 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 Prodigal Son [February 4th]

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

This parable of God’s forgiveness calls us to come to ourselves” as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being “in a far country” far from the Father’s house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only “arise and go,” confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that “home” where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn “By the Waters of Babylon.” It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today’s Gospel.