

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, December 16, 2018 | 29th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Sunday of the Forefathers
Prophet Haggai (Aggaeus – 500 B.C.)
Martyr Marinus of Rome (3rd c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree after Divine Liturgy.

Saturday: December 22 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: December 23 – Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Monday: December 24 – Eve of the Nativity of Christ!
Great Complines and Matins (Condensed Version)
Time: **3:00PM!**

Tuesday: December 25 – Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

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 2 – Forefathers)

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / she who bore Thee without seed. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Forefathers)

Ye did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, / but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, / ye were glorified in a trial by fire. / From the midst of unbearable flames ye called on God, crying: / “Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid, // for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Song of our Fathers)

Blessed are Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!
v. For Thou are just in all that Thou hast done for us!

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. They called to the Lord and He answered them. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:16-24 (from the 28th Sunday)

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! 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

LUKE PARSELLS' BAPTISM

Peter and Heather Parsells cordially invite everyone to their son Luke's Baptism on Saturday, December 29, 2018 at 10AM. The baptism will take place at:

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church
605 Washington Avenue
Manville, NJ 08835

Peter and Heather kindly request that you notify them by December 25 if you plan on attending so they can coordinate with the food and beverage preparations.

Advent Season Tutelage - 2018

We are once again providing an Advent tutelage for those who are unable to attend or view either the Bible Study or Church Life Discussion Classes during the Advent Season but wish to still remain closer to God as we prepare for the Holy Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This season we will provide information on the Life of another North American Saint. Last year we provided information on the life of Saint Alexis Toth. This year we will offer information on the life of Saint Juvenal of Alaska. So let's continue...

Father Macarius became sorrowful and said, "No, Father. Do not restrict me in this way. You know the Aleutian chain of islands is joined to Alaska, therefore it belongs to me, and also the whole northern shore. As for you, the southern part of America is sufficient for your whole lifetime, if you please."

As he listened to their apostolic fervor, Saint Herman says he "went from joy to rapture" (Letter to Abbot Nazarius, May 19, 1795).

In 1795, Father Juvenal baptized over 700 Chugatchi at Nushek, then he crossed Kenai Bay and baptized the local people there. In 1796, according to native oral tradition, Saint Juvenal came to the mouth of the Kuskokwim near the present village of Quinahgak, where he was killed by a hunting party. (There is a forged diary attributed to Ivan Petroff which gives a slanderous version of Father Juvenal's death, and alleges that he was martyred at Lake Iliamna.)

The precise reason for Saint Juvenal's murder by the natives is not known. However, they later told Saint Innocent something about his death. They said that Saint Juvenal did not try to defend himself when attacked, nor did he make any attempt to escape. After being struck from behind, he turned to face his attackers and begged them to spare the natives he had baptized.

The conclusion of Saint Juvenal's Life to be in next week's bulletin.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Alex, Ana, Colin, Selena, Sharon, Ronald, Catherine, Albert, Marc, William, Allison, Baby Luke, David, Margaret offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich
All Parishioners offered by Joseph Rabik
Margaret Pellack offered by Pellack Family
Joseph Herbert, Mildred O'Shura, John Herbert offered by M/M Herbert

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Anna Herbert, Sophie Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
John Pellack offered by Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Dr. Jane Kelly; Luke Emmanuel Parsells (**newly born – Nov 1**) Heather Parsells; Peter Parsells; David Pellack; Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Also keep in your prayers those that were affected by the 7.0 earthquake (and any aftermath tremors) that hit just north of Anchorage, Alaska on Friday morning (Nov 30).

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On Sunday, December 9, Father Mark Kozak (dressed in his naval uniform), Veterans Project Coordinator Dr. Janine McCartney, her husband the Reader Michael McCartney, and parish president Matthew Andrews visited the Veterans Homeless Center to deliver toiletry kits, sheets, homemade hats, food from the food drive table and other donated clothing and articles of need to the Veterans at the Center. The Vets were very appreciative of the gifts. **Thank You All** for your generous contributions!!!

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 (December)

	<u>Week of December 3 to December 9</u>	<u>December Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	45	45 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 3,214.00	\$ 4,602.00
Funds Out:	\$ 259.60	\$ 4,093.83
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) :	\$ 2,954.40	\$ 508.17

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 - Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree After Divine Liturgy. Please see either Debbie Kavalkovich or Matthew Andrews today regarding what needs to be done regarding the decorating of the church and Christmas tree.

Christmas Eve Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) – Monday, December 24th – Time: 3:00PM!

The start time of this service should give parishioners the option to decide whether to have Holy Supper either before or after the service. Also, the time allows the service to start during daylight and to be completed right around sunset.

Sunday, December 30 - Church Life Discussion class (The 4th 5th Sunday of the month)

The Topic: Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Arrangements and Beauty of the Eight Tones during all Liturgical Services.

Please note the class will be held on the 5th Sunday of the month as a result of preparations for the Christmas Eve and Nativity services that will occur on the Monday and Tuesday after the 4th Sunday of December this calendar year.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule for The Feast of the Nativity services:

Please speak with Choir Director Nina Patterson with regards to choir rehearsals during the remaining eight days before the Nativity services.

Cleaning Teams: Today (Dec 16): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, and Michael Spack).
Next Week (Dec 23): Saint Elizabeth the New Martyr
(Sandra Hourahan, Matushka Jan, and David Pellack).



Sunday of the Forefathers [December 16th]

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

Prophet Haggai [December 16th]

The Holy Prophet Haggai was the tenth of the Twelve Minor Prophets. He was of the Tribe of Levi and he prophesied during the times of the Persian emperor Darius Hystaspis (prior to 500 B.C.). Upon the return of the Jews from the Babylonian Captivity, he persuaded the people to build the Second Temple at Jerusalem, and he proclaimed that the Messiah would appear in this Temple in the last times.

It is believed that Haggai was buried with the priests at Jerusalem, since he was descended from Aaron.

