

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, September 30, 2018 | 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Greater Armenia (ca. 335)

Venerable Gregory, Abbot of Pelshme, Wonderworker of Vologda

Saint Michael, First Metropolitan of Kiev (992)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

- Today: Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy!
Topic: Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. Its history and the stories displayed on them.
- Monday: The Protection (Pokrov) of Our Most-Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
- Saturday: October 6 – The Glorification of St Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, and Apostle to the Americas
- Saturday: October 6 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!
- Sunday: October 7 – Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus in Syria
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

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 – Hieromartyr Gregory)

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / thou didst become a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, / even to the shedding of thy blood. // Hieromartyr Gregory, entreat Christ God to 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 2 – Hieromartyr Gregory)

Today, let us, the faithful, praise with songs and hymns / the admirable hierarch Gregory as an initiate in the sacred mysteries. / He was a contender for the truth, a vigilant pastor and teacher, / a light for the whole world, // interceding with Christ that our souls may be saved.

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: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

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 6:31-36

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Communion Hymn:

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

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2019 Saint Tikhon's Monastery Calendar - Taking orders now:

The parish will once again be ordering 2019 calendars from Saint Tikhon's Monastery. As a result from a generous benefactor, a donation was made to the church to cover the cost of one calendar per household for parishioners of the church.

If you wish to order additional calendars besides the one that will be ordered for your household, there is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board downstairs to do so.

The cost of the 2019 St Tikhon's calendars is \$6 per calendar. The deadline for ordering these calendars will be: Sunday, November 4, 2018!

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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

Summary of Special Parish Meeting held on Sunday, September 23, 2018

*[Editorial Note: the below information is a summation of the special parish meeting that occurred last Sunday. It is **not** the official minutes of the special parish meeting.]*

The Special Parish Meeting was called to order at 11:55AM by parish president Matthew Andrews to discuss one topic: the potential work to be performed on the lintels of the parish Hall windows. The opening pray was lead by Father Mark Koczak. Twenty-four (24) parishioners were in attendance that resulted in a quorum present at the meeting. Both Matthew and Lena Helen, Property Committee member, presented to the parish body in attendance the condition and current status of the lintels, windows, and outside walls of the Hall. The Property Committee set out to obtain bids on the work to be performed on the lintels and proposed a bid from one contractor (Palmer Masonry Restoration in Philadelphia, PA) to the parish body. The work on just the single frame window lintels on the east and west side of the Hall would cost \$7,025 and the work on just the double frame window lintels on the east and west side of the Hall would cost \$8,700. To work on all the single and double frame windows on both the east and west side of the Hall would cost \$15,725.

After a few comments on the lintel conditions and exact work needed to fix and restore the lintels, a motion was presented to the floor my Nina Patterson and seconded by Melanie Albrecht that the parish hire the contractors mentioned to perform the work on all of the lintels (both single and double frame windows) on both the east and west side of the Hall for a total of \$15,725.

Discussion on the motion followed and basically centered around the cost to the parish to fix all the lintels while there is still an uncertainty to the cost associated with the repairs to the water damage done to the church along with the unknown amount at this current time as to the proceeds to be received from the insurance claim filed on said damage. In addition, both the pros and cons were addressed as to having all the work done all at once compared to separately. Once discussion was complete, the Chair called for a vote with 23 parish members in favor, zero parish members against, with the Chair of the meeting absenting. Motion was carried!

With no other business to discuss, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn moved by Peter Parsells and seconded by Heather Parsells. All parish members voted approval to adjourn. Motion Unanimously Carried! Father Mark Koczak led the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 12:26PM.

[Note: The proposal from Palmer Masonry Restoration is posted on the bulletin board in the church basement for your viewing and reading pleasure.]

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Matesy Herbert, John Herbert, Mildred O'Shura, Joseph Herbert, Sandra Hourahan, Dr. Jane Kelly offered by M/M Herbert

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Archpriest Vincent Saverino offered by M/M Herbert
Mother Julia Gavula offered by her son Walter Gavula

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

Julia Gavula (***newly departed - Sep 5***) Grace Corba; Sandra Hourahan, Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Dr. Jane Kelly; David Pellack; Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!
In addition, Father Vincent Saverino (***newly departed - Sep 20***) and for Robert Helms (***newly departed - Sep 26***) [*Father Mark's stepfather*]

Also all those who are struggling and seeking relief in addition to all those first responders assisting them as a result of the damaging affects of Hurricane Florence along North Carolina and South Carolina.

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SUNDAY PUNDAY.....

Changing your hair to its original natural color would be going back to its roots.

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

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 – Youth Fund (*reactivated July 2018*)
- 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 (September)

	<u>Week of September 17 to September 23</u>	<u>September Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	40	35 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,582.00	\$ 6,661.76
Funds Out:	\$ 572.89	\$ 6,331.36
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) :	\$ 1,009.11	\$ 330.40

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

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 - Church Life Discussion class (The 4th 5th Sunday of the month) .

[Postponed to this day due to Special Parish Meeting on Septmeber 23!]

There is still one final remaining class discussion on The Topic – Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. It's history and the stories displayed on them. This class discussion was scheduled for June 23, but was cancelled on that Sunday and last Sunday (9/23).

St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church 42nd Annual Russian Festival

4th St & Fairmount Avenue – Philadelphia, PA October 5 to 7 2018.

The parish's popular and festive event will be held the first full weekend of October (this year from Friday, October 5 to Sunday, October 7). The weekend will feature a range of Russian food delights for lunch through dinner, live accordion music, the Sunday School's Russian Dancers, and specialty shops from Russian made artifacts, books of interest, handmade decorations, drawing opportunities, and a variety of collectibles and treasures for ones enjoyment.

Bible Study – Tuesday, October 9 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the section in the Bible – The Book of **Joshua**.

Joshua is a story of conquest and fulfillment for the people of God. After many, many years of slavery in Egypt and 40 years in the desert, the Israelites were finally allowed to enter the land promised to their fathers.

Saturday, October 13 from 9AM to 3PM –Fall Outside Church and Hall Clean Up.

With the beauty of Autumn comes the falling of the leaves, so the Property Committee is asking everyone to join them on October 13 to help clean up the church hall yard and outside property. Rain Date is October 27!

*Saturday Sunday School is scheduled to begin on a **Saturday in October**.*

Currently, a Saturday date has yet to be determined. Stay tune for date details

Cleaning Teams: Today (Sep 30): Saint Elizabeth the New Martyr
(Sandra Hourahan (Sam), Matushka Jan, David Pellack).

Next Week (Oct 7): Saint John Kochurov
(Daria and Rick LeRoy, Michael Wanenchak).



Hieromartyr Gregory the Bishop of Greater Armenia, Equal of the Apostles [September 30th]

The Hieromartyr Gregory, Enlightener of Greater Armenia, was born in the year 257. He was descended from the line of the Parthian Arsakid emperors. The father of Saint Gregory, Anak, in striving after the Armenian throne, had murdered his kinsman, the emperor Kursar, in consequence of which all the line of Anak was marked for destruction.

A certain kinsman saved Gregory: he carried off the infant from Armenia to Caesarea in Cappadocia and raised him in the Christian Faith. At maturity, Gregory married, had two sons, but soon was left a widower. Gregory raised

his sons in piety. One of them -- Orphanes, afterwards became a priest, and the other -- Arostanes, accepted monasticism and went off into the wilderness.

In order to atone for the sin of his father, who had murdered the father of Tiridates, Gregory entered into the service of the latter and was a faithful servant to him. Tiridates loved Gregory like a friend, but he was intolerant of the Christian confession of faith. After ascending the Armenian throne, he began to demand that Saint Gregory renounce the Christian Faith.

The steadfastness of the saint embittered Tiridates, and he gave his faithful servant over to cruel tortures: they suspended the sufferer head downwards with a stone about his neck, for several days they choked him with a stinking smoke, they beat and ridiculed him, and forced him to walk in iron sandals inset with nails.

At the time of these sufferings Saint Gregory sang Psalms. In prison the Lord healed all his wounds. When Gregory again stood before the emperor cheerful and unharmed, he was astonished and gave orders to repeat the torments. Saint Gregory endured them, not wavering, with all his former determination and bearing. They then poured hot tin over him and threw him into a pit filled with vipers. The Lord, however, saved His chosen one: the snakes did him no harm.

Some pious women fed him with bread, secretly lowering it into the pit. A holy angel, appeared to the martyr, strengthening and encouraging him. Saint Gregory remained in the pit for fourteen years. During this time the emperor Tiridates executed the holy virgin Saint Rhipsime, the aged abbess Gaiana and another 35 virgins from one of the monasteries of Asia Minor. As punishment for this horrible deed, the king's face became disfigured.

Saint Gregory was released from the pit, and buried the relics of the holy virgins with honor. Then he began to preach to the people, urging them to turn away from the darkness of idolatry and toward Christ. The people came to believe in Christ, and wished to build a large church. When it was completed, Saint Gregory had the relics of the holy nuns brought into it. Then he brought King Tiridates there before the bodies of the saints whom he had slain. He repented, and immediately his face was made whole once more.

Soon all of Armenia was converted to Christ. The temples of the idols were destroyed, and churches for the worship of the true God were built. Saint Gregory ordained priests, established schools, founded monasteries, and provided for the good order of the Church.

Saint Gregory went into the wilderness, where he departed to the Lord. His son Aristanes was made a bishop in Cappadocia, and was one of the 318 holy Fathers at the Council of Nicea.