

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, June 3, 2018 | 1st Sunday After Pentecost

Tone – 8 Synaxis of All Saints

Martyr Lucillian and those who suffered with him at Byzantium: four youths: Claudius, Hypatius, Paul, Dionysius & Virgin Paula (270-275)

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Spring General Parish Meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

Much to be discussed regarding the status of the Parish properties (Church, Hall, and both houses)!!!!

Monday: Beginning of the Apostles' (Saints Peter and Paul) Fast!
(This fast is 26 days (June 4 to June 29) this year!)

Saturday: June 9 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: June 10 – 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

Sunday: June 10 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement!

Tuesday: June 12 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement.

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 & 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

Father Mark would like to thank all the parishioners for the birthday cards, the birthday cakes, the well wishes, and gifts received last Sunday in the church basement after the Pentecost kneeling Vespers. Everything was very appreciated and a great way to spend the remaining part of the weekend before setting out to Saint Tikhon's Monastery for the Memorial Day Weekend Pilgrimage.

A special Thank You goes out to Jack Drimak, his sons, John and Justin, and a coworker, Bill, for performing major repairs to the inside of the 2111 House. There is still much to be done in the house, but a major job with the sewer pipe has been repaired and fixed, along with installing a repair coupling to repair the leak where the main water comes into the house.

An status update on the house along with the Church roof situation will be discussed during the Spring General Parish Meeting held Today!

Also, a special Thank You goes out to Kenneth Kavalkovich and Matthew Andrews who both spent time the past three weekends working on the air conditioning unit and preparing for its use during church 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!!)

[...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:

Father Mark Kozak on his birthday offered by his Parishioners

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John and Emma Burychka offered by the Pellack Family

Deborah Archie offered by the Pellack Family

All Veterans who served this Great Country offered by the Pellack Family

Irene (Rabik) Glovach offered by her brother Joseph Rabik

Irene, Paul, Grace, William offered by Nina Patterson

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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SUNDAY PUNDAY.....

No matter how much you try to push the envelope, it'll still be stationary.

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

Announcements (cont.)

Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

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 (2016-18)
- 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)

| | <u>Week of May 21 to May 27</u> | <u>May Month-to-date</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Attendance: | 45 | 37 (average) |
| Funds In: | \$ 3,073.00 | \$ 8,324.00 |
| Funds Out: | \$ 255.95 | \$ 5,504.53 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit): | \$ 2,817.05 | \$ 2,819.47 |

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 - Spring General Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.
Discussions will include events since the Annual Parish Meeting, activities over the summer months, and any other business that needs to be discussed. The majority of this meeting will cover the Property Committee's report on the status of our Parish, the Hall, the tenant status at 2109 House, and the update on work performed on the 2111 House. The meeting should take about an hour but should not exceed past 90 minutes.

Sunday, June 10 – 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-ups from the previous meeting; Church status from the recent water damage on north side of building; Hall status update; tenant situation at 2109 house; the work performed on 2111 house; 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 12 at 6:30pm in the church basement.
The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will continue the readings and discussing the section in the Bible – The Book of **Deuteronomy**.

Readers Meeting – Sunday, June 17 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. A Readers Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 17 after Divine Liturgy for those who read the Hours and the Epistle. Thank You!

Sunday, June 24 - Church Life Discussion after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship hour in the church. (The 4th Sunday of the month)
The Topic – Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. It's history and the stories displayed on them.

Cleaning Teams: Today (June 3): Blessed Olga (Debbie Kavalkovich, Anastasia Kavalkovich and Martha Palubniak).
Next Week (June 10): Saint Juvenaly (Jennifer Cantrell (family), Ron and Cheryl Homa).



Synaxis of All Saints [June 3rd]

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).