

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
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Sunday, February 28, 2016

Tone 6 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Venerable Basil the Confessor, Companion of
Venerable Procopius at Decapolis (750)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Readers class after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room. Anyone wishing to learn how to read the Hours and Epistle are encourage to attend this discussion.

Saturday: March 5 - Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: March 6 – Sunday of Meatfare
Sunday of the Last Judgement
Reading of Hours – **9:30am [note time change]**
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: March 6 – Annual Roast Pork (and Mini Meatball) Sandwich Luncheon after Divine Liturgy.

Sunday: March 6 – Property Committee Meeting after Meatfare Luncheon in Church School Room.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 6)

The angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 1 – Venerable Basil)

Dweller of the desert and angel in the body / thou was shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father Basil / Thou received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith / Glory to Him who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him who granted thee a crown! // Glory to Him who through thou grants healing to all!

Kontakion (Tone 6)

When Christ God the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. / And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; / receive me as a penitent, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Venerable Basil)

Thou received a revelation of God from on high, O wise one, / and withdrew from the midst of the world’s tumult. / Thou lived the monastic life with honor, / receiving the power to work miracles and heal diseases by grace, // most blessed and holy Basil.

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save thy people, / and bless Thy inheritance!
v. Unto Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 6)

- v. He who dwelleth in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He will say to the Lord: "Thou art my Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom will I trust." Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!' I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

Welcome to all of our visitors & guest worshiping with us today. A warm welcome to all of our visitors and guest who have joined us today in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

Announcements (cont.)

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Lenten Season:

The next 40 Days for Life has begun during the Great Lent (February 10 to March 20). Meanwhile the killing continues at Planned Parenthood. Thank you so much in advance for signing up for this list and being willing to continue standing up for those that can't speak for themselves.

Information:

- * Contacts: Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084
- * Email: roobearoo@hotmail.com
- * Website: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/philadelphia/>
- * Prayer vigil located at 12th & Locust St, Philadelphia – Planned Parenthood
- * Vigils open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.
- * Try to have at least one person there to cover the hour.
- * There are more abortions performed there than at any other Planned Parenthood in Pennsylvania!

The 40 Days For Life is not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves. They offer support to mothers and fathers who would like an alternative to abortion but do not know where to turn. They encourage healing for families who have chosen abortion and have a deep feeling of sadness and regret. Their message is one of compassion and love for all people as well as hope for an end to this “culture of death” which we have embraced in our world.

Soup N’ Bowl I Challenge – The Results are in...

It was a close tight race for the top three spots with Heather’s “Pipe’n Hot” Beef Stew edging out Catherine Kavalkovich’s Chicken Noodle Soup and J Spack’s “Sea Surf’n” Lobster Bisque by one vote. Herbert’s “Lenten” Lentil Soup and Pellack’s Pumpkin Curry (tied) rounded out the remaining dishes.

Thanks to all who prepared, enjoyed, and casted a selection during this luncheon.

We plan on having this event next year around the same time as the football SuperBowl and may include chili dishes along with the soups and stews.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Simon Herbert, Olga Macalush, Claire Remington, Jane Kelly offered by M/M Herbert
Nina Patterson offered by Albrecht Family
Anastasia Kavalkovich offered by M/M Kavalkovich
Alexandra Walker offered by Pellack Family
Anastasia, Catherine, Albert, Patricia, William, Susan, Maggie offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Father John Udics, Reader Leonard Macalush, offered by M/M Herbert
Father John Udics offered by Albrecht Family
Father John Udics offered by M/M A Kavalkovich
Father John Udics, William, Anne, Helen, Andrew offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Building Fund – In Memory of Father John Udics
* Emily Gerasimoff * Matt Andrews

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Anastasia Kavalkovich; Nina Patterson; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; + Father John Udics; + Father Athanasy Mastalski; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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2016 PARISH CALENDAR:

A computer printout version of the 2016 church calendar for the months of January and February are located on the back pew in the church. If this version is acceptable, we will continue to generate the remaining months for 2016. Also, for those who have access to the Internet, the calendar for January and February are posted in color on the parish website for your convenience under the “Service Schedule” tab section. Thank you!

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items for are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

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~~ Icon Fund (2016)
- 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 (February)

	<u>Week of Feb 15 to Feb 21</u>	<u>February Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	27	28 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,522.00	\$ 6,088.00
Funds Out:	\$ 3,784.53	\$ 7,281.12
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,262.53)	(\$ 1,193.12)

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 David Pellack 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

TODAY - Reading the Hours and Epistle Discussion following the Divine Liturgy!

Anyone wishing to learn how to read the Hours and the Epistle are welcome to attend this class. Father Mark, and those knowledgeable with the readings, will offer instruction and information on how the readings are presented.

Annual Roast “Pork” (and Mini Meatball) Sandwich Luncheon on Sunday, March 6

[Meatfare Sunday] after Divine Liturgy! Plans on organizing the luncheon will begin TODAY. Please see Catherine Kavalkovich if you wish to provide a dish for this annual pre-Lenten luncheon. Catherine will prepare the roast pork and mini meatball. We will need volunteers to bring or prepare other food items!

Bible Study – Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30pm in the church basement. The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Genesis.

Forgiveness Sunday Vespers – Sunday, March 13 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!

First Week of Great Lent - Monday, March 14 - Saturday March 19

Service schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 14 thru Thursday, March 17 – St Andrew of Crete Service

(All St Andrew of Crete services each evening will begin at 6:30PM)

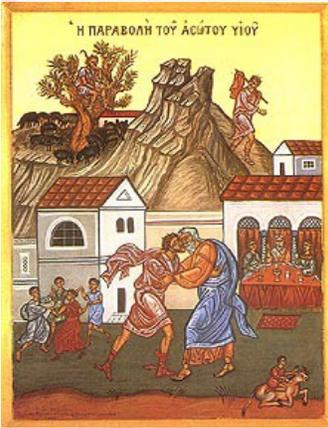
Friday, March 18 – The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts begins at 6:30PM

Saturday, March 19 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM

Any changes in the schedule or time will be announced in church & bulletin.

Our parish will be hosting a Mission Vesper Service during Lent on Sunday, April 10 (Fourth Sunday of Great Lent – St John of the Ladder (Climacus))

This is just an early FYI for your Lenten plans. We will begin coordinating the schedule and Lenten meal menu sometime next month once lent was started. We have time to plan for this service!!!



Sunday of the Prodigal Son [February 28st]

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

This parable of God’s forgiveness calls us to “come to ourselves” as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being “in a far country” far from the Father’s house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only “arise and go,” confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that “home” where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn “By the Waters of Babylon.” It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today’s Gospel.