



St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

2300 W. Huntington Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808 • (302) 995-6775

Sunday September 3, 2017 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — **Tone 4.** Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him: Martyrs Theophilus—Deacon; Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter, Indes, Gorgonius, Zeno; the Virgin Domna, and Euthymius (302). Ven. Theoctistus, fellow ascetic with Ven. Euthymius the Great (467). Blessed John “the Hairy”, Fool-for-Christ at Rostov (1580). St. Phœbe, Deaconess at Cenchræ near Corinth (1st c.).

This Week's Schedule

Thursday 9/07 *Eve of the Nativity*

Great Vespers 7:00 p.m.

Friday 9/08 *Nativity of the Theotokos*

Divine liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Saturday 9/09 *Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.*

Sunday 9/10 *Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.*

followed by Coffee Hour

Reader Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>3RD HOUR</u>	<u>6TH HOUR</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>
Sep 03	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Sep 8	NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS		
Sep 10	SOUDER	LEWISCAREY	

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 4 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

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

Tone 4 Troparion *(Hieromartyr Anthimus)*

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,
you became a successor to their throne.
Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine
contemplation, O inspired one of God;
by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even
to the shedding of your blood. //
Hieromartyr Ánthimus, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Tone 8 Troparion *(Venerable Theoctistus)*

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,
and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.
By the radiance of miracles you illuminated the whole universe!
Our Father Theoctístus, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

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!

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Hieromartyr Anthimus)*

Living hon'rably as a priest,
you completed the course of martyrdom;
you extinguished the worship of idols

and became a champion of your flock, O divinely wise one.
Therefore, we honor you,
mystically crying out:
“Through your prayers deliver us from calamity, ever-memorable
Anthimus.”

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all. (*Ps 103/104:24*)

v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great! (Ps 103/104:1)

Epistle 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.

I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied.

For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s.

If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! (Ps 44/45:5)

v: For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity. (Ps 44/45:8)

Gospel Matthew 21:33-42

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.

And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.

Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'

So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"

They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

Communion Hymn

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

This Week's Announcement

Nativity of the Theotokos We will celebrate the first major feast of the new church year this week with the Nativity of the Theotokos. The feast honors the birth of the Mother of God and the salvation that comes through her Son. We will celebrate with both Vespers on the eve of the feast Thurs. Sept 7th at 7:00 p.m. and Divine Liturgy Fri. Sept. 8th at 9:00 a.m.

Elevation of the Holy Cross The second major feast of the church year is the Elevation or Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Truly, the Nativity of the Theotokos is seen as the beginning of our salvation, and the Cross is seen

as the culmination of our salvation. By Christ's death on It, our salvation was accomplished. Mary is also closely associated with the Cross, for she was the mystical paradise in whom the Tree of Life sprouted; this Tree of Life, Christ our Savior, then planted on earth the life-creating Tree of the Cross (from the Feast). And as He suffered and died on the Life-giving Tree of the Cross, so too we are called upon to take up our own crosses on our shoulders and to die daily for the sake of Him Who died for us. We will celebrate with both Vespers and Divine Liturgy on the eve of the feast Wednesday evening September 13th at 6:30 p.m. Join us!

Upcoming Parish Picnic Please mark your calendars, we are planning on having our parish picnic on Sunday September 17th. We hope that having the picnic after Labor Day the weather (God willing) will be a bit cooler and that more will be able to attend. Hope to see you there!

Church School Survey We are asking all parents to participate in our Church School Survey. All parents should have received an email with a link to the survey. Any parent who did not receive the link please see Catalina Finck. The survey will help us in our efforts to effectively educate our youth in the Orthodox faith. *Please remember that the Church serves as a support on the road to eternal life and teaches that it is the primary responsibility of the parents for the spiritual formation of their children.* If anyone is interested in serving as teacher please see Fr. Barnabas or Catalina Finck. Church School will officially begin Oct. 1st 2017.

Diocesan Women's Retreat A Women's Retreat, sponsored by the Department of Religious Education of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern PA, will be held on Saturday, September 9, in the St. Tikhon's Monastery Dining Hall.

The topic for this year's retreat is: "Sisters on a Journey: Saints' Lives and Our Lives," presented by Mat. Valerie Zahirsky, chairman Orthodox Department of Christian Education, OCEC Representative, author of: "Encountering Women of Faith." The cost for the retreat is \$10 which includes lunch. It is open to all women 13 years and older.

FP School Collection Thank You! Thanks to all who gave so generously to the Family Promise collection for homeless children's "back to school" supplies. Please continue to support this ministry. Please mark your calendars, our regular Family Promise Hosting week will be Oct. 1-7.

Study Group Begins Sept. 14th Just a reminder to mark your calendars for the start of our Thursday Study Group. The study group is from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. All are welcome to join us!

To Hear the Word and Keep It

On Friday of this week we celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos, and we read one of Jesus Christ's most meaningful statements about who His true followers are.

It comes in a reading for the day, from Luke 11:27-28: "A woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts that You sucked!' But He said, 'Blessed rather are those hear the word of God and keep it!'"

This passage has been interpreted in diverse ways. Some Biblical interpreters see it as a rebuke to Mary, in which Christ denies any special place to her as His biological mother and says it is only by keeping God's word that a person is blessed.

But the Orthodox Church has a different view, as did the early Church. That view is expressed in the ancient phrase, "The Virgin conceived through her ear." This is not a fundamental misunderstanding of how the process of human conception works, though some modern commentators seem to see it that way. It is a reflection of the way the Church understands the passage from Luke's Gospel. Jesus is not rebuffing His mother; rather He is pointing out that she is more than His biological parent—she is the great example of one who heard the word and kept it. She heard God's word for her at the angel Gabriel's visit, celebrated as the Annunciation. She was willing to keep, or carry out, God's word that she was to be the mother of His Son. It's in this way that she "conceived through her ear"—by agreeing to the word she heard, and bearing the Son of God.

The day after we celebrate the Nativity of the Virgin, we remember her parents Joachim and Anna. Like other Biblical couples before them, Joachim and Anna were aging and childless. As it was for those other couples, childlessness was a great heartache for these two. In fact, it brought them not only sadness but also humiliation. It's traditionally understood that Joachim was turned away when he came to offer prayers because he had no children. Anna's sorrow must have been even deeper because of her husband's experience.

Joachim and Anna's longing for a child was fulfilled. The Church's placing of their commemoration on the day after the feast of that child's nativity reminds us that Mary's birth was a normal human one. She was not immaculately conceived, and she was not born to eminent people. Yet

she would become the Mother of God, the most exalted example of one who receives God's grace having heard and kept His word.

In Orthodox worship we are constantly offered the chance to hear words of Scripture. Beautiful melodies entice our ears to pay attention to the hymns with their rich theology. So our hearing of the word is helped along in many ways. The keeping of the word, though, is entirely up to us.

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>.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"By dying to sin in baptism one could say mystically that he shares in the death of Christ Himself (cf. II Tim. 2:11). Join me in observing how appropriately the symbols convey the sacred. To us death is not, as others imagine, a complete dissolution of being. It is, rather, the separation of two parts which had been linked together. It brings the soul into what for us is an invisible realm where it, in the loss of the body, becomes formless. And the body is hidden in earth and undergoes a change from its corporeal shape and is withdrawn from its human appearance. Now because of this it is quite appropriate to hide the initiate completely in the water as an image of this death and this burial where form is dissolved. This symbolic lesson therefore sacredly leads the one who is baptized into the mystery that by his triple immersion he imitates, as far as the imitation of God is possible to men, the divine death of One Who was three days and nights in the tomb, the life-giving Jesus, in Whom, according to the mysterious and hidden tradition of Scripture, the ruler of this world found nothing. Next they put bright clothes on the initiate. His courage and his likeness to God, his firm trust toward the One, make him indifferent to contrary things. Order descends upon disorder within him. Form takes over from formlessness. Light shines through all his life."

From St. Dionysius (Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works; Paulist Press pgs. 207-208):

Prayers for the Departed: William Hulik, Nabil, George Coyle, Grace

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Alfred Mokhiber, Peter Melnik, Olga Riley, Anna Hotrovich, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, JamesHicks, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Michael Vannello, Catalina (Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Carson, Joanna Carey, Anthony, Nedwin & Pearl Minnich, Patricia, Ketevan, & Claramond Sensor, Beverly (Elizabeth) Hulik, Benito, Helen

Prayers for Women and the Child to be born: Elizabeth Clause, Mary (Misty) Robinson, Elizabeth Brasowski, Laura Cristina Najemy

Prayers for Catechumens: Stephanie Smiertka Riley

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
03-Sept	Pot Luck	Sulpizi/Finck	Farrell	Farrell
10-Sept	Peck / Wales	Hojnicki/Souder	Gerassimakis	Skomorucha
17-Sep	Parish Picnic	Sheeler/Baldychev	Clause/Whalen	Maloney
24-Sep	Hamwi /Morj	Bunitsky/Lewis	Finck	Lewis
1-Oct	Pot Luck	Elia/Morjana	Skomorucha/Lewis	Gundersen

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Sep-03	Rafael
Sep-08	Roel (Nativity/Theotokos)
Sep-10	Roel
Sep-14	Andrew (Exalt/Cross)
Sep-17	Andrew
Sep-24	Luke