

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19145 \* Church Phone: (215) 468-3535  
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 \* Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

### Sunday, December 15, 2019 | 26th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Hieromartyr Eleutherius and his mother Martyr Anthia (2nd c.)

Martyr Eleutherius at Constantinople (3rd c.)

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

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### Weekly Schedule

Saturday: December 21 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: December 22 – Sunday before Nativity of Christ

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: December 22 – The Church Life Discussion Class for the month of December has been **cancelled!!** The class will resume in January and Father Mark will announce the new class schedule for the 2020 sessions!

Tuesday: December 24 – Eve of the Nativity of Christ!

Great Complines and Matins (Condensed Version)

Time: **TBD**

Wednesday: December 25 – Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

## 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 2 – Forefathers)**

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / she who bore Thee without seed. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

### **Kontakion (Tone 6 – Forefathers)**

Ye did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, / but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, / ye were glorified in a trial by fire. / From the midst of unbearable flames ye called on God, crying: / "Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid, // for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Songs of our Fathers)**

Blessed are Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!  
v. For Thou are just in all that Thou hast done for us!

### **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 4)

- v. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. They called to the Lord and He answered them. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 14:16-24**

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye 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**

### **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...

In 1922, the Church was subjected to harsh tribulations when, under the pretext of helping the starving, ecclesiastical treasures including sacred vessels, icons, and other holy things were violently confiscated by the state. Heeding the appeal of Her holy primate, the Orthodox Church made generous donations to assist the starving. However, when Saint Tikhon issued a statement to his flock throughout Russia forbidding the cooperation of the clergy in surrendering sacred vessels for non-ecclesiastical use based on canon law, a slanderous campaign against the Church was begun in the press, Her primate was arrested, and a wave of court cases took place throughout Russia, in which servants of the Lord's altar were accused of counter-revolutionary activity. During these trials many faithful servants of the Church of Christ were sentenced to death and shed their blood as hieromartyrs and martyrs.

During this difficult time for the Church, Father Alexander was unwaveringly guided by the statements of the Holy Patriarch to his flock and also followed his directives. Funds to assist the starving were collected at Christ the Savior Cathedral. At the same time, measures were undertaken to protect the sacred objects of this church. Meetings of the clergy and parishioners of Christ the Savior Cathedral were held at Father Alexander's apartment in order to draft a resolution of the general parish meeting concerning the state decree.

A draft of the resolution, prepared by Father Alexander, protested against the violent confiscation of church valuables. A general meeting of parishioners was convened on March 23, 1922 at Christ the Savior Cathedral, presided by Archpriest Nicholas Arseniev. Father Alexander had already been arrested. This meeting adopted the final text of the resolution, which demanded guarantees from the state that all donations be used to save the lives of the starving. The participants in the meeting protest the poisonous publications against the Church as well as insults against the hierarchy. The drafting of this document was deemed by the authorities to be criminal counter-revolutionary activity.

After two court cases against the Church, in Petrograd and Moscow, which resulted in the executions of hieromartyrs and martyrs, a new highly visible trial of clergy and laity began in Moscow on November 27, 1922, during which they were accused of supposedly "attempting to retain in their hands possession of church valuables and, through the resulting starvation, to topple the Soviet regime."

\*\*\*\* 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 Alex Soroka  
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
Albert Kavalkovich, Benjamin Boyce, Helen Boyce by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Margaret Pellack offered by Pellack Family  
Debbie Kavalkovich, Lucas Andrews offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Family and Friends offered by Joseph Rabik

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

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

John O'Shura offered by M/M Herbert  
Sophie Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Marion Torchia offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

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

### **Vigil Cross Candles – 12/8/19:**

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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!

Additionally, remember the 3 victims and 8 injured of the senseless tragedy at the Naval Air Station Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida and the 4 victims in the senseless tragedy in Jersey City, New Jersey this past Tuesday.

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#### **THANK YOU!**

To all of those who created, packaged, set up, participated, and purchased items from last Sunday's Craft Fair and Basket Sale. It was a huge success raising over \$1,000 with the proceeds used to purchase gift cards for the seminarians and their families from St. Herman's Theological Seminary in Kodiak, AK.



## 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 (December)

Week of December 2 to December 8		December Month-to-Date
Attendance:	43	42 (average)
<i>Saint Nicholas Day (Dec 5) 24</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 2,476.00	\$ 4,121.00
Funds Out:	\$ 2,380.91	\$ 3,902.91
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 95.09	\$ 218.09

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 15)	Next Week (Dec 22)
3rd Hour :	Kyra Skoog	Michael Spack
6th Hour:	Lena Helen	John Spack
Epistle:	David Pellack	Mark Klus

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

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

Next Week (Dec 22): Saint Juvenaly  
(Jennifer Cantrell & Family, Ronald & Cherly Homa).

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### **Eve of the Nativity of Christ Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 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 25<sup>th</sup> – Time: 10AM.**

**THANK YOU** – To everyone who helped with decorating the church for the Feast of the Nativity Season. Also, a special Thank You goes out to the Sunday school children who assisted with decorating the church and with the big task of trimming and decorating the Christmas tree. Thanks to the teachers and parents for coordinating the event. The church looks festive and beautiful.  
Hey, Miriam...who put the star on top of the tree???





## Sunday of the Forefathers [December 15<sup>th</sup>]

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, “In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

### Righteous Miriam [December 15<sup>th</sup>]

Saint Miriam, like her brothers Moses & Aaron, was descended from the tribe of Levi.

When Moses was an infant, the Hebrew midwives were ordered to kill any male child when they assisted at childbirths, but they refused to obey. Moses was hidden by his mother for three months, then, when she could no longer do this, he was placed into a basket of reeds and set upon the waters of the Nile. Miriam watched in secret to see what would happen to him. When Pharaoh’s daughter found him, Miriam emerged from her place of concealment and offered to find a wet nurse from among the Hebrew women for the baby. Miriam went to get her mother, who raised her child until he was grown, and then returned him to Pharaoh’s daughter (Exodus 2:10).

In the Torah, she is called “Miriam the Prophetess” (Exodus 15:20), while the Prophet Michah (6:4) has God say that He sent Moses, and Aaron, and Miriam before the Hebrews to lead them out of Egypt.

In Chapter 12 of the book of Numbers, Miriam and Aaron apparently criticize Moses for being married to a foreign woman of Cush (or an Ethiopian). This, however, was merely a pretext for their resentment. Actually, they were disturbed by Moses’ position as the sole mediator between God and the people. Miriam was a prophetess, after all. Miriam and Aaron questioned Moses, “Has the Lord spoken only to Moses? Has He not also spoken to us?” God then tells them that He speaks face to face with Moses, but only in visions to Miriam and Aaron while they are asleep. Then, for daring to speak against Moses, Miriam is punished with leprosy. Aaron pleads with Moses not to hold their sin against them, since they had acted out of ignorance. Even so, Miriam was set apart outside the camp for seven days, and then she was healed and allowed to come in.





## **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.