

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, July 8, 2018 | 6th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Holy Greatmartyr Procopius of Caesarea in Palestine (303)
Righteous Prokopy, Fool-for-Christ, Wonderworker of Ustiug
Righteous Prokopy of Usty, Fool-for-Christ (17th c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement!

Tuesday: Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement.
Finishing up The Book of Deuteronomy and will begin
the next book which is The Book of Joshua.

Saturday: July 14 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: July 15 – Holy Great Prince Vladimir, Enlightener of Rus
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Martyr Procopius)

Thy holy martyr Procopius, 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 5)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, / resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

Kontakion (Tone 2 - Martyr Procopius)

Set ablaze by divine zeal for Christ and protected by the might of the Cross, / thou didst cast down the insolence and boldness of the Enemy, O Procopius, / Thou didst exalt the honorable Church, // excelling in faith and giving light to us all!

Prokeimenon (Tone 5)

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Epistle Reading: Romans 12:6-14

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- 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 9:1-8

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

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

Thank you to everyone who came out yesterday to assist with the fixing up and repairs around the Church, Hall, and Houses. Your time & talent is appreciated!

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.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

John and Bonnie offered by Nina Patterson
David Albrecht Sr offered by Melanie Albrecht
In Gratitude to Parishioners & Friends offered by the Pellack Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Michael, Irene, and Mary offered by Joseph Rabik

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.....

Never marry a tennis player. Love means nothing to them.

ATTENTION – ATTENTION – ATTENTION!!!

Currently, the parish has enough plastic forks, knives, and spoons in its inventory to last for the near future. At this time the parish is requesting not to donate any plastic utensils until further notice. Thank you all who have donated these supplies in the past so that we have utensils to use during our Fellowship Coffee Hour.

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/July)

	<u>Week of June 25 to July 1</u>	<u>June Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	34	42 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,432.91	\$ 11,296.91
Funds Out:	\$ 3,651.03	\$ 5,207.42
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 2,218.12)	\$ 6,089.49

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 – 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 8): *Saint Elizabeth the New Martyr (Sandra Hourahan, Matushka Jan, David Pellack).*
Next Week (July 15): *Saint John Kochurov (Daria & Rick LeRoy, Michael Wanenchak).*



Greatmartyr Procopius of Caesarea, In Palestine [July 8th]

The Holy Great Martyr Procopius, in the world Neanius, a native of Jerusalem, lived and suffered during the reign of the emperor Diocletian (284-305). His father, an eminent Roman by the name of Christopher, was a Christian, but the mother of the saint, Theodosia, remained a pagan. He was early deprived of his father, and the young child was raised by his mother. Having received an excellent secular education, he was introduced to Diocletian in the very first year of the emperor's accession to the throne, and he quickly advanced in government service. Towards the year 303, when open persecution against Christians began, Neanius was sent as a proconsul to Alexandria with orders to mercilessly persecute the Church of God.

On the way to Egypt, near the Syrian city of Apamea, Neanius had a vision of the Lord Jesus, similar to the vision of Saul on the road to Damascus. A divine voice exclaimed, "Neanius, why do you persecute Me?"

Neanius asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

"I am the crucified Jesus, the Son of God."

At that moment a radiant Cross appeared in the air. Neanius felt an inexpressible joy and spiritual happiness in his heart and he was transformed from being a persecutor into a zealous follower of Christ. From this point in time Neanius became favorably disposed towards Christians and fought victoriously against the barbarians.

The words of the Savior came true for the saint, "A man's foes shall be those of his own household" (Mt. 10:36). His mother, a pagan herself, went to the emperor to complain that her son did not worship the ancestral gods. Neanius was summoned to the procurator Judaeus Justus, where he was solemnly handed the decree of Diocletian. Having read through the blasphemous directive, Neanius quietly tore it up before the eyes of everyone. This was a crime, which the Romans regarded as an "insult to authority." Neanius was held under guard and in chains sent to Caesarea of Palestine, where the Apostle Paul once languished. After terrible torments, they threw the saint into a dark prison. That night, a light shone in the prison, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself baptized the suffering confessor, and gave him the name Procopius.

Repeatedly they led Saint Procopius to the courtroom, demanding that he renounce Christ, and they subjected him to more tortures. The stolidity of the martyr and his fiery faith brought down God's abundant grace on those who witnessed the execution.

Inspired by the example of Procopius, many of the holy martyr's former guards and Roman soldiers went beneath the executioner's sword together with their tribunes Nikostrates and Antiochus. Twelve Christian women received martyr's crowns, after they came to the gates of the Caesarea Praetorium.

Struck by the great faith and courage of the Christians, and seeing the firmness of her son in bearing terrible sufferings, Theodosia became repentant and stood in the line of confessors and was executed. Finally the new procurator, Flavian, convinced of the futility of the tortures, sentenced the holy Great Martyr Procopius to beheading by the sword. By night Christians took up his much-tortured body, and with tears and prayers, they committed it to the earth. This was the first martyrdom at Caesarea (303).