

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, January 6, 2019 | 32nd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 7 – The Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Venerable Macarius of Mt. Athos (1431)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

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

Saturday: January 12 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!** *[Note Time Change]*

Sunday: January 13 – Afterfeast of the Theophany
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: January 13 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy
in the church basement.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1 – Feast Day)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, / and called Thee His beloved Son; / and the Spirit in the form of a dove / confirmed the truthfulness of His word. / O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself //and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Feast Day)

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, / and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. / Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises. / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O unapproachable Light.

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, / have put on Christ.
Alleluia. (3x's)

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.
v. O give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.

Epistle Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God, Offer young rams to the Lord.
Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters, the God of glory thunders, the
Lord is upon the many waters! Alleluia(3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

[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!

No tongue knows how to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos;
even Angels are overcome with awe praising thee.
But since thou art good, accept our faith;
for thou knowest our love inspired by God.
Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee.

Communion Hymn:

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all. 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!

As a result of our church holding its Annual Parish Meeting three Sunday from today, the next Church Life Discussion Lecture on the Tones will be held in two weeks on **Sunday, January 20, 2019** after Divine Liturgy up in the Church.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Happy and Healthy New Year for all parishioners offered by Joseph Rabik
Happy and Healthy New Year for all parishioners 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:

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 24 to December 30</u>	<u>December Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	36	42 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 3,209.00	\$ 12,449.62
Funds Out:	\$ 4,910.25	\$ 14,273.31
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,701.25)	(\$ 1,823.69)

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.

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 20, 2019 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 Kozak about this event.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #1 of 3.

According to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A. of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Annual and General Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the Meeting. The Spiritual Advisor’s report, the Treasurer’s report, the voting on the 2019 budget, and the election of officers 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 2018.

Cleaning Teams:

Today (Jan 6): Saint Alexander Hotovitzky
(Brett McKenna, Tanya Krawchuck, Pete Witak).

Next Week (Jan 13): Saint Bridget of Ireland
(Catherine Kavalkovich, Al Kavalkovich, Emily Gerasimoff, Simon Herbert).



Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [January 6th]

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.