

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, February 2, 2020 | 33rd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – The Meeting of Our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ, in the Temple!
Sunday of Zacchaeus

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Parish President - Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Soup N' Bowl V Challenge immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement. Be prepared to indulge in some of the best warm and tasty soups/stews/chilis!

Saturday: February 8 - Great Vespers at 4:00PM!

Sunday: February 9 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 9 – Property Committee Meeting after
Divine Liturgy in the church basement schoolroom.

Throughout the following week there is a general dispensation
from all fasting! (February 8, 2020 to February 18, 2020)

Tuesday: February 11 - Bible Study at 6:30PM 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 1 – The Meeting of our Lord into the Temple)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! / From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / enlightening those who sat in darkness. / Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, / thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, / Who grants us the Resurrection!

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 1 – The Meeting of our Lord into the Temple)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb / and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. / Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. / Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, / O only Lover of Man!

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 (Tone 3)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to 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)
- v. Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

[Instead of "It is truly meet.." we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians,
protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee!

In the shadow and letter of the Law, / let us, the faithful, discern a figure: / every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. / Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of a Father Who has no beginning, // the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. Alleluia (3x's)

[Note: The readings for the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple is as follows: Epistle – Hebrews 7:7-17 and Gospel - Luke 2:22-40]

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

2020 House Blessing

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany, which is Monday, January 6. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

Cards for Our Troops! Save your Christmas Cards!

Please save your Christmas cards this year. Matushka Janine is collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for next year. We will use the front cover and paste it on a new card, write an appropriate verse on the inside of the card, and address the card to our soldiers. Please consider donating your cards you received this year. Please see Matushka Janine as to where to drop off your Christmas cards at a designated area in the church basement, or whether she will collect them directly. As always, thank you for your generosity!

Last Sunday the Annual Parish Meeting was held after Divine Liturgy. Father Mark presented his report to the parish along with discussing information from the 56th Diocesan Assembly, which was held a few days earlier. Father Mark, along with Deacon Michael who also attended the Assembly, presented a synopsis of the following topics: Fr. Thomas Soroka presentation on parish growth; information on The Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund (OCCIF), which was also present at the All-American Council in July 2018 (website <https://occif.org>); information on the 50th anniversary of the OCA's reception of the Tomos of Autocephaly; and the 50th anniversary celebration of the Canonization of Saint Herman of Alaska.

The remaining parish council members presented their report with President Matt Andrews thanking all parishioners for their hard work throughout the year. Financial report was presented disclosing a surplus even with the extraordinary financial activity, which occurred during the year. The Property Committee presented their report on the current status of the parish properties.

New business included parish council 5-year strategic plan and parish position. A committee to further work on the future growth, projects, and outreach for the parish was created. This committee will be seeking parishioners for support and for parishioners not currently involved in other committees or multiple responsibilities.

The Minutes from the annual meeting will be posted once they become available!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

God grant everyone many years offered by Alex Soroka
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Friends offered by Joseph Rabik
Gary Race offered by Pellack Family
Marc Sr, Marc Jr, William, Albert, Catherine, Patricia, Susan, John, Sharon, Anastasia,
Alexander, Colin, Selena, Ronald, Sheba offered by M/M K Kavalkovich Family
Family and Friends offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Joseph Herbert, John O'Shura, Sarah Amato offered by M/M Herbert
Herbert and Macalush Families offered by M/M Herbert
Deborah Archie offered by the Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/26/20:

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Kathy Gerty and her unborn child; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Sheba Patton; Margaret Pellack; Fania Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Also, please remember Father John Udics and Archimandrite Athanasz Mastalski on the anniversary of their falling sleep.

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The 2020 parish budget was passed during last Sunday's annual parish meeting and is posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. Also, the most current OCA 2019 financial report, the Diocese 2019 financial report, and the Diocese 2020 budget are posted on the bulletin board.

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
- 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 (January)

Week of Sun Jan 19 to Sat Jan 25		January Month-to-Date
Attendance:	43	44 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 3,652.00	\$ 8,848.83
Funds Out:	\$ 524.35	\$ 8,725.46
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 3,127.65	\$ 123.37

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 (Feb 2)	Next Week (Feb 9)
3rd Hour :	Dr. David Albrecht	Matthew Andrews
6th Hour:	Michael Wanenchak	Michael Spack
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel & David Pellack (2)	Reader Mark Klus & Simon Herbert (2)

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Feb 2): Saint Bridget of Ireland ← **Soup 'N Bowl SUNDAY**
(Catherine & Albert Kavalkovich, Simon Herbert)

Next Week (Feb 9): Saint Raphael of Brooklyn
(Mark Klus, Tish Berchtold, Barbara Andrews, Sheba Patton).

February 9, 2020 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of each month)!

All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting; any action that needs to be taken as a result of discussions during the Annual Parish Meeting on January 26; Church status from the water damage on north side of building; Hall status update; an update on the tenant situation at the 2109 house; and the work performed on the two houses

Bible Study – Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and finish up reading and discussing the next book section in the Bible.

Annual Pork and/or Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday February 23, 2020 after Divine Liturgy.

The planning of organizing this luncheon has begun. We will need volunteers to assist in providing dishes along with setting up before and cleaning up after the luncheon. Please see a parish council member for more details on how you can assist in this event!



The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple [February 2nd]

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice.

The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. Despite its early origins, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the 6th century, when a solemn prayer service was offered on the feast to help end a terrible plague in Constantinople that was killing thousands of people every day.