

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 21, 2018 | 33rd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Sunday of Zacchaeus
Venerable Maximus the Confessor (662)
Martyr Neophytus of Nicaea (303-305)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.
Topic: Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas!

Today: Great Blessing of Water begins at 3:00PM along Boathouse Row on the Schuylkill River.

Thursday: 54th Diocesan Assembly – Wilmington, DE.

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Saturday: January 27 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: January 28 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: January 28 – Annual Parish Meeting after 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 8 – Maximus the Confessor)

Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship, / enlightener of the universe and the adornment of hierarchs: / all-wise Father Maximus, thy teachings have gleamed with light upon all things. // Intercede before Christ God to save our souls!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Martyr Neophytus)

Thy holy martyr Neoph^hytus, O Lord, / through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. / For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through his intercessions save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Maximus the Confessor) *

The Thrice-radiant Light took up abode in thy soul, O all-blissful father, / and displayed it as an elect vessel, manifest to the ends of the earth. / O blessed Maximus, thou didst explain hard-to-grasp doctrines with brilliance and clarity, // proclaiming the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity to all.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Martyr Neophytus)

Thou didst shine forth from the mount like lightning, / glorifying Christ through thy struggles and death as a martyr. // Therefore, thou hast received an unfading crown, O Great-martyr Neoph^hytus.

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

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

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

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)

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

*** Another Kontakion for Maximus the Confessor in Tone 8**

Let us the faithful fittingly praise the lover of the Trinity, / the great Maximus who taught the God-inspired faith, / that Christ is to be glorified in His two natures, wills, and energies; // and let us cry to him: “Rejoice, herald of the faith!”

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 was on 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.

The **54th Diocesan Assembly** will be held this week (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 during our Annual Parish Meeting next Sunday (January 28) 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).

Services for the Feast of The Meeting of Our Lord into the Temple (February 2) will be determine by Father Mark by next Sunday (January 28) so you have time to plan accordingly on that day(s).

Annual Pork and/or Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday – Sunday, February 11 after Divine Liturgy.

Plans on organizing the luncheon will begin TODAY during Fellowship Coffee hour. 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.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Arthur Phelps offered by Joseph Rabik
Margaret Pellack offered by the Pellack Family
Family and Friends offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Anna and Michael Pellack offered by the Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

May God Grant Many Healthy and Blessed Years for the newly illumined and baptized infant Natasha Gerty (Jan 13), her parents Katherine and Michael Gerty, and her Godparents Laura and Michael Wanenchak.

Emelie Albrecht; Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Anastasia Kavalkovich (as she heads off to college); Margaret Pellack; Nancy Brasko Rabik; Michael Spack; 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!

Parish Council Office Notification!!!

The Parish Secretary has informed the Parish Council that she will not be running for re-election for said position. Therefore, the Office of the Parish Secretary is open and the parish will be looking for a candidate to fill this vacancy during the election of parish officers at the Annual Parish Meeting!

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 (January)

<u>Week of Jan 8 to Jan 14</u>	<u>January Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance: 34	33 (average)
<i>Holy Theophany (1/6)</i> 12	
<i>Vespers (1/13)</i> 3	
Funds In: \$ 2,532.00	\$ 5,177.00
Funds Out: \$ 950.00	\$ 4,386.08
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 1,582.00	\$ 790.92

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.

TODAY - 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 #3 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.

Soup N’ Bowl III Challenge - Sunday, February 4, 2018 after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)!

- * We are looking for participants (between 4 to 8 people) to prepare their best soup, stew, or chili and faceoff against each other (no fasting restrictions on that Sunday). Any soup, stew, or chili can be prepared. Any type of crackers or bread can be included as a compliment to the dish.
- * Participants should make enough soup, stew, or chili for the parishioners and guests (average between 30-35 people).
- * Parishioners & guests will indulge in each one of the soups, stews, and chili (at least try ½ bowl or cup of each soup) and then cast a ballot for which one they enjoyed the most.
- * The results (“Score”) will be announced by the Commissioner: Fr. Koczak
- * The winner gets to enjoy for the year that their soup, stew or chili was the best and select a charity of their choosing from the coffee hour proceeds from this event.
- * Donation of “free-will” offering will be accepted for this coffee hour event.
- * Any other ideas or suggestions, please inform a parish council member.



Sunday of Zacchaeus [January 21st]

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought

salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection “Today salvation has come to the world,” which echoes the Lord’s words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.