

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### **Sunday, June 11, 2017 | 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 8 – Synaxis of All Saints

Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas (1<sup>st</sup> c.).  
Martyrs of the Boxer Rising in China

### **V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector**

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### **Weekly Schedule**

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement!

Monday: Beginning of the Apostles' (Saints Peter and Paul) Fast!  
*(This fast is 17 days (June 12 and June 28) this year!)*

Tuesday: June 13 – Bible Study at 6:30pm. Book of Leviticus

Wednesday: June 14 - Flag Day!

Saturday: June 17 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: June 18 – Sunday of All Saints of America and Russia!  
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)**

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, / Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world. / She cries to Thee, O Christ God: / "Send down Thy bounties on Thy people, // Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

### **Kontakion (Tone 8)**

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs, / as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. / By their prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace // through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

### **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 (Saints) (Tone 4)**

God is wondrous in His saints, the God of Israel.

### **Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:33-12:2**

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their troubles. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, and the Lord will deliver them out of them all. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30**

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

**"Be the first to arrive at church for services and the last to leave, especially for the Divine Liturgy."**

*St Symeon the Studite (also called Symeon the Pious; +1021)*

**Announcements**

**A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guest** 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

The parish is asking if there is anyone who knows someone who has an extra “working” refrigerator that they are looking to dispose of that our church can use. Currently, our refrigerator is operational, but the freezer unit for some odd reason keeps turning itself on and off. This causes water to leak inside the refrigerator thereby causing a major puddle of water to accumulate on the bottom glass shelf and at the bottom of the refrigerator. It’s now gotten to the point where the water needs to be wiped up on a weekly basis. If you know of anyone, please inform a member of the parish council. Thank You!

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A special Thank You goes out to Kenneth Kavalkovich and Matthew Andrews who both spent time this past week working on the air conditioning unit and preparing for its use during this weekend’s services. Hopefully with their mechanical knowledge and skills, we will not incur any problems in the A/C unit this summer. May God Grant both of you many healthy, blessed years...(and a comfortable summer!!!)

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As of May 10, 2017, the parish now has an account on the You Tube website with videos from our monthly Church Life Class Discussions. Currently there are seven vidoes uploaded on the site. To view these videos, just go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type in search area for Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church and look for the picture of our parish Icon of Christ from our Facebook page.

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### **[...continued from last page...Synaxis of All Saints...]**

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living “in the world.” Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Sts Joachim and Anna, St Joseph the Betrothed, St Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of St Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Jim Sowder  
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Albrecht Family  
Albrecht Family offered by Emelie Albrecht  
Pellack Family offered by Margaret Pellack  
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Barbara Andrews

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Zion Abdullah offered by Nina Patterson  
John and Julia Drimak offered by Hourahan Family

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Helen Riley (*newly departed*); Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; 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!

Please remember those who perished and the injured in the senseless and brutal attacks that have occurred over the past week in London, England; Paris, France; and Tehran, Iran.

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Building Fund – In Memory of Helen Riley  
\* M/M Ken Kavalkovich                      \* M/M Noel Kelly

**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 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 – Icon Fund (2016-17)
- 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 (May/June)**

	<u>Week of May 29 to June 4</u>	<u>May Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	41	37 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,401.16	\$ 5,922.16
Funds Out:	\$ 2,243.83	\$ 5,089.09
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 157.33	\$ 833.07

**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

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy.

**TODAY – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month)!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting; Hall status rental update; prioritize additional work that needs to be done over at the Hall now that the tenants have officially moved into the Hall; and any additional action(s) that need to be taken as a result of deliberations that occurred during the Spring General Parish Meeting.

**Bible Study – Tuesday, June 13 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 Leviticus.

**Sunday, June 25 - Church Life Discussion after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship hour in the church.** The Topic – History of the Divine Liturgy. Please note the Church Life Discussion on the History of the Divine Liturgy is held on the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** of each month.

**Wednesday, June 28 – Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29<sup>th</sup>) at 6:30PM!**

On the eve of the Feast Day of The Holy Glorious and All Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul, Vespers Divine Liturgy will be served that evening starting at 6:30PM. This service is being scheduled to accommodate those parishioners who are unable to attend Divine Liturgy in the morning during the weekdays due to their work schedule.



## Synaxis of All Saints [June 11<sup>th</sup>]

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

St Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories. The list of St Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous....."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. St Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks & nuns are useless and unproductive, St John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31).