

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### Sunday, December 8, 2019 | 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Venerable Patapius of Thebes (8th c.)

Holy Apostles of the Seventy (1st c.)

Martyr Anthusa at Rome (4-5th c.)

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

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Parish President - Matthew Andrews

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### Weekly Schedule

Today: Parish Craft Fair and Basket Sale held in the Church basement during Fellowship Coffee Hour.

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement Sunday school room.

Tuesday: December 10 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement.

Friday: Repose of Venerable Herman of Alaska

Saturday: December 14 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: December 15 – Sunday of the Forefathers

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

## 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 8 – Venerable Patapius of Thebes)**

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Father, / for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. / By so doing thou didst teach us to disregard the flesh for it passes away / but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal. // Therefore thy spirit, Venerable Patapius, rejoices with the Angels.

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

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, / and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

### **Kontakion (Tone 3 – Venerable Patapius of Thebes)**

Thy temple is found to be a source of healing, / and the people flock to it eagerly, O saint. / They seek the healing of their diseases / and the forgiveness of their sins, / for thou art a protector for all those in need, Venerable Patapius.

### **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.

### **Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6**

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 17:12-19**

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

**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 - Saint Alexander Hotovitzky. So let's continue...

The Passion-bearer Alexander participated in the deliberations of the Church Council of 1917-18. When the Council discussed the drafting of a message to the Orthodox flock concerning elections to the State Council, he stated that, as the fate of Russia was at stake, the Church and the Council in particular should not shy away from the struggle to save the nation. Speaking about the efforts of the Council to upbuild the Church, he outlined his preliminary plans for order and healing in the internal life of the Church and stated with some bitterness, "It seems as if there were builders who were furiously preparing blueprints, plans and so forth for the construction of an edifice and at the same time were calmly observing the destruction brick by brick of this edifice by enemies."

During the difficult years of the Civil War, the New Martyr Alexander collaborated closely with Saint Tikhon in the administration of the Moscow diocese. In 1918, under the spiritual leadership of the rector, Father Nicholas Arseniev, and the assistant pastor, Father Alexander, a brotherhood affiliated with Christ the Savior Cathedral was established. As its first activity, the brotherhood issued an appeal to the Orthodox flock, which Father Alexander helped write.

This document stated, "People of Russia! Christ the Savior Cathedral, the adornment of Moscow, the pride of Russia, the joy of the Orthodox Church has been condemned to slow destruction. This glorious monument to the great exploits of Russian warriors, who gave their lives for their native land and the Holy Orthodox Faith, has been denied state support...People of Russia! Will you really surrender this wonderful church of the Savior to mockery? Is it really true, as is claimed by the persecutors of the Holy Church, that the people of Russia no longer need holy things—Churches, sacraments, services, because all this is outdated and superstitious? Respond, you faithful! All of you, respond as one! Rise up and protect your holy things! May the generous and well-intentioned donations of the rich be added to the precious pennies of the faithful poor. Moscow, you are the heart of Russia! Preserve your holy shrine—your golden-domed Church of the Savior!..."

In response to this appeal, Orthodox inhabitants of Moscow joined the brotherhood of Christ the Savior Cathedral, and gave their alms to support the majestic church.

Pastoral service at that time was accompanied by much grief and danger. In May 1920 and November 1921 Father Alexander was arrested for brief periods. He was accused of violating the decrees concerning the separation of the Church from the state, and the school from the Church, by holding church school for the children.

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

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Family and Friends offered by Nina Patterson  
Albert Kavalkovich, Debbie Kavalkovich offered by M/M Herbert

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Macalush Family offered by M/M Herbert  
John (Mother Catherine's Father) offered by M/M Herbert

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 12/1/19:**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Kathy Gerty and her unborn child; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; Albert Kavalkovich (recovery from surgery), Debbie Kavalkovich (recovery from surgery); 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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**AMAZON SMILE CASHBACK PROGRAM!**

With the holiday shopping season upon us, if you order 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.

Since March of this year, the parish has received a total of \$90.69 from the Amazon Smile Cashback program. This means that parishioners, family, and friends of the parish made online Amazon purchases of over \$18,100 over the past nine months and selected our parish to receive cash back. Thank You for your support!

## 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/December)**

	<u>Week of November 25 to December 1</u>	<u>November Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	42	41 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,652.41	\$ 8,100.21
Funds Out:	\$ 1,522.00	\$ 7,487.53
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 130.41	\$ 612.68

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 (Dec 8)	Next Week (Dec 15)
3rd Hour :	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Kira Skoog
6th Hour:	Matthew Andrews	Lena Helen
Epistle:	Kira Skoog	David Pellack

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

Today (Dec 8): Saint John of Kronstadt  
(Lena Helen, Paul Filanowski, Matthew Andrews, Martha Palubniak).

Next Week (Dec 15): Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre  
(John Spack, Debbie Kavalkovich, David Pellack).

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### **TODAY – Parish Craft Fair and Basket Sale**

We will be 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.

Deadline to drop off baskets was yesterday, Saturday, December 7, 2019 by 4:00 pm.

### **Eve of the Nativity of Christ Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) – Tuesday, December 24th – Time: TBD.**

Once the time is finalized, it will be announced in church, printed in the bulletin, and noted on our social media platforms (our website, Facebook, and Twitter.)

### **The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ Service – Wednesday, December 25th – Time: 10AM.**



## **Venerable Patapius of Thebes** [December 8<sup>th</sup>]

Saint Patapius was born at Thebes into a pious Christian family. Reaching the age of maturity, he scorned the vanities of the world and so went into the Egyptian desert where he became known for his ascetic deeds. Though he wished to dwell in silence, people began to come to him for advice.

He went eventually to Constantinople, where he obtained a cell at the city wall, near the Blachernae church. But here, too, he quickly became known. The sick began to throng about, and he having been vouchsafed the gift of healing, began to help all the needy.

After a life adorned with virtue and miracles, Saint Patapius fell asleep in the Lord and was buried in the church of Saint John the Baptist.

(NOTE: During Father John Udics time as pastor of our parish, he would consistently acknowledge Venerable Patapius of Thebes at the end of each Divine Liturgy when commemorating the Saints of the Day. The reason he did this is because a relic of Venerable Patapius of Thebes is located inside our parish's Altar table.)

*AHVOC Bulletin Editorial Note: Starting in January 2020, this page will include the Lives of the Saints that can be printed and easily read on this page. Over the past two weeks, the Lives of the Saints included so much information that the print font size was small to read and it was not possible to fully describe the whole story in the bulletin. If you wanted to continue reading, you needed access to the OCA website to read the remainder of their life story. It has come to our attention that some wish to read the whole life story of the saint at once, and that some do not have easy online access to the Internet. For the reasons mentioned above, the format will be changing as mentioned. As always, thank you for your understanding regarding this change and hope this change is satisfactory to all.*

## **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.