

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, January 9, 2022 | 29th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Afterfeast of the Theophany
Sunday After the Theophany
Martyr Polyeuctus of Melitēné in Armenia (259)

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

CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN!

- Today: Saint Blessed Olga book club to meet after Divine Liturgy.
We will be discussing Chapters 4 thru 6 of the book *Winter Pascha*.
- Tuesday: Bible Study at **6:30PM** in the church basement and on the ZOOM media platform.
Social Distancing will be followed.
- Saturday: January 15 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: January 16 – Veneration of the Chains of Apostle Peter
Sanctity of Life Sunday Observed
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
- Sunday: January 16 – After Divine Liturgy at **12:00PM**, the 40th Day Panikhda
will be served for Lisa Colona.
- Sunday: January 23 – After Divine Liturgy at **12:00PM**, the 40th Day Panikhda
will be served for William Koran.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 1 – Feast)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, / and called Thee His beloved Son; / and the Spirit in the form of a dove / confirmed the truthfulness of His word. / O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself // and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Saint Polyeuctus)

Thy holy martyr Polyeuctus, O Lord, / through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. / For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through his intercession, save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Saint Polyeuctus)

When the Savior bowed His head in the Jordan, / the heads of the dragons were crushed; // when Polyeuctus was beheaded, the deceiver was put to shame.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Feast)

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, / and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. / Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O unapproachable Light.

Prokeimenon (Tone 1 – Sunday After)

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!

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday After)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.” (Now this, “He ascended” – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday After)

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!
No tongue knows how to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos;
Even angels are overcome with awe praising thee.
But since thou art good, accept our faith;
For thou knowest our divine love inspired by God!
Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men. 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! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Father Mark and Matushka Jan wish to thank everyone for their kind wishes, cards, and gifts for Christmas. Matushka Jan also wants to thank everyone for their thoughts, cards, and gifts for her birthday. Christ Is Baptized!

Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #1 of 3.

According to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A. of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Annual and General Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the Meeting. The Spiritual Advisor's report, the Treasurer's report, the voting on the 2022 budget, along with any other business that needs to be discussed. The election of the 2022 parish council officers took place during the Fall Parish meeting back in October 2021.

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!

2022 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 Thursday, 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 increase in Covid Omicron & Delta variants!

Check your emails from January 3 and January 4 regarding the new Mask policy for our parish during services: Basically the only change is starting today, **"All parishioners will wear Mask in church for the entire service!"** until further notice.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and Parishioners in 2022 offered by Nina Patterson
Zachary Walker offered by David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John Homa offered by Ron Homa
Anna Homa offered by Ron Homa
Christopher Homa offered by Ron Homa

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/2/22:

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed Handmaiden of God Grace Corba (Dec 14)

Anastasia Jones and her unborn child; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery);
Anne (Homa) Killoran (surgery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Joseph Rabik; Dr. Gale Rutan; Peter Witiak;
Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of January 2)

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$20 from the Candy Sale

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. By the action taken at the Fall General Parish Meeting held on Sunday, October 10, the parish body approved that the special collection for the first three Sundays of the month be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (now known as the Row House Fund).

The fourth Sunday (and fifth, when it occurs) the special collection will be earmarked towards Charity.

This new collection schedule will begin on Sunday, October 17.

Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (December/January 2022)

<u>Week of Sun Dec 26 to Sat Jan 1</u>	<u>December Month (Unaudited)</u>	
Attendance:	24	37 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,006.43	\$14,398.45
Funds Out:	\$ 6,614.26	\$ 9,455.56
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 5,607.83)	\$ 4,942.89

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 (Jan 9)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 16)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Michael Spack	Matthew Andrews
6 th Hour:	Anthony Colona	David Pellack
Epistle:	John Spack	David Pellack

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour in the white/clear 3-ring binder which is located on the display case outside of the office room.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services & events in January 2022.

Tuesday, January 11 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement and on the ZOOM Media platform. Social distancing will be adhered to.

The Saint Blessed Olga of Alaska Book Club will meet TODAY after Divine Liturgy to discuss chapters 4 thru 6 of the book *Winter Pascha*.

Future January 2022 book club meetings will take place on Saturdays from 2:30PM to 3:00PM ‘PRIOR’ to Vespers on the following dates: January 15th, January 22nd, and January 29th

End of January – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting! Date & Time TBA

Sunday, January 30 - Annual Parish Meeting to be held after Liturgy.



Martyr Polyeuktos of Melitēné in Armenia [January 9th]

Saint Polyeuktos¹ was the first to be martyred for Christ in the Armenian city of Melitēné. He was a soldier during the reign of Emperor Decius (249-251), and he later suffered martyrdom in the reign of Valerian (253-259). He was a friend of Néarkhos (Νέαρχος) a fellow-soldier and a firm Christian. Polyeuktos, however, although he led a virtuous life, he remained a pagan.

When the persecution against Christians began, Néarkhos said to Polyeuktos, "Friend, soon we shall be separated, for they will take me to torture, and you, alas, will renounce your friendship with me." Polyeuktos told him that he had seen

Christ in a dream. The Savior took his soiled military cloak from him and dressed him in a radiant garment. "Now," he said, "I am prepared to serve the Lord Jesus Christ."

Enflamed with zeal, Saint Polyeuktos went to the city square, and tore up the edict of Decius which required everyone to worship the idols. A few moments later, he met a procession carrying twelve idols through the streets of the city. Dashing the idols to the ground, he trampled them underfoot.

His father-in-law, the magistrate Felix, who was responsible for enforcing the imperial edict, was horrified at what Saint Polyeuktos had done and advised him to obey the imperial edict. Polyeuktos told him that he must obey God rather than men. Felix declared that Polyeuktos must die for this. "Go then, bid farewell to your wife and children," he said. Paulina wept and urged her husband to renounce Christ. Felix also wept, but Saint Polyeuktos remained steadfast in his resolve to suffer for Christ.

Bowing his head beneath the executioner's sword, he was baptized in his own blood. In the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, when the Church of Christ had triumphed throughout the Roman Empire, a church was built at Melitēné in honor of Saint Polyeuktos. Many miracles were worked through his intercession. In that same church, the parents of Saint Euthymios the Great (January 20) prayed fervently for a son. The birth of this great luminary of Orthodoxy occurred in the year 376, through the prayers of the Holy Martyr Polyeuktos.

Saint Polyeuktos was also venerated by Saint Akakios, the Bishop of Melitēné (March 31), who participated in the Third Ecumenical Council, and was a great proponent of Orthodoxy. In the East, as well as in the West, the Holy Martyr Polyeuktos is venerated as the patron Saint of vows and treaties.

The Polyeucte Overture of French composer Paul Dukas is only one of many pieces of classical music inspired by the Saints. It premiered in January of 1892. The French dramatist Pierre Corneille has also written a play, "Polyeucte" (1642), based on the Martyr's life.