

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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** Serving the Orthodox Community in South Philadelphia for 110 years! **

Sunday, January 29, 2023 | 33rd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Sunday of Zacchaeus

Translation of the Relics of Hieromartyr Ignatius the Godbearer
Martyr Romanus, Jacob, Philotheus, Hyperechius, Abibus, Julian

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

Today: Installation of 2023 Parish Council immediately after Divine Liturgy

Today: Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy

Monday: January 30 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Synaxis of the Three Great and Holy Hierarchs

Wednesday: February 1 – Festal Vesperal Divine Liturgy at **6:00PM** for the Meeting of the Lord Our Savior in the Temple

Saturday: February 4 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: February 5 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

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 4 – Saint Ignatius)

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / thou didst become a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. // O Hieromartyr Ignatius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

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 4 – Saint Ignatius)

Today thou didst rise from the east, / enlightening all of creation with thy teachings, // and thou art crowned with martyrdom, Godbearing Ignatius.

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.

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)

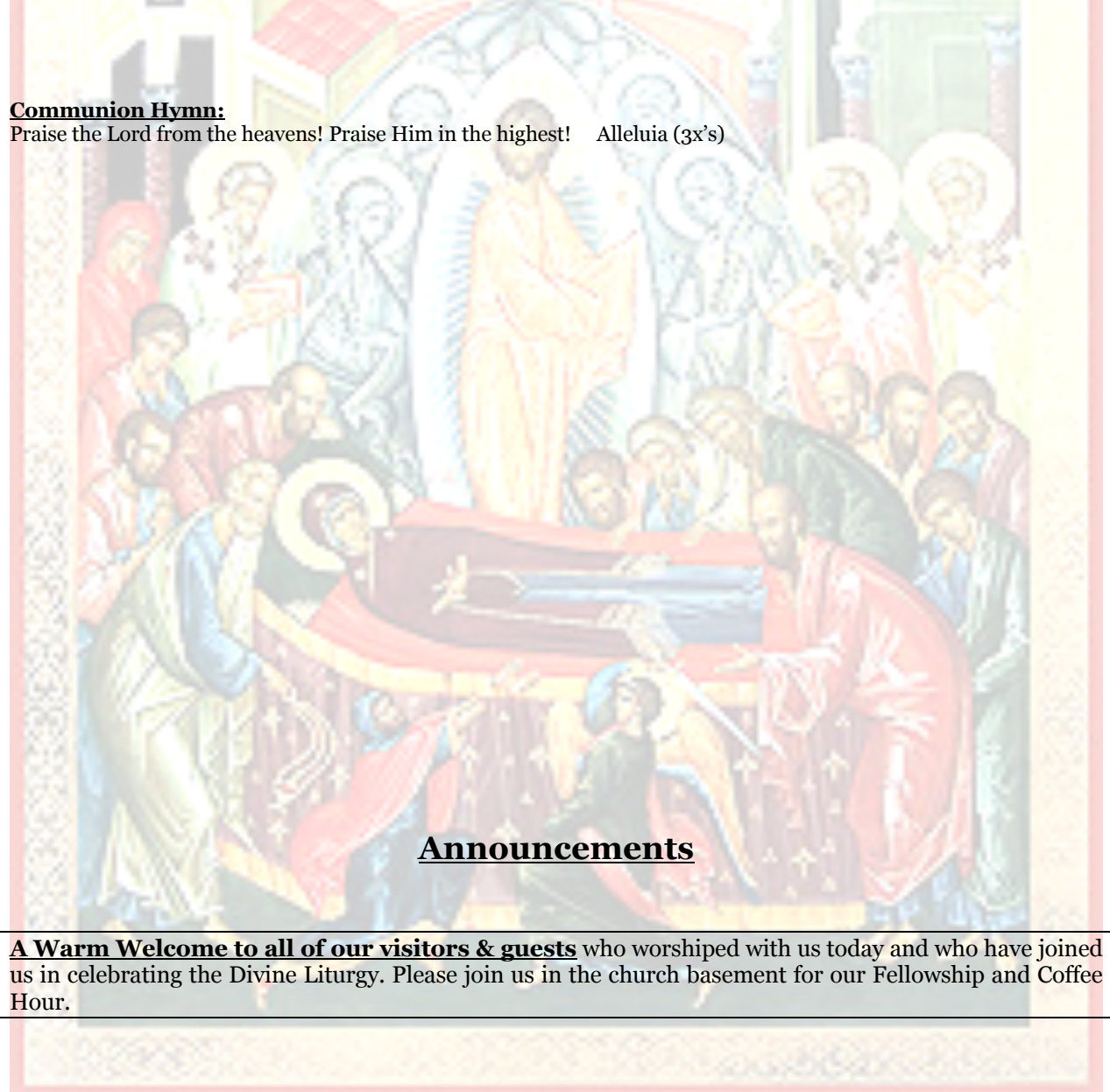
v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him
with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

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.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! 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

2023 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 Friday, 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 from this past year. Matushka Janine is collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for this upcoming 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!

AMAZON SMILE! (To be discontinued by February 20, 2023)

Amazon Corporation will discontinue its charity donation program called Amazon Smile as the company undergoes a sweeping review of the company's expenses and way to cut cost, per a statement made by company CEO Andy Jassy two weeks ago. Through Amazon Smile, the company donated a percentage of purchases to a charity of the users' / buyers' choice. The company plans to wind down the Amazon Smile program by February 20th, 2023.

Even though the company has donated roughly \$500 million to charities since the program's inception in 2013, there were so many eligible organizations – more than 1 million globally – that their impact was often spread too thin with the average donation to charities less than \$230 per year.

With a few weeks left, when ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

Please Note: If you brought items for the Saint Nicholas Fair last month & they were unsold, **Please...Please**, pick them up & bring them back with you. The parish is not collecting these items and the parish no longer has available space to store your items. We need to organize the church basement for future 2023 activities. Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Jane H and Jane R offered by Nina Patterson
Family Health and Wellness offered by the DeVito Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Sis Schiliro offered by Nina Patterson

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/22/23

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Please remember in your prayers:

Justine Anna and her unborn child; Elton Andrews; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; Dr. Gale Rutan; Joseph Rabik; Peter Witiak; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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2023 Parish Community Projects – Food Drive Donations

Throughout the 2023 calendar year, one of the parish community projects will be accepting donations of both Shop Rite gift cards and food items for our very own Mother Catherine and the nuns at Saint Mary Magdelene Monastery in upstate Pennsylvania. We all go food shopping and throughout the year if you can remember to pick up one or two items each trip for this food drive, it will be much appreciated. Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine will be delivering the food to Mother Catherine once a month. They will also be taking her shopping. Food collection bins will be made available for your donations. Please consider purchasing Shop Rite gift cards from David Pellack and then give them to Matushka Janine so they can be provided to Saint Mary Magdelene Monastery. Please consider a special emphasis on donating protein-based items such as peanut butter, cans of tuna, cans of fruits and vegetables and gluten free items. More info on this food drive will be discussed at the Annual Meeting!

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 back on Sunday, October 10, 2021, 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 began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021.
Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (January)

<u>Week of Sun Jan 15 to Sat Jan 21</u>	<u>January Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 37	29 (average)
Funds In: \$ 6,473.00	\$13,284.00
Funds Out: \$ 2,604.11	\$12,556.21
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 3,868.89	\$ 727.79

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 on ZOOM media platform.
- 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.
- Last Thursday of each month** – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Jan 29)</u>	<u>Next Week (Feb 5)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	John Spack
6 th Hour:	David Pellack	Dr. David Albrecht
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich John Spack	Reader Mark Klus

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 on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder 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 February 2023.

Sunday, February 5 – Soup N’ Bowl VII Challenge will be held in the church basement after Divine Liturgy.

We have two electric burners to be used to keep Soup warm and the remaining dishes we will use the Sterno heating trays to keep the dishes hot! Again, we will try to limit the number of food entrants between 4 to 6 dishes.

Tuesday, February 14 – Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform.

Sunday, February 19 – Meatfare Sunday and Annual Roast Pork / Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

The planning of organizing this luncheon will begin on Sunday, January 29. 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!

Thursday, February 23 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform.

Sunday, February 26 – Forgiveness Sunday



Sunday of Zacchaeus

[January 29th]

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection “Today salvation has come to the world,” which echoes the Lord’s words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.