

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

### Sunday, November 17, 2019 | 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – St Gregory the Wonderworker of Neo-Caesarea (ca 266-70)

Venerable Lazarus the Iconographer, of Constantinople (ca. 857)

Martyr Gobron (Michael) and 133 soldiers, of Georgia (914)

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

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Parish President - Matthew Andrews

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### Weekly Schedule

Today: A Very Brief Property Committee Meeting will be held in the church basement. *[NOTE CHANGE OF DATE]*

Today: Parish Council Meeting after Divine Liturgy. Meeting to discuss the 5-year Strategic Planning for the parish.

Tuesday: Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement.  
*[NOTE CHANGE OF DATE]*

Wednesday: Vespers Liturgy for the Entrance of the Most Holy Lady Theotokos into the Temple will be at 6:00PM!

Saturday: November 23 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: November 24 – Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: November 24 – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy

## **Texts for the Liturgical Service**

### **Troparion (Tone 5)**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

### **Troparion (Tone 8 – Hierarch Gregory the Wonderworker)**

Thou didst become worthy of thy name\* through thy way of life; / through thy vigilance in prayer and thy constant works of mercy. / Therefore, O Father Gregory, beseech Christ God to enlighten our minds, // that we may not sleep in sin, which leads to death!

### **Kontakion (Tone 5)**

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

### **Kontakion (Tone 2 – Hierarch Gregory the Wonderworker)**

Thou didst receive the power to perform miracles, / frightening the devils and healing the sick through thy wonderworking. / O All-wise Father Gregory, // thy deeds truly entitle thee to be called Wonderworker.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 5)**

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!  
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

### **Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18**

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 12:16-21**

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.' And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! 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

## Advent Season Tutelage - 2019

We are once again providing an Advent tutelage for those who are unable to attend or view either the Bible Study or Church Life Discussion Classes during the Advent Season but wish to still remain closer to God as we prepare for the Holy Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This season we will provide information on the Life of another North American Saint. The past two years we provided information on the life of Saint Alexis Toth and Saint Juvenal of Alaska. This year we will offer information on the life of Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, Missionary to America & Hieromartyr under Bolshevik. So let's begin...

The ordination took place at the diocesan cathedral in San Francisco. In his address to the newly-ordained Father Alexander, Bishop Nicholas explained his selection of the new priest for ordained ministry in these words:

“Your special sense of decency, your good upbringing, your noble idealism, and your sincere piety immediately caused me to look favorably upon you and compelled me to single you out among the young people, with whom you used to visit me in Saint Petersburg...I could see that you had that special spark from God, which makes any service an action truly done for God's sake, and without which a vocation becomes soul-less and dead work...Your first experience in preaching has shown you the power of this kind of inspiration: you saw how the people gathered around you and how attentively they stood and listened at length to your discourses... Why did these people listen to you rather than going to hear other preachers? Clearly the spark which burns within you attracts the hearts of these people like a magnet.”

A week after his ordination, the young priest returned to New York to assume the pastorate of the parish where he had previously served as reader. From 1898 to 1907, the New Martyr Alexander served as a pastor under the omophorion of Bishop Tikhon. Saint Tikhon, who, in the tragic year of 1917, was to be elevated by Divine Providence to the primatial see as Patriarch of Moscow, valued highly Father Alexander's sincere piety, his gift of pastoral love, and his multifaceted theological erudition. The spectrum of his activity in the United States was quite broad and very fruitful. He was successful in missionary service, primarily among Uniates newly-emigrated from Galicia and Carpathian Rus. He was also one of the closest collaborators of the Orthodox archpastors in America and represented the Orthodox Church before American religious institutions and meetings.

Saint Alexander Hotovitzky's Life to be continued in next week's bulletin.



### **Afghan donation to Wissahickon Hospice**

Matushka Janine, on behalf of the parish, presented finished afghans to Peggy Bretschneider from Wissahickon Hospice. This project is part of our Parish Community Works Project for the Advent season. A big Thank You to all who donated wool and assisted in making the afghans.

## **Announcements** (cont.)

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

#### **Health for the Living:**

Richard Samuals, Ken Walker offered by the Pellack Family  
Laura Kalish, Paul Searles offered by the Pellack Family  
Kimberly Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Albert, Catherine, Matthew offered by K Kavalkovich Family  
Marc Sr, Marc Jr, Ronald, Sharon offered by K Kavalkovich Family  
Albert Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Ronald Andrew Kavalkovich, Helen Boyce offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich

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

#### **Memory for the Departed:**

Alex Mackiewicz Jr, Florence Sauchak offered by the Pellack Family  
Florence Telichan, Julia Jugan offered by the Pellack Family  
Benjamin, Olga, and the Reader Leonty Macalush offered by M/M Herbert

#### **May Their Memories Be Eternal**

### **Vigil Cross Candles – 11/10/19:**

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#### **Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Sheba Patton; Margaret Pellack; Father John Bohush (retired); Father Gregory Winsky (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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#### **Parish Community Work Projects**

In the October 13 bulletin, and posted on the parish bulletin boards, there is an informational flyer on some of the projects the parish is undertaking. Besides the donations of yarn and old eyeglasses, along with our parish cookbook sales, there are also opportunities for our Advent projects such as craft fair and basket sale, along with donations towards St Herman's of Alaska Seminary, St Tikhon's Seminary, and the Veterans Center in Philadelphia.

For more information and donation giving on our Parish Community Work Projects, please read the information flyers or see Matushka Janine McCartyney for details. Thank you in advance for your support to these projects.



## Announcements (cont.)

**Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!**

**\*\*\*\*\*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 (November)

	<u>Week of November 4 to November 10</u>	<u>November Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	36	34 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,669.00	\$ 2,919.70
Funds Out:	\$ 823.67	\$ 2,444.27
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 845.33	\$ 475.43

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 either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich 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.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

### **Readers Schedule:**

	Today (Nov 17)	Next Week (Nov 24)
3rd Hour :	Dave Albrecht	Simon Herbert
6th Hour:	Mark Klus	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich
Epistle:	David Pellack	Lena Helen

### **Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:**

Today (Nov 17): Saint Bridget of Ireland  
(Catherine & Albert Kavalkovich, Simon Herbert)

Next Week (Nov 24): Saint Raphael of Brooklyn  
(Mark Klus, Tish Berchtold, Barbara Andrews, Sheba Patton).

**Today – A Very Brief Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd 3rd Sunday this month)!**  
*(Rescheduled from last Sunday, November 10)*

**Today – Parish Council Meeting after Divine Liturgy. This meeting will consist of the council's preparations for a 5-year Strategic Plan for the parish.**

**Bible Study – Tuesday, November 12 19 at 6:30pm in the church basement.**  
*(Rescheduled from Sunday, November 12)*

**Wednesday, November 20 – Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple (November 21st ) at 6:00PM!**





## **Saint Gregory, Wonderworker of Neocaesarea** [November 17<sup>th</sup>]

Saint Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neocaesarea, was born in the city of Neocaesarea (northern Asia Minor) into a pagan family. Having received a fine education, from his youth he strived for Truth, but the thinkers of antiquity were not able to quench his thirst for knowledge. Truth was revealed to him only in the Holy Gospel, and the youth became a Christian.

For the continuation of his studies Saint Gregory went to Alexandria, known then as a center for pagan and Christian learning. The youth, eager for knowledge, went to the Alexandrian catechetical School, where the

presbyter Origen taught. Origen was a famous teacher, possessing a great strength of mind and profound knowledge. Saint Gregory became a student of Origen. Afterwards, the saint wrote about his mentor: "This man received from God a sublime gift, to be an interpreter of the Word of God for people, to apprehend the Word of God, as God Himself did use it, and to explain it to people, insofar as they were able to understand it." Saint Gregory studied for eight years with Origen, and was baptized by him.

The ascetic life of Saint Gregory, his continence, purity and lack of covetousness aroused envy among his conceited and sin-loving peers, pagans that they were, and they decided to slander Saint Gregory. Once, when he was conversing with philosophers and teachers in the city square, a notorious harlot came up to him and demanded payment for the sin he had supposedly committed with her. At first Saint Gregory gently remonstrated with her, saying that she perhaps mistook him for someone else. But the profligate woman would not be quieted. He then asked a friend to give her the money. Just as the woman took the unjust payment, she immediately fell to the ground in a demonic fit, and the fraud became evident. Saint Gregory said a prayer over her, and the devil left her. This was the beginning of Saint Gregory's miracles.

Having returned to Neocaesarea, the saint fled from the worldly affairs into which influential townsmen persistently sought to push him. He went into the desert, where by fasting and prayer he attained to high spiritual accomplishment and the gifts of clairvoyance and prophecy. Saint Gregory loved life in the wilderness and wanted to remain in solitude until the end of his days, but the Lord willed otherwise.

The bishop of the Cappadocian city of Amasea, Thedimos, having learned of Saint Gregory's ascetic life, decided to have him made Bishop of Neocaesarea. But having foreseen in spirit the intent of Bishop Thedimos, the saint hid himself from the messengers of the bishop who were entrusted to find him. Then Bishop Thedimos ordained the absent saint as Bishop of Neocaesarea, beseeching the Lord that He Himself would sanctify the unusual ordination. Saint Gregory perceived the extraordinary event as a manifestation of the will of God and he did not dare to protest. This episode in the life of Saint Gregory was recorded by Saint Gregory of Nyssa (January 10). He relates that Saint Gregory of Neocaesarea received the episcopal dignity only after Bishop Thedimos of Amasea performed all the canonical rites over him.

During this time, the heresy of Sabellius and Paul of Samosata began to spread. They taught falsely concerning the Holy Trinity. Saint Gregory prayed fervently and diligently imploring God and His most pure Mother to reveal to him the true faith. The All-Holy Virgin Mary appeared to him, radiant like the sun, and with Her was the Apostle John the Theologian dressed in archepiscopal vestments.

\*\*\* *remaining life of Saint Gregory can be viewed on the oca.com website* \*\*\*



## **Community Work of Holy Assumption**

### **Immediate Need:**

We are collecting Walmart Gift cards and for the purchase of Walmart Gift cards for St. Isaac of Syria Men's Monastery. They have sustained flood damage and rely on income from making icons. They are in need of day-to-day living items also. There is a Walmart store within 30 miles of the monastery, where they shop. Your donations of ever \$5 or \$10 could mean quite a lot! We will be collecting donations and Gift cards from October 13-20. Please see Matushka Janine with questions or donations.

**Yarn Donations** - We are accepting any yarn donations to continue our knitting and crocheting efforts. We have made at least 50 afghans this year for hospice patients, and 42 hats for the Veterans. Please consider donating any unused yarn that you have at home. We are also accepting monetary donations to cover the cost of the wool for the Advent Veterans Place project. Please see Matushka Janine with questions or donations

**Cookbook Sale** - Our Parish cookbook, *At our Table* is for sale. Proceeds will benefit the community projects for the parish. Please consider purchasing the cookbook as a Christmas present for someone. Cost of the cookbook is \$20/book. Please see Matushka Janine with questions or donations

**Craft Fair and Basket Sale** - On December 8, 2019 our parish is having a craft fair. We are selling hats and scarf sets and afghans and possibly other handmade items. Baskets will contain baskets of cheer, baskets of bath items and baskets of specialty foods. Proceeds will benefit the advent projects this year so we can purchase additional gift cards for St. Herman's of Alaska Seminary. If you are interested in donating a basket, please see Matushka Janine. Drop off of baskets is Saturday, December 7, 2019 by 4:00pm.

**Old Eyeglasses for the Lions Club** - We are collecting old prescription eyeglasses for the Lions Club. The donation box is located downstairs in our donation area and is labeled. Please consider donating any unused glasses with prescription lenses that you are no longer using. Please see Matushka Janine with questions.

### **Advent Opportunities:**

**St. Herman's of Alaska Seminary** - We are collecting Walmart Gift cards for St. Herman's of Alaska Seminary in Kodiak and would like to send gift cards in the denomination of \$25 per gift card. We will be collecting gift cards and donations from October 27-December 1, 2019. Please see Matushka Janine if you are interested in donating.

**St. Tikhon's Seminary** - Starting November 7, 2019, We will be collecting items on a giving tree this year for 6 seminarian families. We will set up a giving tree and parishioners will be encouraged to take a request off the tree and fulfill the need such as the purchase of clothes, toys for the Seminarian family members. The deadline for collection of the gifts is December 1, 2019. The gifts will be distributed on St. Nicholas Day in person to the seminarian families. We will have a location set aside for donations.

**Veterans Place** - We have made 42 hats, received donations of 42 pairs of socks and gloves. We are collecting toiletry items to make gift bags for the Veterans. Bars of soap, shaving cream and disposable razors are appreciated. We will need 42 sets of toiletry items so please see Matushka Janine before you donate so we can minimize duplication. We will be providing the gifts to the Veterans in the first week of December 2019.