



## Sunday January 31, 2016 TONE 2

*35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus and John, and with them Martyrs Athanasia and her daughters: Theoctiste, Theodotia, and Eudoxia, at Canopus in Egypt (311). New Martyrs of Russia. Ven. Nikita of the Kiev Caves, Bishop of Novgorod (1108).*

### **This Week's Schedule**

Monday 2/1: Great Vespers (*Meeting of the Lord*) 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday 2/2: Liturgy (*Meting of the Lord in the Temple*) 9:00 a.m

Saturday 2/06: Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 2/07: Hours 8:40 a.m. **Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.**

*followed by Fellowship/ Coffee hour & Church School*

### **Reader Schedule**

DATE	3 <sup>RD</sup> HOUR	6 <sup>TH</sup> HOUR EPISTLE	
Jan-31	CARPENTER	PECK	BRASOWSKI
Feb-2	Meeting of the Lord in the Temple		
Feb-7	BUNITSKY, S	SOUDER, C	WALES
Feb-14	CARPENTER	SULPIZI, L	PECK
Feb-21	RILEY, A	RILEY, J	CAREY

## **Hymns and Prayers**

### **Tone 2 Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

### **Tone 4 Troparion** *(New Martyrs of Russia)*

Today the Church of Russia joyfully forms a chorus,  
praising her new martyrs and confessors;  
hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and  
princesses,  
venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians.  
Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless  
persecution,  
they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.//  
By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy  
till the end of the age.

### **Tone 2 Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!

The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with  
You, //  
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

**Tone 3 Kontakion** (*New Martyrs of Russia*) (Today the Virgin)

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of  
God,  
and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory:  
“Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor,  
and power, and strength be to our God //  
unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

**Tone 2 Prokeimenon**

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.  
(Ps 117/118:4)

*v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.*  
(Ps 117/118:18)

**Tone 7 Prokeimenon** (*New Martyrs of Russia*)

God is our refuge and strength, a help in afflictions that severely befall us.  
(Ps 45/46:1)

**Epistle Colossians 3:12-16**

*Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.*

*But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*

*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and*

*hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

**Romans 8:28-39** *(New Martyrs)*

*For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! (Ps 119/20:1)*

*v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps 119/20:9)*

**Tone 4**

*v: The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps 34/34:17)*

**Gospel Matthew 25:14-30**

*For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.*

*And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.*

*Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.*

*And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.*

*But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.*

*After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.*

*So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'*

*His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

*He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'*

*His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

*Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.*

*'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'*

*But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.*

*'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.*

*'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.*

*'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.*

*'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

### **Luke 21:8-19 (New Martyrs)**

*And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately. Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls.*

### **Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **This Week's Announcements**

### ***Feast of the Meeting of the Lord (or Presentation) in the Temple***

Forty days after Christ was born he was presented in the Jerusalem Temple according to the practice of the Mosaic Law. At this time his mother Mary underwent the ritual purification and offered the sacrifices as prescribed in the Law. Thus, forty days after Christmas, on the second of February, the Church celebrates the feast of the presentation called the Meeting (or Presentation or Reception) of the Lord in the Temple. We will celebrate with Great Vesper Monday at 7:00 p.m. Then Tuesday Feb. 2nd Divine Liturgy at 9 am. The feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple is also traditionally the feast where the church blesses candles so if you have any candles that you would like blessed please bring them with you.

### ***Diocesan Winter Teen Retreat 2016: February 26th-28th***

The theme of this year's retreat is "Miracles: Thou Art The God Who Does Wonders." New to the retreat this year: Snow Tubing, Hiking, & Ice Skating! Need to recharge your spiritual batteries? Join in the fun at the 2016 Winter Teen Retreat! Make new friends, meet up with old friends, and learn about your faith with Fr. Timothy Hojnicky and the Office of Young Adult Activities! Event Information When? February 26-28, 2016 Where? Spruce Lake Retreat Center in Canadensis, PA Who? Open to students in grades 7-12 Cost Per Person: \$116 Registration Deadline: Feb 7th, 2016. Questions? Email [retreat@ocayouth.org](mailto:retreat@ocayouth.org) or call 570-493-0108.

***Family Promise*** Our parish continues to serve as a "Support Host" to homeless families in the Wilmington area. We will once again be serving as Support Host Feb. 8th, 9th, & 11th. We will need drivers, cooks, meal servers, help with children's homework and activities, and overnight support for emergencies. We ask that you consider offering yourself to this worthy ministry. Please sign up in the narthex to help feed the homeless at Family Promise Feb. 8, 9 & 11.

***Diocesan Assembly*** This past week Fr. Barnabas and Fr. Dn James represented St. Michael's at the Diocese of Eastern PA annual assembly. We will be providing a brief summary all reports, decisions to the parish at coffee hour in the next few weeks.

***Study Group*** Our next study group will meet on Thursday Feb 4th. We will continue with chapter 9 of 2nd Corinthians. The study group is an excellent opportunity for continuing adult education. Please join us!

## ***The Threat of the Glorious Ones***

***On February 4th we read the entire third chapter, verses 1 to 18, of 2 Peter. The letter was probably written between the years 80 and 90.***

Part of the second chapter, verses 9 to 22, is read on February 3rd. Here we find a strong warning against false teachers. These are people who, though they accepted the Christian faith themselves, are now finding it difficult to adhere to Christianity's strict moral teachings while living in a far more permissive pagan society. So they are attempting to downplay those teachings, minimizing their importance. They are working to convince other Christians to go along with their ideas.

The words Peter uses to describe them and their efforts are unequivocal. They are "waterless springs and mists driven by a storm," and they speak "bombastic nonsense." He compares them to a sow that is washed, only to wallow in the mud. They are "blots and blemishes, reveling in their dissipation." The danger of their malicious behavior is that they "entice unsteady souls."

To emphasize the danger, Peter writes of them that "bold and willful, they are not afraid to slander the glorious ones." At first reading, we might think that he is saying that they defame the angels who do God's will. But in fact, he is accusing them of doing something even more serious. The "glorious ones" here are the powers that work against God. By slandering them, or disrespecting their power, the false teachers do something that even God's angels fear to do: "The angels, though greater in might and power, do not bring against them a slanderous judgment from the Lord." The false teachers "slander what they do not understand," and in so doing they bring a terrible penalty not only on themselves but on those they can lure into following them.

In describing their fate, Peter reminds his readers of the story, in Numbers 22, of a soothsayer named Balaam. He is hired by the Moabite king to pronounce a curse on the Israelites.

Balaam is riding on his donkey and doesn't see the angel of the Lord standing in his path with a sword. But the donkey sees the angel three times, and stops. Balaam strikes the animal, still failing to see the angel blocking his path. Finally God makes the donkey speak, and makes Balaam realize that he is to bless, not curse, the people of Israel.

In the letter's third chapter, Peter writes that some scoff at God because they don't see the fulfillment of the "promise of His coming." But Peter says that God is not slow. Rather, He is patiently giving all of us time to repent. We can trust Him to know when the "Day of the Lord" should come.

There are still "glorious ones" in the world that beckon us with power beyond our ability to understand. Scoffing at that power is still mortally dangerous. But God will always try to save us, even by the embarrassing strategy of making a donkey smarter than we are.

*This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.*





**Prayers for the Departed:** *Helen Bunitsky, Violet Ross,*

**Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need:** *Fr. Vladimir Petorak, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. David Shewczyk, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Lemlem Resat, Harry Wujcik, , Alfred Mokhiber, Peter Melnik, Lily Nassif, Agnes Timchak, Olga Riley, Anna Hotrovich, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, Maria Current, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke Wales, John Maloney, Nona Carey, Joseph Wojciechowski, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Georgia Harb, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell*

**Prayers for Women and the Children to be Born of Them:** *Maria Peck,, Elizabeth Clause, Matushka Anastasia Hojnicky*

### Service Ministries

Date	<u>Coffee/ Fellowship Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaners</u>	<u>Library</u>
<b>31-Jan`</b>	Peck/ Wales	Hojnicki/Souder	Sulpizi	Farrell
<b>7-Feb</b>	Hojnicki/Flynn/Roberts	Sheeler/Baldychev	Riley	Skomorucha
<b>14-Feb</b>	Bacuta	Bunitsky/Lewis	Bunitsky/Oberto	Maloney
<b>21-Feb</b>	Hamwi/Morjana	Elia/Morjana	Fravel	Lewis
<b>28-Feb</b>	Gerassimakis/ Bunitsky	Riley	Gerassimakis	Gundersen