

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### Sunday, June 23, 2019 | 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Synaxis of All Saints

Martyrs Agrippina of Rome (253-260)

Martyrs Eustochius, Gaius, Probus, Lolitius, and Urban, of Ancyra

#### V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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### Weekly Schedule

Monday: Beginning of the Apostles' (Saints Peter and Paul) Fast!  
*(This fast is 5 days (June 24 to June 28) this year!)*

Monday: Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet and Baptist, John

Friday: June 28 - Vespertal Divine Liturgy at 6:00PM for the  
Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29)

Saturday: June 29 - Great Vespers at 4:00PM!

Sunday: June 30 - Sunday of All Saints of America and Russia!  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: June 30 – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the  
Church Basement!

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 8)**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to thee!

### **Troparion (Tone 4)**

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, / Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world. / She cries to Thee, O Christ God: / "Send down Thy bounties on Thy people, // Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

### **Kontakion (Tone 8)**

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs, / as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. / By their prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace // through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 8)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!  
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

### **Another Prokeimenon (Saints) (Tone 4)**

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

### **Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:33-12:2**

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their troubles. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, and the Lord will deliver them out of them all. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:32-33,37-38; 19:27-30**

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you 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

### **TODAY at 3PM – Philadelphia Boys Choir & Chorale**

Our very own William and the Philadelphia Boys Choir & Chorale (PBCC) will be performing TODAY at 3:00PM in Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center located at 300 South Broad Street. The choir will present the world premiere of *Cipher*, a new work by Daniel Bernard Roumain, and lyricist Marc Bamuthi Joseph. They will also perform Benjamin Britten's *The Golden Vanity*, a short one-act opera written in 1966 for boys choir and piano. Tickets start at \$25. Please see Lena Helen for additional concert information and how to purchase tickets.

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### **Church Life Discussion Class is now on Summer Recess!**

However, the Church Life Discussion Class will resume on Sunday, September 22, 2019. We will remain with the topic: Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Arrangements and Beauty of the Eight Tones during all Liturgical Services.

This past year was a challenge to hold the Discussion Class on a regular monthly basis due to cancellations and rescheduling for one reason or another. Therefore, Father Mark will reintroduce the class from the beginning so that everyone attending is on the same page.

The remaining Fall Sundays in 2019 the class will be held are: October 27, November 24, and December 22. Please keep these dates in your reminder calendar if you wish on attending these discussion classes. Thank You!

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### **Parish Restoration Project:**

Please visit the parish website and click on the Restoration Project section to read a brief note on the additional work needed to restore the parish. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time, at your convenience, and providing the talents God has given you, please contact anyone on the Parish Council or the Property Committee to schedule a date, time, and task. Thank

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### **AMAZON SMILE!**

When ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

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### **Wool Donations:**

The Parish is now accepting either actual donations of wool or monetary donations to purchase wool to knit blankets and hats. Please see Dr. Janine McCartney for more details on this project!

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Parishioners and Family offered by Nina Patterson  
McFeefrey Family offered by Pellack Family

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

John Rabik Sr. offered by his son Joseph Rabik  
Peter and Helen Zuzulock offered by the Pellack Family  
Olga Zuzulock offered by the Pellack Family  
John Pellack offered by the Pellack Family  
Andrew Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Albert Kavall offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
John Rabik offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 6/16/19:**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Catherine Kavalkovich; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Father Mark Koczak (bad back); Matushka Jan Koczak (recovery after knee surgery); Sheba Patton; Margaret Pellack; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Remember the 12 victims and the many injured in the senseless atrocity against humanity at the city public works department in the Virginia Beach Municipal Centre in Virginia Beach, VA on Friday, May 31.

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**Cookbook Sale:**

The parish cookout, *At Our Table*, is for sale in the church basement and also on Amazon.com website. Please speak with Dr. Janine McCartney for more information on the parish cookbooks.

**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 (June)**

	<u>Week of June 10 to June 16</u>	<u>June Month-to-Date</u>	
Attendance:	41	42 (average)	
Funds In:	\$ 1,454.80	\$ 8,326.20	
Funds Out:	\$ 897.00	\$ 3,493.55	
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 557.80	\$ 4,832.65	4832.65

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

**Friday, June 28 – Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (June 29<sup>th</sup>) at 6:00PM!**

**Parish Council (Quarterly) Meeting – Sunday, June 30 – after Divine Liturgy in church basement Sunday school room!**

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

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will continue the readings and discussing the section in the Bible – The Books of **Samuel**.

**Sunday, July 14 – Archbishop MARK Visitation**

His Eminence, Archbishop MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania will be visiting our parish and serving in a full pontifical Divine Liturgy.

His visit is in coordination with the ordination of the Reader Michael McCartney to the Holy Diaconate AND the ordination of the Reader Daniel Kenneth Kavalkovich to SubDeacon. AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!

**Sunday, July 21 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday this month – Please Note Change in Date)!** All property committee members are asked to attend this important meeting. Discussions will include the work to repair the roof and wall as a result of the action taken during the Spring General Parish Meeting.

**Cleaning Teams:** Today (June 23): Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (Mark Klus, Tish Berchtold, Barbara Andrews, Sheba Patton).  
Next Week (June 30): Saint Herman of Alaska (Heather & Peter Parsells, Dr Gale Rutan & Joseph Francis).



## Synaxis of All Saints [June 23<sup>rd</sup>]

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

St Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories. The list of St Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. St Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks & nuns are useless and unproductive, St John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31).