

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, February 9, 2020 | [Lenten Triodion Begins]

Tone 1 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Leavetaking of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
Martyr Nicephorus of Antioch in Syria (ca 257).

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

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

- Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy
in the church basement schoolroom.
- Tuesday: Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement.
- Friday: February 14 – Valentine’s Day! Let that special someone (or anyone for that
matter) know how much you Love them!
- Saturday: February 15 - Great Vespers at 4:00PM!
- Sunday: February 16 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

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 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 4 – Lenten Triodion)

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! / Let us learn humility from the Publican’s tears! / Let us cry to our Savior: “Have mercy on us, // O only 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 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

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

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 1)

- v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David,
His anointed, and his seed forever. 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 18:10-14

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

[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 Leavetaking 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.

Thank you to all who prepared and thoroughly enjoyed the tasty and delicious soups/stews/chili last week during Soup N' Bowl V.

Once again, it was a close race with Barbara Andrew's "Plain Chicken Soup" edging out her mother Catherine Kavalkovich's "Kass's Chili" and Deacon Michael McCartney's DEKE's Beef Bean Chili. Congratulations to everyone. The other contestants were David Pellack's "Tortellini"; Mr. & Mrs. John Spack's "Vegen Chili Special"; Micah and Danielle Brown's "Slam Chili"; and Alex Soroka's "Vegetable Chili". This year all the dishes were very good and it showed on the ballots because each contestant received at least three votes as being that diner's favorite dish.

HAVEN Women Visit – Food and Clothing Donation

This past week, Father Mark, Deacon Michael, and Matushka Janine visited HAVEN Women facility (Helping Achieve Veteran Empowerment Now) in Philadelphia, PA. HAVEN Women serve the female veteran community who are homeless or in transition; as they have fewer options for shelter than their male counterparts. Our parish donated food; wool hat and scarf sets; and a charity gift to the facility. The women were very appreciative of our donations and thank the parish very much for thinking of them this winter.

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!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Unity, Togetherness, and Optimism offered by Alex Soroka
Parishioners and Friends offered by Joseph Rabik

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Mary Spack and Emelie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Friends offered by the Pellack Family
Emelie Albrecht offered by Albrecht Family
Mary Spack offered by Albrecht Family
Helen Herbert and Reader Leonty Macalush offered by M/M Herbert
Emelie Albrecht offered by M/M Herbert
Stephen and Margaret Perzsel offered by Matushka Janine McCartney

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 2/2/20:

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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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Sunday, March 1 - Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

The parish traditionally serves this vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading “Vouchsafe, O Lord”) that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!

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)

<u>Week of Sun Jan 26 to Sat Feb 1</u>	<u>January Month (Unaudited)</u>	
Attendance:	44	44 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,463.59	\$10,312.42
Funds Out:	\$ 3,959.69	\$10,567.20
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 2,496.10)	(\$ 254.78)

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 9)	Next Week (Feb 16)
3rd Hour :	Matthew Andrews	Mark Klus
6th Hour:	Michael Spack	Kyra Skoog
Epistle:	Reader Mark & Simon Herbert (2)	Lena Helen

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

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

Next Week (Feb 16): Saint Herman of Alaska
(Heather & Peter Parsells, Dr Gale Rutan & Joseph Francis)

February 23 - Annual Pork and/or Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday 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!

2020 Mission Service Schedule (Philadelphia Clergy Brotherhood)

Sunday, March 8 at 4PM – Sunday of Orthodoxy
Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC of the U.S.A) – Wilmington, DE

Sunday, March 15 at 4PM – Sunday of St Gregory Palamas
St Mark Orthodox Church (OCA) – Wrightstown, PA

Sunday, March 22 at 4PM – Sunday of the Cross
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (OCA) – Pottstown, PA

Sunday, March 29 at 4PM – Sunday of St John Climacus
St George Antiochian Orthodox Church (Patriarchate of Antioch) – Upper Darby, PA

Sunday, April 5 at 4PM – Sunday of St Mary of Egypt
St John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church (OCA) – Philadelphia, PA



Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee [February 9th]

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the **TRIODION** (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.