

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### **Sunday, September 16, 2018 | 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 7 – Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross

Sunday After the Elevation of the Precious Cross

Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-praised (304)

### **V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector**

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## **Weekly Schedule**

Saturday: September 22 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: September 23 – Conception of the Prophet Baptist John

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: September 23 - Special Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy. This special meeting of the parish is being held for the specific purpose only of discussing one topic: The potential work to be performed on the lintels of the parish Hall windows.

## **Texts for the Liturgical Service**

### **Troparion (Tone 7)**

By Thy Cross Thou destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst chang weeping into joy. / And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

### **Troparion (Tone 1 – Elevation of the Cross)**

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – Great Martyr Euphemia)**

Thy lamb Euphemia calls out to Thee, O Jesus, in a loud voice: / “I love Thee, my Bridegroom and in seeking Thee, I endure suffering. / In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in Thee, / and I died so that I might live with Thee. / Accept me as a pure sacrifice, / for I have offered myself in love!” / Through her prayers save our souls, since Thou art merciful!

### **Kontakion (Tone 7)**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / “The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, thou faithful, into the Resurrection!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Elevation of the Cross)**

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy pow’r, / granting them victories over their adversaries // by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Great Martyr Euphemia)**

Thou didst complete thy struggle well, all-praised Euphemia; / even after death, thou pourest out healing on us for our sanctification. / We stand beside thy venerable relics to honor thy holy falling asleep, / that in faith we may be delivered from the weaknesses of our nature / and obtain the grace of thy miracles.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – Sunday After Elevation of the Cross)**

Extol the Lord our God: / worship at His footstool for He is Holy!  
v. The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!

### **Epistle Reading: Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday After)**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 1)

- v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast gotten of old!  
Alleluia (3x's)
- v. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of  
the earth. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-9:1 (Sunday After)**

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

**Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing Irmos of Ode 9:**

Magnify, O my soul, / the most precious Cross of the Lord! / Thou art a mystical paradise, O Theotokos / who, though untilled, hast brought forth Christ; / through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. / Now at its Exaltation, // as we bow in worship before it, we magnify thee.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
The light of Thy countenance is signed upon us, O Lord. Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for this Sunday are as follows:  
Epistle – 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 and Gospel – Matthew 25:14-30]*

**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**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Two Holies and a Saint Golf Tournament – Friday, September 28, 2018 at Ron Jaworski’s Ramblewood Country Club in Mount Laurel, NJ. – (Golf Registration Deadline has passed)**

This scramble format golf tournament is sponsored by Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Medford, NJ; Holy Assumption Orthodox Church in Philadelphia, PA; and Saint Stephen Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA. All proceeds from the tournament benefit St. Tikhon’s Charities.

Registration Time is 11:30AM    Shotgun Start Time is 1:00PM  
Golfer Registration Fee is \$85 per person that includes Lunch Snack & Dinner Buffet

Flyer and Registration Information posted on Bulletin Board down in the church basement. This same flyer was also provided in our church bulletin back in April (Easter bulletin) and June (Father’s Day) of this year.

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**IOCC 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Banquet – Sunday, October 21, 2018!**

Adelphia Restaurant’s Pan Athenian Grand Ballroom – 1750 Clements Bridge Road – Deptford, NJ 08096. The reception and silent auction will begin at 3:30pm, followed at 5:00pm by dinner and a special program highlighting IOCC’s U.S. programs, made possible by your generosity.

Tickets are \$65 per person.

Register online at IOCC website at: [ioccc.org/Philadelphia](http://ioccc.org/Philadelphia) or mail checks to:

Connie Bandy – 2147 Robin Drive – Warrington, PA 18976

Flyer and Information posted on Bulletin Board down in the church basement

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**MOVING INTO THE NEW DIOCESAN CENTER**

This weekend the old Diocesan Center was packed up and loaded into a U-Haul truck. Yesterday, its contents were unloaded and unpacked at the new Diocesan Center in Bath, PA. Many people donated their time and talent to unpack and clean the contents of what was unpacked. In addition, final touches on major projects around the property were worked on. There is still more work to be completed at the new Diocesan Headquarters, but these projects are small and can be completed during the Fall and Winter months. The Diocesan Council wishes to thank everyone who came out to Bath, PA over the past three weekends to help out with getting the Diocesan Center really by either cleaning, working on house projects, or unpacking and organizing the new Diocesan Center. May God Grant You Many Years!

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Sandra Hourahan, Dr Jane Kelly offered by Nina Patterson

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Anna (Rabik) and Michael Zuzulock offered by their brother Joseph Rabik  
Annamae Witiak offered by Pete Witiak

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Julia Gavula (*newly departed - Sep 5*) Grace Corba; Sandra Hourahan, Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Dr. Jane Kelly; Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Also all those who are struggling and seeking relief in addition to all those first responders assisting them as a result of the damaging affects of Hurricane Florence along North Carolina and South Carolina.

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**SUNDAY PUNDAY.....**

Jokes about television controllers are not remotely funny.

**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 (September)**

	<u>Week of September 3 to September 9</u>	<u>September Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	38	35 (average)
<i>Vespers Liturgy (9/13)</i>	11	
Funds In:	\$ 1,490.76	\$ 3,561.76
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,058.47
Net Surplus/ <b>(Deficit)</b> :	\$ 1,490.76	<b>(\$ 496.71)</b>

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

**Sunday, September 23 - Special Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church basement.**  
According to Article IV, Section 2.B of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Special Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the Amvon at least one Sunday preceding the date of the meeting. This special meeting is being held for the specific purpose only of discussing one topic: *the potential work to be performed on the lintels of the parish Hall windows.*

**Sunday, September 23 30 - Church Life Discussion class (The 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month) .**  
***[Postponed to a week later due to Special Parish Meeting on Septmeber 23!]***  
There is still one final remaining class discussion on The Topic – Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. It's history and the stories displayed on them. This class discussion was scheduled for June 23, but was cancelled on that Sunday.

**St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Russian Festival**  
**4<sup>th</sup> St & Fairmount Avenue – Philadelphia, PA October 5 to 7 2018.**  
The parish's popular and festive event will be held the first full weekend of October (this year from Friday, October 5 to Sunday, October 7). The weekend will feature a range of Russian food delights for lunch through dinner, live accordion music, the Sunday School's Russian Dancers, and specialty shops from Russian made artifacts, books of interest, handmade decorations, drawing opportunities, and a variety of collectibles and treasures for ones enjoyment.

**Saturday, October 13 from 9AM to 3PM –Fall Outside Church and Hall Clean Up.**  
With the beauty of Autumn comes the falling of the leaves, so the Property Committee is asking everyone to join them on October 13 to help clean up the church hall yard and outside property. Rain Date is October 27!

*Saturday Sunday School is scheduled to begin on a **Saturday in October.**  
Currently, a Saturday date has yet to be determined. Stay tune for date details*

**Cleaning Teams:** Today (Sep 16): Saint Innocent  
(David Albrecht and Melanie Albrecht).  
Next Week (Sep 23): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia  
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).



## **Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-Prised [September 16<sup>th</sup>]**

The Holy Great Martyr Euphemia the All-Prised was the daughter of Christians, the senator Philophronos and Theodosia. She suffered for Christ in the year 304 in the city of Chalcedon, on the banks of the Bosphorus opposite Constantinople.

The Chalcedon governor Priscus circulated an order to all the inhabitants of Chalcedon and its surroundings to appear at a pagan festival to worship and offer sacrifice to an idol of Ares, threatening grave torments for anyone who failed to appear. During this impious festival, 49 Christians were hidden in one house, where they secretly attended services to the True God.

The young maiden Euphemia was also among those praying there. Soon the hiding place of the Christians was discovered, and they were brought before Priscus to answer for themselves. For nineteen days the martyrs were subjected to various tortures and torments, but none of them wavered in their faith nor consented to offer sacrifice to the idol. The governor, beside himself with rage and not knowing any other way of forcing the Christians to abandon their faith, sent them for trial to the emperor Diocletian. He kept the youngest, the virgin Euphemia, hoping that she would not remain strong if she were all alone.

Saint Euphemia, separated from her brethren in faith, fervently prayed the Lord Jesus Christ, that He strengthen her in her impending ordeal. Priscus at first urged the saint to recant, promising her earthly blessings, but then he gave the order to torture her.

The martyr was tied to a wheel with sharp knives, which cut her body. The saint prayed aloud, and as it happened, the wheel stopped by itself and would not move even with all the efforts of the executioners. An angel of the Lord, came down from Heaven, removed Euphemia from the wheel and healed her of her wounds. The saint gave thanks unto the Lord with gladness.

Not perceiving the miracle that had occurred, the torturer ordered the soldiers Victor and Sosthenes to take the saint to a red-hot oven. But the soldiers, seeing two fearsome angels in the midst of the flames, refused to carry out the order of the governor and became believers in the God Whom Euphemia worshipped. Boldly proclaiming that they too were Christians, Victor and Sosthenes bravely went to suffering. They were sent to be eaten by wild beasts. During their execution, they cried out for mercy to God, asking that the Lord would receive them into the Heavenly Kingdom. A heavenly Voice answered their cries, and they entered into eternal life. The beasts, however, did not even touch their bodies.

Saint Euphemia, cast into the fire by other soldiers, remained unharmed. With the help of God she emerged unharmed after many other tortures and torments. Ascribing this to sorcery, the governor gave orders to dig out a new pit, and filling it with knives, he had it covered over with earth and grass, so that the martyr would not notice the preparation for her execution.

Here also Saint Euphemia remained safe, easily passing over the pit. Finally, they sentenced her to be devoured by wild beasts at the circus. Before execution the saint began to implore that the Lord deem her worthy to die a violent death. But none of the beasts, set loose at her in the arena, attacked her. Finally, one of the she-bears gave her a small wound on the leg, from which came blood, and immediately the holy Great Martyr Euphemia died. During this time there was an earthquake, and both the guards and the spectators ran in terror, so that the parents of the saint were able to take up her body and reverently bury it not far from Chalcedon.

A majestic church was afterwards built over the grave of the Great Martyr Euphemia. At this temple the sessions of the Fourth Ecumenical Council took place in the year 451. At that time, the holy Great Martyr Euphemia confirmed the Orthodox confession in a miraculous manner, and exposed the Monophysite heresy. Details of this miracle are related under July 11.

With the taking of Chalcedon by the Persians in the year 617, the relics of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia were transferred to Constantinople (in about the year 620). During the Iconoclast heresy, the reliquary with the relics of Saint Euphemia appears to have been thrown into the sea. Pious sailors recovered them. They were afterwards taken to the Island of Lemnos, and in the year 796 they were returned to Constantinople.