

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, February 5, 2023 | 34th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
+ Repose of St Theodosius of Chernigov (1696)

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

Throughout the following week there is a general dispensation
from all fasting! (February 4, 2023 to February 14, 2023)

Today: Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

Today: Installation of 2023 Parish Council immediately after Divine Liturgy
[POSTPONED from last Sunday]

Today: Soup 'N Bowl VII 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 11 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: February 12 – 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 – Meeting of the Lord)

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 – Meeting of the Lord)

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 – Song to Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord / and. My spirit hath rejoiced 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, for
mine eyes have seen Thy salvation! 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 the 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

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. Final House Blessing date is Sunday, February 26!!

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:

Justine Mccann offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Deborah Archie offered by David Pellack

Gary Race offered by David Pellack

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/29/23

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Please remember in your prayers:

Justine and John McCann; 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.

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 22 to Sat Jan 28</u>	<u>January Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 31	29 (average)
Funds In: \$ 4,176.00	\$17,460.00
Funds Out: \$ 268.45	\$12,824.66
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 3,907.55	\$ 4,635.34

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 5)</u>	<u>Next Week (Feb 12)</u>
3 rd Hour:	John Spack	Daniel Herbert
6 th Hour:	Dr. David Albrecht	Matthew Andrews
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus	Daniel Herbert
	John Spack	

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.

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 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!

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

Sunday, February 26 - 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!



Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee [February 5th]

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.

