

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> St. & Snyder Ave.)  
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### **Sunday, August 4, 2019 | 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 6 – Holy Seven Youths of Ephesus (250)

Martyr Eudoxia of Persia (362-364).

Martyr Eleutherius of Constantinople (4<sup>th</sup> c.)

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

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*Parish President - Matthew Andrews*

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### **Weekly Schedule**

Tomorrow: August 5 – Vespers Divine Liturgy at **6:00PM** for Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ!

[\[Please bring fruit \(vegetables\) to be blessed after Service\]](#)

Wednesday: August 7 – Deadline to RSVP to Matushka Jan on attending Dining Out in Delaware at Iron Hill Riverfront!

Friday: August 9 – Venerable Herman of Alaska

Saturday: August 10 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: August 11 – Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Euplus

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: August 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement Sunday school room.

## 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 – Holy Seven Youths of Ephesus)**

Thy seven holy martyrs, O Lord, / through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God. / For having Thy strength they laid low their adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through their intercessions, save our souls!

### **Kontakion (Tone 6)**

When Christ God the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Holy Seven Youths of Ephesus)**

The Seven Holy Youths renounced the perishing comforts of this world, / preferring the eternal things of Heaven. / They were incorrupt after death and rose from the dead / and buried the snares of the devils. // O Faithful, let us then honor them, singing a hymn of praise to Christ!

### **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!

### **Epistle Reading: Romans 15:1-7**

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

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)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:27-35**

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

**REMINDER:**

Father Mark is in Western Virginia this weekend. He will be back to serve the Vespers Divine Liturgy on Monday, August 5 at 6:00PM for the Transfiguration of Our Lord

**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

We would like to welcome today to our parish Father Dennis Rhodes, retired and attached to Saints Peter and Paul Church on Old Bustleton Ave in Philadelphia, PA. Please introduce yourself and give Father Dennis a warm South Philly welcome.

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THANK YOU to Matushka Janine McCartney for overseeing the backpack project for the Philadelphia School District and to Jennifer Cantrell who oversaw the putting together of the school supplies into the backpacks. We would also like to say Thank you to the hard working volunteers who put those school backpacks together – Joachim Cantrell, Henry Cantrell, Teddy Cantrell, and Miriam Cantrell.

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You will notice the parish spent \$54,705.39 during the week of July 22-28 which covered the following expenses: A \$24,243.50 initial payment to the contractor who will begin working on repairing the church roof and cupolas; A \$26,345 payment to cover one year of insurance for the parish properties; and a \$3,526.25 quarterly payment for liability insurance coverage for the parish.

The payment to the contractor is a portion of the amount from the insurance claim proceed the parish received back in March of this year. The payments for insurance coverage are to new providers since our previous insurance provider, Church Mutual, did not renew our policy coverage for the upcoming year (the parish was considered “high risk” due to the number of claims filed and the proceeds received from those claims.

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### **Church School Outing – Saturday, August 24**

The Church School will have a Youth Outing to FunSplash Water Park in NJ. If our child is interest in attending, please speak to Lena Helen for further details

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### **Sunday School Classes to Resume in September:**

This upcoming Sunday School year classes will be held on Sunday. In September, classes will be held on September 8, September 15, and September 22 for approximately 20 minutes between right after communion and before coffee hour begins. The facilitators will be Father Mark Koczak, Lena Helen, and Jen Cantrell.

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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:**

Gary Race offered by the Pellack Family  
Ronald and Lorraine Kavalkovich on their anniversary offered by  
Catherine Kavalkovich

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Irene offered by her brother Joseph Rabik  
John Perozzi offered by the Pellack Family  
Maxim Herbert, Mary Herbert and Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Stanley Walzelek offered by M/M Herbert  
Anatoliy Podgorskiy offered by his daughter Olga Podgorskiy  
Father Sergius Willis on his fifth anniversary offered by parish parishioners

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 7/28/19:**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Matushka Jan Kozak (knee rehabilitaion); Sheba Patton; Margaret Pellack; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Additionally, remember the victims and injured from the senseless tragedy which occurred yesterday morning in El Paso, Texas .

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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 (July)**

	<u>Week of July 22 to July 28</u>	<u>July Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	32	50 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,251.00	\$ 7,881.31
Funds Out:	\$ 54,705.39	\$ 60,327.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 53,454.39)	(\$ 52,445.69)

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

**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.

**TOMORROW - Monday, August 5 – Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of the Transfiguration of our Lord at 6:00PM!**

Father Mark will bless Fruit (and vegetables) after the service.

**Sunday, August 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month).** All property committee members are asked to attend this meeting. Discussions will include the status of the work to repair the roof and cupolas, and any other topics regarding parish property along with feedback from the July 21 Joint parish council/property committee Mtg

**Bible Study – Tuesday, August 13 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**.

**Dormition of the Most Holy Lady Theotokos Services**

Father Mark will confirm by next Sunday (Aug 11) as to what time services will be held for this blessed Holy Day and Name's Day of the parish.

Wednesday, August 14 – Eve of Dormition of Theotokos – Vespers – Time: TBD

Thursday, August 15 – Feast of the Dormition – Divine Liturgy – Time: TBD

**Sunday, August 25 at 2:00PM - Dining Out in Delaware - Ironhill Brewery Restaurant in Wilmington, DE (a social event for the parish)!**

Please contact Matushka Jan in person, by phone (House #302.322.0943), or email (jakoczak@gmail.com) whether you will be attending so reservations can be made. **The reservation deadline is Wednesday, August 7!!**

A parish wide email was sent to all parishes with emails on details of this great event!

The phone number for Ironhill Brewery in Delaware is 302-472-2739

**Saturday, September 14 – Fellowship Potluck Picnic with Gods House**

Our parish along with Gods House's congregation will be having a joint picnic on Saturday, September 14 following the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross. Please RSVP Martha Palubniak if you plan to attend. This is an opportunity to get to meet and know our neighbors!

**Cleaning Teams:** Today (Aug 4): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia  
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).

Next Week (Aug 11): Saint Elizabeth - New Martyr  
(Emily Gerasimoff, Sandra Hourahan, Samantha Hourahan).

## Holy Seven Youths “Seven Sleepers” of Ephesus [August 4<sup>th</sup>]



The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the third century. Saint Maximilian was the son of the Ephesus city administrator, and the other six youths were sons of illustrious citizens of Ephesus. The youths were friends from childhood, and all were in military service together.

When the emperor Decius (249-251) arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizens to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Torture and death awaited anyone who disobeyed. The seven youths were denounced by informants, and were summoned to reply to the charges. Appearing before the emperor, the young men confessed their faith in Christ.

Their military belts and insignia were quickly taken from them. Decius permitted them to go free, however, hoping that they would change their minds while he was off on a military campaign. The youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon, where they passed their time in prayer, preparing for martyrdom.

The youngest of them, Saint Iamblicus, dressed as a beggar and went into the city to buy bread. On one of his excursions into the city, he heard that the emperor had returned and was looking for them. Saint Maximilian urged his companions to come out of the cave and present themselves for trial.

Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor ordered that the entrance of the cave be sealed with stones so that the saints would perish from hunger and thirst. Two of the dignitaries at the blocked entrance to the cave were secret Christians. Desiring to preserve the memory of the saints, they placed in the cave a sealed container containing two metal plaques. On them were inscribed the names of the seven youths and the details of their suffering and death.

The Lord placed the youths into a miraculous sleep lasting almost two centuries. In the meantime, the persecutions against Christians had ceased. During the reign of the holy emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) there were heretics who denied that there would be a general resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them said, “How can there be a resurrection of the dead when there will be neither soul nor body, since they are disintegrated?” Others affirmed, “The souls alone will have a restoration, since it would be impossible for bodies to arise and live after a thousand years, when even their dust would not remain.” Therefore, the Lord revealed the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead and of the future life through His seven saints.

The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated, discovered the stone construction, and his workers opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord had kept the youths alive, and they awoke from their sleep, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed. Their bodies and clothing were completely undecayed.

Preparing to accept torture, the youths once again asked Saint Iamblicus to buy bread for them in the city. Going toward the city, the youth was astonished to see a cross on the gates. Hearing the name of Jesus Christ freely spoken, he began to doubt that he was approaching his own city.

When he paid for the bread, Iamblicus gave the merchant coins with the image of the emperor Decius on it. He was detained, as someone who might be concealing a horde of old money. They took Saint Iamblicus to the city administrator, who also happened to be the Bishop of Ephesus. Hearing the bewildering answers of the young man, the bishop perceived that God was revealing some sort of mystery through him, and went with other people to the cave.

At the entrance to the cave the bishop found the sealed container and opened it. He read upon the metal plaques the names of the seven youths and the details of the sealing of the cave on the orders of the emperor Decius. Going into the cave and seeing the saints alive, everyone rejoiced and perceived that the Lord, by waking them from their long sleep, was demonstrating to the Church the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead.

Soon the emperor himself arrived in Ephesus and spoke with the young men in the cave. Then the holy youths, in sight of everyone, lay their heads upon the ground and fell asleep again, this time until the General Resurrection.

The emperor wanted to place each of the youths into a jeweled coffin, but they appeared to him in a dream and said that their bodies were to be left upon the ground in the cave. In the twelfth century the Russian pilgrim Igumen Daniel saw the holy relics of the seven youths in the cave.