

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, January 7, 2018 | 31st Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Sunday After the Theophany

Afterfeast of the Theophany

Synaxis of Saint John the Baptist

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

CHRIST IS BAPTISED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN!

Tuesday: Bible Study at 6:30 PM in the church basement.
Continue reading the Book of Numbers.

Saturday: January 13 – Sunday School begins at 2:30pm!

Saturday: January 13 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: January 14 – Holy Fathers slain at Sinai and Raithu
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: January 14 - Property Committee Meeting is scheduled after Divine Liturgy in the church school room.

Sunday: January 14 – 81st Annual Novogodny Ball – Trevoze, PA

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 – Feast of Theophany)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, / and called Thee His beloved Son; / and the Spirit in the form of a dove / confirmed the truthfulness of His word. / O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself // and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 2 – St John the Baptist)

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, / but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. / Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the Prophets, / for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Whom thou didst preach. / After suffering with joy on behalf of the truth, / thou didst proclaim even to those in hell the God Who appeared in the flesh, / Who takes away the sin of the world // and grants us great mercy!

Kontakion (Tone 6 – St John the Baptist)

The river Jordan trembled, and was driven back, / filled with fear at Thy coming in the flesh, / while John drew back in awe / as he fulfilled the ministry of the Spirit. / The ranks of Angels stood amazed / when they beheld Thee baptized in the stream. / And we who were in darkness are filled with light. // We praise Thee, O God made manifest, as Thou dost enlighten all.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Feast of Theophany)

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, / and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. / Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O unapproachable Light.

Prokeimenon (Tone 1 – Sunday after Theophany)

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!

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday After Theophany)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5 – Sunday After Theophany)

- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday After Theophany)

The Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

[Instead of "It is truly meet.." we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!
No tongue is capable of praising you worthily;
The angelic mind is overawed in exalting you, O Theotokos!
But since thou art good, accept our faith,
Since you are gracious and knowest our divine love,
Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee!

Communion Hymn:

The grace of God hath appeared for the salvation of all men.
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for Saint John the Baptist are as follows:
Epistle – Acts 19:1-8 and Gospel – John 1:29-34]*

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

2018 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 Saturday, 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.

As a result of our church holding its Annual Parish Meeting next Sunday, The next Church Life Discussion Lecture on the History of the Divine Liturgy will be held in two weeks on **Sunday, January 21, 2018** after Divine Liturgy up in the Church.

The **54th Diocesan Assembly** will be held in three weeks (Thursday, January 25 and Friday, January 26) at St. Michaels Orthodox Church in Wilmington, DE. Father Mark will be attending the Assembly both days and the parish has scheduled one of our parishioners to attend the Friday sessions as our parish delegate. Also, our parish will have a parishioner attend the Assembly as an observer only. Any pertinent information or action taken during the Assembly will be reported by the parish representatives next Sunday after Divine Liturgy.

There will be no services held for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs at our parish on either the eve (Monday, January 29) or on the Feast Day itself (Tuesday, January 30).

Soup N' Bowl III Challenge – Sunday February 4, 2018 after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)! We are looking for participants to prepare their best soup, stew, or chili and faceoff against each other once again. The parishioners & guest will indulge in each dish & cast a ballot for which one they enjoy the most. Additional details to follow!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Parishioners and Friends offered by Joseph Rabik
Andrew Gerasimoff, Helen Gerasimoff, Pat Gerasimoff, and June Gerasimoff offered by Emily Gerasimoff

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

Emelie Albrecht; Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Nancy Brasko Rabik; Michael Spack (discharged from the hospital on Dec 28); Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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2018 St Tikhon's Lectionary Church Wall Calendars!

We no longer have any 2018 calendars for sale. We still a family who ordered a calendar who still needs to pick theirs up. Also, if you still owe for your calendar (\$5), please settle up your balance with a member of the parish council or someone at the candle desk. 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 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 (December)

<u>Week of Dec 25 to Dec 31</u>	<u>December Month-to-date</u>
Attendance: 32	34 (average)
<i>Christmas Day Liturgy</i> 48	<i>(includes Christmas Day)</i>
Funds In: (12/25 & 12/31) \$ 4,040.15	\$ 11,427.15
Funds Out: (\$ 466.48) reimbursements	\$ 6,551.37
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$4,506.63	\$ 4,875.78

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

1st Sunday of each month – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
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 – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

Bible Study – Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the next section of the bible which is the Book of Numbers.

“Saturday Sunday School” resumes on Saturday, January 13 at 2:30pm.

Father Mark (along with two adult teachers) will resume Sunday School classes for our parish’s children on this Saturday afternoon beginning at 2:30pm (since we already have too many activities/events on Sunday). The agenda for this class (and more if necessary) will be on Baptism and Chrismation. All children 18 and under are welcome to attend the classes. Adults are also welcome to sit in on the classes.

Sunday, January 14 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of each month)!

All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-up from the previous meeting, status of the meeting with the tenant of the parish house, and any additional action(s) that need to be taken.

81st Annual Novogodny Ball – Sunday, January 14, 2018.

Flyer information and Reservation Forms are posted on the church bulletin boards both in the back of the church upstairs and in the basement.

Great Blessing of the Waters – Sunday, January 21, 2018 – 3PM!

The Pan-Orthodox Christian Brotherhood of Greater Philadelphia announces a joint Orthodox Christian Celebration of Epiphany on January 21, 2018 at 3pm along the Schuylkill River at the Fairmont Boat House, located at 2 Boathouse Row and Kelly Drive, Philadelphia, PA. This traditional service known as “The Greater Blessing of the Waters” will commemorate the Baptism of Jesus Christ in the River Jordan by St. John the Baptist. For more information please speak with Father Mark Koczak about this event.

Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, January 28, 2018 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #1 of 3.

According to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A. of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Annual and General Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the Meeting. The Spiritual Advisor’s report, the Treasurer’s report, the voting on the 2018 budget, and the election of officers will take place during the meeting.



St. Cedd of Lastingham [January 7th]

Saint Cedd was a missionary and bishop who spread the faith throughout England during the seventh century.

The eldest of four brothers, all of whom became priests, he was born in 620 AD into a noble Northumbrian family. At an early age, he began studies at the Lindisfarne Priory, where he became familiar with Irish monasticism. After pursuing further studies in Ireland, he was sent by Bishop Finan of Lindisfarne to evangelize

the people of Essex. He baptized many of the locals, built several churches, and founded monasteries in Bradwell-on-Sea and East Tilbury.

After his consecration to the episcopacy as Bishop of Essex, he reinstated Saint Paul's in London as the main seat of his diocese. He remained fond of his northern homeland and made regular visits there. On one such occasion in 658, he was approached by King Aethelwald of Deira who, finding Saint Cedd to be a good and wise man, pressed him to accept a parcel of land at Lastingham in Yorkshire on which to build a monastery. Saint Cedd eventually agreed, laying the foundation stones after the parcel had been cleansed through prayer and fasting. He became the first Abbot of Lastingham and remained so while still ministering to his flock in Essex.

Saint Cedd died in Lastingham during a great plague that also claimed the life of his brother Cynebil. Eventually, he was buried under the altar of a little stone church built at Lastingham in honor of the Mother of God. His relics were later transferred to the Litchfield Cathedral, which had been built by his brother Chad.

Saint Brannock of Braunton [January 7th]

Saint Brannock lived in the sixth century, and tutored the children of the Welsh ruler Brychan. He went with King Brychan on a pilgrimage to venerate the tombs of the Apostles. On the way home, he stopped in Brittany and remained there several years.

Eventually, the saint returned to Wales and settled at Braunton, where he built a church. His holy relics are said to rest beneath the altar of the Braunton church.