

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Tone 3 – Sunday of Meatfare
Sunday of the Last Judgment
Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste (ca 316)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Parish President - Peter Parsells

Phone: (908) 872.5657

Weekly Schedule

Today: Annual Pork and Roast Beef Sandwich Meatfare Sunday Luncheon after Divine Liturgy!

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

Saturday: February 17 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: February 18 – Sunday of Cheesefare
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 18 – Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately to be served after Divine Liturgy!

Service Schedule for the First Week of Great
Lent is noted on page 4 of this bulletin!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Kontakion (Tone 1 – Lenten Triodion)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble, / and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; / the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Great is our Lord and abundant in power; / His understanding is beyond measure!
v. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

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: Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?' 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Communion Hymn:

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



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.

First Week of Great Lent - Monday, Feb 19 to Sunday, Feb 25

Service schedule is as follows:

Monday, February 19 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Tuesday, February 20 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Wednesday, February 21 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Thursday, February 22 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Friday, February 23 – The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts begins 6:30PM
Saturday, February 24 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM
Sunday, February 25 – Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM

Mission Service Vespers – beginning at **4:00PM**

Sunday, February 25 – Orthodoxy Sunday (Archbishop Mark presiding)
St. Stephen Cathedral (OCA) – Philadelphia, PA

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

Our parish will be hosting a Mission Vespers Service on Sunday, March 25 – St. Mary of Egypt beginning at 4:00PM. As a result of hosting this service, during the Lenten Season, a church cleaning is scheduled the day before on Saturday, March 24 with a start time To Be Determined.

Parish Meeting Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on January 28 and the minutes from the Special Election of the Parish Council Meeting held on February 5 will be posted on the bulletin board in the church basement once the minutes have been completed and recorded.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Emelie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson

Emelie Albrecht, Joseph Herbert, John Herbert offered by M/M Herbert

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Helen Herbert, Reader Leonty Macalush offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed handmaiden of God Emelie Albrecht

+ Newly Departed servant of God Robert Corba

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Nancy Brasko Rabik; 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!

Congratulations to the new 2018 Parish Council Members!!!

Spiritual Advisor: Father Mark Kozak

Parish President: Matthew Andrews

Parish Vice President: Lena Helen

Parish Secretary: Peter Witiak

Parish Treasurer: Kenneth Kavalkovich

Parish Council Trustee: Martha Palubniak

Parish Council Trustee: Natalie Patterson

Immediate Past President: Peter Parsells

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/February)

	<u>Week of Jan 29 to Feb 4</u>	<u>January Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	44	32 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,862.24	\$ 8,324.24
Funds Out:	\$ 3,494.98	\$10,107.16
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 632.74)	(\$ 1,782.92)

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 - Annual Roast Pork Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday after Divine Liturgy!

Please plan on staying after Liturgy and join us during Fellowship hour for this annual pre-Lenten Meatfare luncheon. All are invited and any contributions towards this luncheon that helps support the parish is always very much appreciated! A special Thank You to Catherine Kavalkovich for coordinating this event and all those who contributed to this event!

Bible Study – Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will be finishing up the readings and discussing of the Book of Numbers.

Forgiveness Sunday Vespers – Sunday, February 18 immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

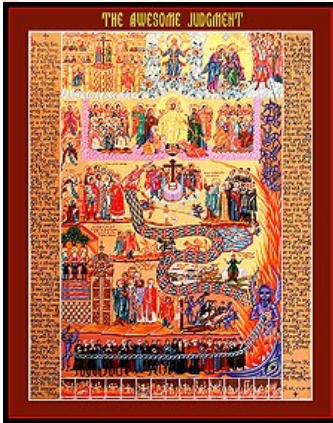
The parish traditionally serves this vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading “Vouchsafe, O Lord”) that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!

February 25 - Church Life Discussion class after Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour. (The 4th Sunday of the month)

The Topic – Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. It’s history and the stories displayed on them.

Sunday, February 25 – Mission Service at 4:00pm.

Philadelphia Deanery of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (OCA)
St Stephen Cathedral * 8598 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19111. Phone #215.745.3232
Website: <http://www.ststephenscathedral.org>



Sunday of Meatfare, Sunday of the Last Judgement

[February 11th]

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions

simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.