

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### Sunday, February 9, 2025 | [ Lenten Triodion Begins ]

Tone 8 – 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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Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich      Choir Director – Nina Patterson  
Reader – Mark Klus      Reader – David Pellack  
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

### Weekly Schedule

Throughout the following week there is a general dispensation  
from all fasting! (February 8, 2025 to February 18, 2025)

- Today: Monthly Panikhida [Postponed from last Sunday]
- Today: Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy.  
*[POSTPONED from last Sunday due to a lack of a quorum!]*
- Today: Soup ‘N Bowl IX Challenge immediately following Divine Liturgy in the church basement.  
Be prepared to indulge in some of the best warm and tasty soups/stews/ chilis!
- Tuesday: February 11 - Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!
- Saturday: February 15 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: February 16 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son  
Reading of Hours – 9:00am  
Divine Liturgy – **9:30am**  
*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 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 8)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!  
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

### **Another Prokeimenon (Tone 3 – Song of the Theotokos)**

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

### **Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-15**

My Son Timothy, 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 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)
- 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

### **2025 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.

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### **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

The Herbert Families wish to thank everyone who stayed for the Panikhida last Sunday in memory of the one-year anniversary of the falling asleep of their beloved wife, mother, and grand mother Mary ‘Matesy” Herbert. The families are also grateful for those who joined them for a luncheon afterwards in the church basement during the coffee hour time frame. In addition, Mary’s brother’s families (John & Michelle Spack and Michael & Joyce Spack) also wish to thank everyone who stayed after Divine Liturgy. The Herberts wish to thank the Spacks for bringing food and refreshments for the luncheon. Thank you all once again. May Mary’s Memory Be Eternal!

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**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Irene Torpey offered by Nina Patterson

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Mary Herbert offered by Nina Patterson  
Mary Spack, Emelie Albrecht offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Mary Herbert, Judy Currier offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Albert, Ronald Andrew, Anna, Emily offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Mary Herbert offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Mary Herbert offered by the Reader David Pellack

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 2/2/25**

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Mary “Matesy” Herbert  
offered by the Herbert Families

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Mary “Matesy” Herbert  
offered by the Spack, Bava, & McCann Families

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

The newly illumined servant of God Ethan Alfred Andrews who was baptized on Saturday, January 11; and their godparents Peter Parsells and Nicole Velez. May God Grant Ethan and his godparents Many Healthy and Blessed Years!!

Leila Jones (newly born on Tuesday, December 31 at 3:06PM \* 8lbs. 13oz. & 22 inches long), her big brother Levi, her parents Colin & Anastasia (Kavalkovich) Jones, her grandparents Subdeacon Daniel (Ken) & Debbie Kavalkovich, and her great-grandmother Catherine Kavalkovich. May God Grant Leila and her family Many Healthy and Blessed Years!!

Natalie Patterson-Nedbal and her unborn child; Catherine Kavalkovich; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Fania Wanenchak and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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## 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/February)**

Week of Sun Jan 26 to Sat Feb 1

January Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	30 <i>[Readers Service]</i>	35 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 796.04	\$ 4,640.04
Funds Out:	\$ 1,436.22	\$13,049.54
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 640.18)	(\$ 8,409.50)

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



## **2025 Monthly/Quarterly Schedule**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month** – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

### **Readers Schedule:**

	<u>Today (Feb 9)</u>	<u>Next Week (Feb 16)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Epistle:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

### **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.

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**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 & March 2025**

**Sunday, March 2 - 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 9<sup>th</sup>]

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.

