

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, July 1, 2018 | 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone – 4 Holy and Wonderworking Unmercenaries
Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs at Rome (284)
Martyr Potitus at Naples (2nd c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Wednesday: Independence Day!! God Bless America!!!

Saturday: July 7 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: July 8 – Holy Greatmartyr Procopius of Caesarea
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: July 8 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement!

Tuesday: July 10 - Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 8 – Saints Cosmas and Damian)

Holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, Cosmas and Damian, heal our infirmities! // Freely ye have received; freely ye give to us.

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 2 - Saints Cosmas and Damian)

Having received the grace of healing, / ye grant healing to those in need. / Glorious wonderworkers and healers, Cosmas and Damian, / visit us and put down the insolence of our enemies, // and bring healing to the world through your miracles!

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works / in wisdom hast Thou made them all!
v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

Epistle Reading: Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:28-9:1

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

During this Independence weekend celebration, please remember in your prayers the founding fathers of this country, those who sacrificed their lives for this country, and all those currently serving in our Armed Forces that we may appreciate the life that we live and enjoy the freedoms that this nation has to offer. God Bless America!

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

Parishioner Volunteers Needed:

Over the past two years, the Church Property Committee has undertaken the task of overseeing needed restoration projects for Our Parish, Church Hall and the two Parish owned row houses. We are pleased that the Church Hall has been restored to the point where it has been rented and is now providing much needed revenue for our Parish and Church Hall. However, after further assessment of ongoing issues in the Church Hall, we know that many necessary repairs, e.g. brick pointing, lintel repair, cleanup in basement, etc... need to be resolved in the near future.

We are also in the process to make available one of the row houses rentable. To assist in offsetting the costs associated in hiring expensive contractors, both the Property Committee and Parish Council sincerely request the help of **every** parishioner who is able to provide some assistance in the few months ahead (most work will be done on Saturdays). Task range from maintenance repairs, painting, cleaning, etc...

A form asking for dates that parishioners may be available to help with some of the repairs need is being distributed to our parishioners. We hope that each parishioner would complete this form and place it in the folder outside the church office.

Participation is, of course, optional, however we hope all can help in some way.

UPDATE ON THE SALE AND MOVE OF THE DIOCESAN CENTER

JUNE 25 - Since the last update posted in March, a property has been found in Bath, PA, seven miles from St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem. It is a commercially zoned house with offices on the ground floor, a main floor with living room, dining room and kitchen and family room and a second floor with a master bedroom suite and three other bedrooms. An offer has been made with conditions and accepted. The conditions pertain to the diocese receiving a favorable response to our petition for a change in zoning that will make it possible for it to serve as a residence as well as diocesan office. The property was examined by the entire Diocesan Council, who approved the choice and made many useful suggestions for both the process of acquiring it and what could/should be done in the event of completing the purchase. His Eminence Archbishop Mark has been at the forefront of this entire process consulting the Council at every step, and there have been many before we reached this point. He has been graciously assisted with professional advice by Attorney John Coles of Christ the Savior parish in Harrisburg, Mr John McGarrity of St. Nicholas parish in Bethlehem, a licensed contractor, along with Ms. Yadira Colon, our realtor, and most recently Attorney Lawrence Fox of Allentown, who has been retained to facilitate the zoning process, all of whom have been an immeasurable help. The hearing regarding our request is scheduled for July 18 in Bath and we look forward to a favorable ruling from the Zoning Commission.



GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!



Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and John Bilaski offered by Nina Patterson
Margaret Pellack on her 90th Birthday offered by Joseph Rabik
Margaret Pellack on her 90th Birthday offered by M/M Ken Walker
Margaret Pellack on her 90th Birthday offered by the Pellack Family
Margaret Pellack on her 90th Birthday, Joseph Herbert
offered by M/M Herbert
Anastasia Kavalkovich on her Birthday offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Olga Macalush offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack (**on her 90th Birthday – June 23**); Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Please also remember in your prayers the Protodeacon Gregory Hatrak on the one year anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord (July 1).
May His Memory Be Eternal!

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SUNDAY PUNDAY.....

A golf ball is a golf ball no matter how you putt it.

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 – Youth Fund (*reactivated July 2018*)
- 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 (June)

| <u>Week of June 18 to June 24</u> | | <u>June Month-to-date</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Attendance: | 48 | 42 (average) |
| <i>Ss Peter & Paul (6/28)</i> | 11 | |
| Funds In: | \$ 5,156.00 | \$ 11,294.00 |
| Funds Out: | \$ 1,428.92 | \$ 5,207.42 |
| Net Surplus/ (Deficit) : | \$ 3,727.08 | \$ 6,086.58 |

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.

Sunday, July 8 – 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 at this time.

Bible Study – Tuesday, July 10 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time to finish reading The Book of **Deuteronomy** and then will begin the next book of readings and discussing the section in the Bible – The Book of **Joshua**. Joshua is a story of conquest and fulfillment for the people of God. After many, many years of slavery in Egypt and 40 years in the desert, the Israelites were finally allowed to enter the land promised to their fathers.

Sunday, July 29 at 2:00PM - Dining Out in Delaware - Ironhill Brewery Restaurant in Wilmington, DE (a social event for the parish)!

Please contact Matushka Jan in person, by phone (House #302.322.0943), or email (jakoczak@gmail.com) whether you will be attending so reservations can be made. The reservation deadline is **Tuesday, July 17!!!** The phone number for Ironhill Brewery in Delaware is 302-472-2739

19th All-American Council in St. Louis, MO - July 23 to 27, 2018

Father Mark will be attending as our parish's representative to the AAC.

The OCA has published online the delegate's reports for this AAC. If you wish to view these reports, the website is <https://19aac.oca.org> Then click on the tab titled Documents, and then scroll down the webpage and open up any one of the four reports listed on the page: Delegate Handbook (56 pages), Reports of the Officers (60 pages, Reports of the Departments and Institutions (85 pages), or Financial Reports (329 pages).

Cleaning Teams: Today (July 1): OPEN DATE – None Scheduled

Next Week (July 8): Saint Elizabeth the New Martyr (Sandra Hourahan, Matushka Jan, David Pellack).



Holy Wonderworking Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian at Rome [July 1st]

The Holy Martyrs, Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian were born at Rome, brothers by birth, and physicians by profession. They suffered at Rome in the reign of the emperor Carinus (283-284). Brought up by their parents in the rules of piety, they led strict and chaste lives, and they were granted by God the gift of healing the sick. By their generosity and exceptional kindness to all, the brothers converted many to Christ. The brothers told the sick, “It is not by our own power that we treat you, but by the power of Christ, the true God. Believe in Him and be healed.” Since they accepted no payment for their treatment of the infirm, the holy brothers were called “unmercenary physicians.”

Their life of active service and their great spiritual influence on the people around them led many into the Church, attracting the attention of the Roman authorities. Soldiers were sent after the brothers. Hearing about this, local Christians convinced Saints Cosmas and Damian to hide for a while until they could help them escape. Unable to find the brothers, the soldiers arrested instead other Christians of the area where the saints lived. Saints Cosmas and Damian then came out of hiding and surrendered to the soldiers, asking them to release those who had been arrested because of them.

At Rome, the saints were imprisoned and put on trial. Before the Roman emperor and the judge they openly professed their faith in Christ God, Who had come into the world to save mankind and redeem the world from sin, and they resolutely refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. They said, “We have done evil to no one, we are not involved with the magic or sorcery of which you accuse us. We treat the infirm by the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and we take no payment for rendering aid to the sick, because our Lord commanded His disciples, “Freely have you received, freely give” (Mt. 10: 8).

The emperor, however, continued with his demands. Through the prayer of the holy brothers, imbued with the power of grace, God suddenly struck Carinus blind, so that he too might experience the almighty power of the Lord, Who does not forgive blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Mt. 12:31). The people, beholding the miracle, cried out, “Great is the Christian God! There is no other God but Him!” Many of those who believed besought the holy brothers to heal the emperor, and he himself implored the saints, promising to convert to the true God, Christ the Savior, so the saints healed him. After this, Saints Cosmas and Damian were honorably set free, and once again they set about treating the sick.

But what the hatred of the pagans and the ferocity of the Roman authorities could not do, was accomplished by black envy, one of the strongest passions of sinful human nature. An older physician, an instructor, under whom the holy brothers had studied the art of medicine, became envious of their fame. Driven to madness by malice, and overcome by passionate envy, he summoned the two brothers, formerly his most beloved students, proposing that they should all go together in order to gather various medicinal herbs. Going far into the mountains, he murdered them and threw their bodies into a river.

Thus these holy brothers, the Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian, ended their earthly journey as martyrs. Although they had devoted their lives to the Christian service of their neighbors, and had escaped the Roman sword and prison, they were treacherously murdered by their teacher.

The Lord glorifies those who are pleasing to God. Now, through the prayers of the holy martyrs Cosmas and Damian, God grants healing to all who with faith have recourse to their heavenly intercession.

The Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Rome should not be confused with the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor (November 1), or the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Arabia (October 17).