

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 20, 2019 | 34th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – Venerable Euthymius the Great (473)

Martyrs Innas, Pinnas, and Rimmas, disciples of Apostle Andrew
Martyrs Bassus, Eusebius, Euthychius and Basilides at Nicomedia

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.
Topic: Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Arrangements and Beauty of the Eight Tones during all Liturgical Services.

Thursday: 55th Diocesan Assembly – Bethlehem, PA.

Friday: 55th Diocesan Assembly – Bethlehem, PA.

Saturday: January 26 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!** *[Note Time Change]*

Sunday: January 27 – Translation of the Relics of St John
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: January 27 – Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy.

Sunday: January 27 - Great Blessing of Water begins at **3:00PM** along Boathouse Row on the Schuylkill River.
[Rescheduled from January 20 due to inclement weather]

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 – Venerable Euthymius)

Rejoice, barren wilderness! / Be glad, sterile desert that has never known the travail of birth! / The man of desires, Euthymius, has multiplied thy sons; / he has planted them in faith and piety. / He has watered them with the Holy Spirit; / they grow in self-denial and perfect virtue. // Through his intercessions, Christ our God, preserve Thy people in peace!

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 8 – Venerable Euthymius)

The wilderness rejoiced at thy birth, holy Father Euthymius. / In thy memory, it brings a harvest of joy through thy many miracles. / Pour the wonders on our souls as well and cleanse us from our sins, / that we may sing: “Alleluia!”

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)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

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)
- v. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 6]

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:35-43

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for Venerable Euthymius are as follows:
Epistle – Hebrews 13:17-21 and Gospel – Luke 6:17-23]*

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.

Soup N' Bowl IV Challenge - Sunday, February 3, 2019 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 1/2 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.

2019 January & February Calendar Dates:

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 27 – Great Blessing of the Water on the Schuylkill River
February 2 – Meeting of our Lord in the Temple (Services TBD)
February 3 – Soup N' Bowl IV after Divine Liturgy
February 10 – Zacchaeus Sunday

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Parishioners offered by Pellack Family
Lynn Perozzi offered by Pellack Family

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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The **55th Diocesan Assembly** will be held this week (Thursday, January 24 and Friday, January 25) at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Bethlehem PA. Father Mark will be attending the Assembly both days and the parish has scheduled one of our parishioners to attend the Friday sessions as our parish delegate. Any pertinent information or action taken during the Assembly will be reported by the parish representatives during our Annual Parish Meeting next week (Sunday, January 27) after Divine Liturgy.

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 (January)

	<u>Week of January 7 to January 13</u>	<u>January Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	30	34 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,958.00	\$ 5,968.00
Funds Out:	\$ 6,223.05	\$ 6,223.05
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 3,265.05)	(\$ 255.05)

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 3rd 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 3rd Sunday of this month as a result of both our Annual Parish Meeting next Sunday AND the rescheduling of the Great Blessing of the Waters on the Schuylkill River also for next Sunday.

Great Blessing of the Waters – Sunday, January 27, 2019 – 3PM!

The Pan-Orthodox Christian Brotherhood of Greater Philadelphia announces a joint Orthodox Christian Celebration of Epiphany on January 27, 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. [PLEASE NOTE RESCHEDULING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER!]

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

Soup N' Bowl IV Challenge – Sunday February 3, 2019 after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)! We are looking for participants to prepare their best soup, stew, or chili and faceoff against each other once again. The parishioners & guest will indulge in each dish & cast a ballot for which one they enjoy the most. Additional details to follow!

Cleaning Teams: Today (Jan 20): Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (Mark Klus, Tish Berchtold, Sheba Patton, Barbara Andrews).
Next Week (Jan 27): Saint Herman of Alaska (Peter & Heather Parsells, Gale Rutan, Joseph Francis).



Venerable Euthymius the Great [January 20th]

Saint Euthymius the Great came from the city of Melitene in Armenia, near the River Euphrates. His parents, Paul and Dionysia, were pious Christians of noble birth. After many years of marriage they remained childless, and in their sorrow they entreated God to give them offspring. Finally, they had a vision and heard a voice saying, "Be of good cheer! God will grant you a son, who will bring joy to the churches." The child was named Euthymius ("good cheer").

Saint Euthymius' father died soon after this, and his mother, fulfilling her vow to dedicate her son to God, gave him to her brother, the priest Eudoxius, to be educated. He presented the child to Bishop Eutronius of Melitene who accepted him with love. Seeing his good conduct, the bishop soon made him a Reader.

Saint Euthymius later became a monk and was ordained to the holy priesthood. At the same time, he was entrusted with the supervision of all the city monasteries. Saint Euthymius often visited the monastery of Saint Polyeuctus, and during Great Lent he withdrew into the wilderness. His responsibility for the monasteries weighed heavily upon the ascetic, and conflicted with his desire for stillness, so he secretly left the city and headed to Jerusalem. After venerating the holy shrines, he visited the Fathers in the desert.

Since there was a solitary cell in the Tharan lavra, he settled into it, earning his living by weaving baskets. Nearby, his neighbor Saint Theoctistus (September 3) also lived in asceticism. They shared the same zeal for God and for spiritual struggles, and each strove to attain what the other desired. They had such love for one another that they seemed to share one soul and one will.

Every year, after the Feast of Theophany, they withdrew into the desert of Coutila (not far from Jericho). One day, they entered a steep and terrifying gorge with a stream running through it. They saw a cave upon a cliff, and settled there. The Lord, however, soon revealed their solitary place for the benefit of many people. Shepherds driving their flocks came upon the cave and saw the monks. They went back to the village and told people about the ascetics living there.

People seeking spiritual benefit began to visit the hermits and brought them food. Gradually, a monastic community grew up around them. Several monks came from the Tharan monastery, among them Marinus and Luke. Saint Euthymius entrusted the supervision of the growing monastery to his friend Theoctistus.

Saint Euthymius exhorted the brethren to guard their thoughts. "Whoever desires to lead the monastic life should not follow his own will. He should be obedient and humble, and be mindful of the hour of death. He should fear the judgment and eternal fire, and seek the heavenly Kingdom."

The saint taught young monks to fix their thoughts on God while engaging in physical labor. "If laymen work in order to feed themselves and their families, and to give alms and offer sacrifice to God, then are not we as monks obliged to work to sustain ourselves and to avoid idleness? We should not depend on strangers."

The saint demanded that the monks keep silence in church during services and at meals. When he saw young monks fasting more than others, he told them to cut off their own will, and to follow the appointed rule and times for fasting. He urged them not to attract attention to their fasting, but to eat in moderation.

In these years Saint Euthymius converted and baptized many Arabs. Among them were the Saracen leaders Aspebet and his son Terebon, both of whom Saint Euthymius healed of sickness. Aspebet received the name Peter in Baptism and afterwards he was a bishop among the Arabs.

Word of the miracles performed by Saint Euthymius spread quickly. People came from everywhere to be healed of their ailments, and he cured them. Unable to bear human fame and glory, the monk secretly left the monastery, taking only his closest disciple Dometian with him. He withdrew into the Rouba desert and settled on Mt. Marda, near the Dead Sea.

[The above is an excerpt from the life of Venerable Euthymius. His complete life story can be found on the oca.org website under the Lives of the Saints section]