

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, December 30, 2018 | 31st Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Sunday After the Nativity. | Afterfeast of the Nativity

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. | Sunday Before the Theophany

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

From Christmas Day until January 4, inclusive, there is a general dispensation from all fasting!

- Today: Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.
The Topic: Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Arrangements and Beauty of the Eight Tones during all Liturgical Services.
- Saturday: January 5 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!** *[Note Time Change]*
Eve of Theophany | Litya with Blessing of Water
[Strict Fast Day!]
- Sunday: January 6 – Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday: January 8 - Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement. Continue reading the Book of Judges & Ruth.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Nativity)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shown to the world the light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

Troparion (Tone 2 – Righteous Ones)

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; / and thou gavest glory with the shepherds; / thou didst worship with the magi, / and didst receive the news from the angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Righteous Ones)

Today godly David is filled with joy; / Joseph and James offer praise. / The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. / They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, // and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Nativity)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. / Angels with shepherds glorify Him; / the Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

God is wondrous in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle Reading: Gal 1:11-19 (Sunday After)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 6)

- v. He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Remember David, O Lord, and all his meekness. [TONE 4]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-23 (Sunday After)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
 more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!
 I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:
 Heaven—the cave!
 The cherubic throne—the Virgin!
 The manger—the place where Christ lay,
 the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song!

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)

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

2019 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 is Sunday, 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.

2019 January & February Calendar Dates:

January 5 – Eve of Holy Theophany
January 6 – Holy Theophany – Liturgy at 10am
January 9 – Bible Study at 6:30pm
January 12 or 19 – Saturday Sunday School (pending schedule availability)
January 13 - Property Committee Meeting
January 20 – Great Blessing of the Water on the Schuylkill River
January 20 – Church Life Discussion Class on the Tones
January 24 and 25 – 55th Diocesan Assembly in Bethlehem, PA
January 27 – Annual Parish Meeting after Liturgy
January 30 – Three Hierarchs
February 1 and 2 – Meeting of our Lord in the Temple (Services TBD)
February 3 – Soup N’ Bowl IV after Liturgy
February 10 – Zacchaeus Sunday (Yes, already getting ready for Lent!)
February 10 – Property Committee Meeting
February 12 – Bible Study at 6:30pm
March 3 - Meatfare Sunday with Annual Roast Beef/Pork Luncheon
March 10 – Cheesefare and Forgiveness Sunday. Vespers after Liturgy
March 11 – GREAT LENT BEGINS
March 25 – Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos
April 21 – Palm Sunday
April 28 – PASCHA!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Margaret Pellack offered by Pellack Family
David Albrecht Sr offered by Melanie Albrecht
John and Jen at Reilly Candles offered by Reilly Candles Company
Anastasia, Patricia, Kenneth, Alexander, Marc, Albert, Catherine, Barbara, Norman, Matthew, Allison, Christopher and Allison & their unborn child, David, Christina, and All of our Friends offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

Offered on Christmas Day (Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ)

Marvis offered by Pellack Family
Family and Parishioners offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich
Patricia, Anastasia, William, Marc, Catherine, Albert, Allison & her unborn child, Katherine, Lawrence, David, Alexander, Sharon, Richard, Karen offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Sophie Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Jim Liddy offered by Nina Patterson
Louisa Sutera offered by Melanie Albrecht
Paul and Julia Gavula offered by their son Walter Gavula

Offered on Christmas Day (Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ)

Miss Elizabeth offered by Pellack Family
John Pellack, William and Anna Zuzulock offered by Pellack Family
John and Anna Rabik offered by Joseph Rabik
Michael Popelak offered by Mary Ann Brodie

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Dr. Jane Kelly; Luke Emmanuel Parsells (**Baptized – Dec 29**) Heather Parsells; Peter Parsells; David Pellack; Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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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 (December)

| | <u>Week of December 17 to December 23</u> | <u>December Month-to-date</u> |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Attendance: | 44 | 41 (average) |
| <i>Chrsitmas Eve</i> | <i>25</i> | |
| <i>Christmas Day</i> | <i>48</i> | |
| Funds In: | \$ 2,335.62 | \$ 9,240.62 |
| Funds Out: | \$ 1,399.23 | \$ 9,363.06 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit): | \$ 936.39 | (\$ 122.44) |

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) The Topic: Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Arrangements and Beauty of the Eight Tones during all Liturgical Services. Please note the class will be held on the 5th Sunday of the month as a result of preparations for the Christmas Eve and Nativity services that will occur on the Monday and Tuesday after the 4th Sunday of December this calendar year.

Bible Study – Tuesday, January 8 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and finish up reading and discussing the section in the Bible – The Book of **Judges** and **Ruth**.

Sunday, January 13, 2019 – 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 any follow-ups from the previous meeting; Church status from the recent water damage on north side of building; Hall status update; tenant situation at 2109 house; and the work performed on 2111 house.

Great Blessing of the Waters – Sunday, January 20, 2019 – 3PM!

The Pan-Orthodox Christian Brotherhood of Greater Philadelphia announces a joint Orthodox Christian Celebration of Epiphany on January 21, 2018 at 3pm along the Schuylkill River at the Fairmont Boat House, located at 2 Boathouse Row and Kelly Drive, Philadelphia, PA. This traditional service known as “The Greater Blessing of the Waters” will commemorate the Baptism of Jesus Christ in the River Jordan by St. John the Baptist. For more information please speak with Father Mark Koczak about this event.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

The Spiritual Advisor's report, the Treasurer's report, the voting on the 2019 budget, will take place during the meeting along with any other business that needs to be discussed. The election of the 2019 parish council officers took place during the Fall Parish meeting back in November.

Cleaning Teams: Today (Dec 30): Saint John Kochurov
(Rick LeRoy, Daria LeRoy, and Michael Wanenchak).

Next Week (Jan 6): Saint Alexander Hotovitzky
(Brett McKenna, Tanya Krawchuck, Pete Witiak).



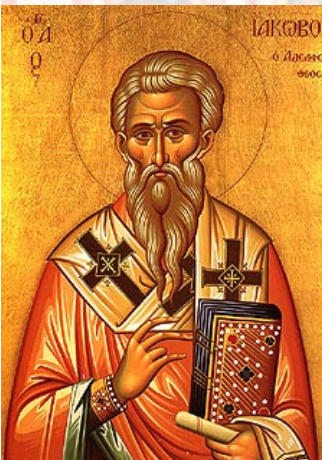
Holy Righteous Joseph the Betrothed [December 30th]

Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. In his first marriage, he had four sons and two daughters. After he became a widower, St Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity.

An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. St Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God

and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter. St Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred.

St Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, his Feast is moved to December 26. The Righteous Joseph is also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers.



Holy Righteous James the Brother of the Lord [December 30th]

The Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, was the eldest son of Joseph the Betrothed from his first marriage with Solomonia. The Apostle James is remembered after the Feast of the Nativity of Christ together with his father Joseph and the Prophet-King David, since he accompanied his family on the Flight into Egypt and lived there with the Infant Jesus, the Mother of God and Joseph. Later, he returned to Israel with them.

After the Ascension of the Lord, St James was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, gaining the great esteem not only of Christians, but also of Jews. He was thrown from the roof of the Jerusalem Temple because he had publicly preached to the people about the God-manhood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Apostle James is also commemorated on October 23.