

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, February 7, 2021 | 35th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont (4th c.)
The 1,003 Martyrs of Nicomedia (303)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney Choir Director – Nina Patterson
Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich Reader – Mark Klus
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

- Tuesday: Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement and on the ZOOM media platform. Social Distancing will be followed.
- Saturday: February 13 – Saturday Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM!
- Saturday: February 13 - Great Vespers at 4:00PM!
- Sunday: February 14 – “ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY!!!”
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
(CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!!!)
- Sunday: February 14 - Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement schoolroom.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, 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!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Saint Parthenius)

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; / thy humility exalted thee; / and thy poverty enriched thee. / O Hierarch Father Parthenius, / entreat Christ our God // that our souls may be saved!

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Saint Parthenius)

Thou didst receive divine grace to work miracles / wise and holy God-bearing wonderworker Parthenius. / Thou didst cleanse the passions of all the faithful / and didst drive out evil spirits. // Therefore, we praise thee as a great initiate of the grace of God.

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 2)

The Lord is my strength and my song / He has become my salvation.
v. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

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

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 2)

- v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

[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)

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

Thank You!

Christina Andrews would like to thank everyone for their prayers, support, love, well wishes, and gifts for her chrismation. She would especially like to thank her godparents, Jennifer Cantrell and Daniel Herbert for their support; as well as, Father Mark for his guidance throughout the last few months. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you again and God Bless you all!

As a result of the new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials, the following changes will occur at the parish until at least the end of February 2021:

- * NO coffee hour after services;
- * NO Sunday school in church basement (ZOOM classes to be held instead); and
- * Father will serve a Saturday Divine Liturgy for those who wish to attend Liturgy in a smaller gathering. Now, if the Saturday Divine Liturgy attendance reaches levels near the maximum restriction amount, the parish may...repeat may, split the parishioners into two grouping with one group attending on Saturday and the other attending on Sunday.

CARDS FOR OUR TROOPS! SAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS!

Please save your Christmas cards this year. Matushka Janine and the Charity Committee are collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for next year. They 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!

This year we collected and sent out just under **600** cards for our troops!

2021 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 Wednesday, 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.

Please Note: House blessing schedule will also be based upon the current State and Local Civil Authority's travel and social gathering restrictions due to the Covid virus!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Catherine Kavalkovich offered by Nina Patterson
Irene Torpey offered by Nina Patterson
John Pellack offered by David Pellack
Greg & Grace Walker offered by David Pellack
Gary Race offered by David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Edwin "Buddy" Ovington offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/31/21:

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ V. Rev. John J. Udics (on the 5th Anniversary of his falling asleep)

Infant child Basil David Stafford (born January 27) and his parents Jerome & Darcy and big brothers Elias & Moses. May God Grant Basil and the Stafford Family Many Healthy and Blessed Years!

+ Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar (Jan 20); Christina Andrews on her Chrismation into the church last Saturday; Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Catherine Kavalkovich (recovery); Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich (treatment); Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of January 31):

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 24 to Sat Jan 30

January Month-to-Date

Attendance:	23	24 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 2,306.03	\$14,224.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,551.01	\$ 6,450.28
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) :	\$ 755.02	\$ 7,773.75

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** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Feb 7)</u>	<u>Next Week (Feb 14)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Reader Mark Klus	John Spack
6 th Hour:	Matthew Andrews	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Lena Helen

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

As a result of new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials on Monday, November 16 which went into effect on Friday, November 20, the formal coffee hour event held after Sunday Divine Liturgy has been suspended until further notice.

Once city officials ease restrictions relating to Covid, coffee hour will then resume.

When the coffee hour resumes (currently not until at least February 2021), a new coffee schedule with new team parishioners will be in the rotation as per the action taken during the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, November 1.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services in February 2021.

Saturdays in FEBRUARY 2021 – Divine Liturgy @ 10:00AM

Soup N’ Bowl VI Challenge which is scheduled for Sunday, February 7 is now CANCELLED!! Hopefully to resume this event next year!!!

Tuesday, February 9 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement and on the ZOOM Media platform. Social distancing will be adhered to.

Sunday, February 14 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 14 – Zacchaeus Sunday

Sunday, February 21 – Publican & Pharisee ----- Fast Free Week!

Sunday, February 28 – Prodigal Son



Saint Parthenius the Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont [February 7th]

Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus, was a native of the city of Melitoupolis (in northwestern Asia Minor), where his father Christopher served as deacon. The youth did not receive adequate schooling, but he learned the Holy Scripture by attending church services. He had a good heart, and distributed to the poor the money he earned working as a fisherman.

Filled with the grace of God, St Parthenius from age eighteen healed the sick in the name of Christ, cast out demons and worked other miracles. Learning of the young man's virtuous life, Bishop Philetus of Melitoupolis educated him and ordained him presbyter.

In 325, during the reign of Constantine the Great, Archbishop Achilles of Cyzicus made him bishop of the city of Lampsacus (Asia Minor). In the city were many pagans, and the saint fervently began to spread the faith in Christ, confirming it through many miracles and by healing the sick.

The people began to turn from their pagan beliefs, and the saint went to the emperor Constantine the Great seeking permission to tear down the pagan temple and build a Christian church in its place. The emperor received the saint with honor, gave him a decree authorizing the destruction of the pagan temple, and provided him with the means to build a church. Returning to Lampsacus, St Parthenius had the pagan temple torn down, and built a beautiful church of God in the city.

In one of the razed temples, he found a large marble slab which he thought would be very suitable as an altar. The saint ordered work to begin on the stone, and to move it to the church. Through the malice of the devil, who became enraged at the removal of the stone from the pagan temple, the cart overturned and killed the driver Eutychian. St Parthenius restored him to life by his prayer and shamed the devil, who wanted to frustrate the work of God.

The saint was so kind that he refused healing to no one who came to him, or who chanced to meet him by the wayside, whether he suffered from bodily illnesses or was tormented by unclean spirits. People even stopped going to physicians, since St Parthenius healed all the sick for free. With the great power of the name of Christ, the saint banished a host of demons from people, from their homes, and from the waters of the sea.

Once, the saint prepared to cast out a devil from a certain man, who had been possessed by it since childhood. The demon began to implore the saint not to do so. St Parthenius promised to give the evil spirit another man in whom he could dwell. The demon asked, "Who is that man?" The saint replied, "You may dwell in me, if you wish." The demon fled as if stung by fire, crying out, "If the mere sight of you is a torment to me, how can I dare to enter into you?"

An unclean spirit, cast out of the house where the imperial purple dye was prepared, said that a divine fire was pursuing him with the fire of Gehenna. Having shown people the great power of faith in Christ, the saint converted a multitude of idol-worshippers to the true God.

St Parthenius died peacefully and was solemnly buried beside the cathedral church of Lampsacus, which he built.