



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 November 20, 2016 22nd Sunday after Pentecost/ Forefeast of the Entry into the Temple/Ven Gregory Decapolites/ St Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople (446-7)

This Week's Schedule

Today 11/20 Great Vespers Entrance of the

Theotokos into the Temple 7:00 p.m.

Monday 11/21 Divine Liturgy Entrance of the
Theotokos into the Temple 9:00 a.m.

Thursday 11/24 Thanksgiving Molieben 9:00 a.m.

Saturday 11/26 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 11/27 Hours 8:40 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

followed by coffee hour & church school

Reader Schedule

DATE	3 RD HOUR	6 TH HOUR	EPISTLE
Nov 20	L WALES	A WALES	L WALES
Nov 21	<i>ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS</i>		
Nov 27	J RILEY	A RILEY	J RILEY

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 5 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

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.

Tone 4 Troparion (*Forefeast of the Entrance into the Temple*)

Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow,
by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin.
In fulfillment of her vow,
today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord//
the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.

Tone 4 Troparion (*St Gregory Decapolitis and Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople*)

The twofold lamps of divine gifts,
Proclus, shepherd of New Rome, and Gregory, scion of
Decapolis,
guide us by the light of grace as divinely-inspired fathers!
Let us draw near and eagerly beseech them,//
that we may receive forgiveness and salvation of our souls!

Tone 5 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//
and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

Tone 3 Kontakion (*St Gregory Decapolites*)

The Church knows you to be a brilliant sun
englightening all with the rays of healing and the beauty of virtue.

Therefore, as we celebrate your honored memory,
We glorify your ^struggles,//
ever-blest and all-wise Father Gregory.

Tone 4 Kontakion (*Forefeast of the Entrance into the Temple*)

Today the universe is filled with joy
at the glorious feast of the Mother of God,//
and cries out: “She is the heavenly tabernacle. ”

Tone 5 Prokeimenon

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.(Ps 11/12:7)

v: *Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps 11/12:1)*

Epistle Galatians 6:11-18

*See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!
As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would
compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution
for the cross of Christ.*

*For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire
to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.*

*But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord
Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the
world.*

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails
anything, but a new creation.*

*And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon
them, and upon the Israel of God.*

*From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of
the Lord Jesus.*

*Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
Amen.*

Tone 5

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: *I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will
proclaim Your truth from generation to generation. (Ps 88/89:1)*

v: For You have said: “Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens.” (Ps 88/89:2)

Gospel Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’

So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’

But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Communion Hymn

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

This Week's Announcement

Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple “A deep mystery covers the earthly life of the Most-Holy Theotokos from her childhood to her repose. Her life in the Jerusalem Temple was concealed. ‘If you were to ask me,’ said the Blessed Jerome, ‘how the Most-Holy Virgin passed the time of her youth, I would answer that this is known only to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel detailed to protect her.’”(TTWH) Several feasts are dedicated to the Mother of God commemorating and celebrating her life. Tomorrow we will celebrate Her entrance in to the Temple where we encounter the holiness of Mary as a small child separated from the world, brought to live in the Temple a life set apart, consecrated, and in a state of intimacy with God. Great Vespers tonight at 7 p.m. and Divine Liturgy tomorrow (Mon. Nov 21st) at 9 a.m.

Thanksgiving Molieben Thursday morning Nov. 24th Deacon James and Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky will offer a Molieben of Thanksgiving at 9:00 a.m. *To be thankful (from the Greek eucharistia or thanksgiving) is a profound reality and a central practice of Orthodox Christians: “O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good....”*

Church Library Thank you to the anonymous donor who gave our church library 25 orthodox books and 3 DVDs. We appreciate it very much. Be sure to check out a book or DVD during the Nativity fast!

Bookstore Nativity Gifts The Bookstore will have an icon sale over the next three weekends. Stop by for discounted prices.

The Nativity Fast This is just a reminder that the Nativity fast continues until Dec. 25th. (*please make an effort*) The celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Christ in the Orthodox Church is patterned after the celebration of the feast of the Lord's Resurrection. A fast of forty days precedes the feast, with special preparatory days announcing the approaching birth of the Savior. Thus, on Saint Andrew's Day (November 30) and Saint Nicholas Day (December 6) songs are sung to announce the coming birthday of the Lord: 'Adorn yourself, O Cavern. Make ready, O Manger. O Shepherds and wisemen, bring your gifts and bear witness. For the Virgin is coming bearing Christ in her womb' (Vesperal Hymn of Saint Nicholas Day)

Family Promise We will host Family Promise Nov. 21, 22 and 25 (Thanksgiving Day). Thanks to the Ellen and Mark and all of our volunteers this week!

No Study Group No study group this Thursday . We will resume on Dec. 1st at 10 a.m., reading and discussing *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. All are welcome to join us.

Basics of Orthodoxy Class Our class will break for Thanksgiving and in December we will return and continue on a NEW night. Please see an upcoming bulletin for the new time and day. All are welcome to join us

On Thursday November 24th we remember the Great Martyr Catherine, who lived in the fourth century. The Holy Great Martyr Catherine was the daughter of Constus, the governor of Alexandrian Egypt during the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-313). Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, and possessed of a rare beauty and intellect, Catherine received an excellent education, studying the works of the greatest philosophers



and teachers of antiquity. Young men from the most worthy families of the empire sought the hand of the beautiful Catherine, but she was not interested in any of them. She told her parents that she would enter into marriage only with someone who surpassed her in nobility, wealth, comeliness and wisdom.

Catherine's mother, a secret Christian, sent her to her own spiritual Father, a saintly Elder living in a cave outside the city, for advice. After listening to Catherine, the Elder said that he knew of a Youth who surpassed her in everything. "His countenance is more radiant than the shining of the sun, and all of creation is governed by His wisdom. His riches are given to all the nations of the world, yet they never diminish. His compassion is unequaled." This description of the Heavenly Bridegroom produced in the soul of the holy maiden an ardent desire to see Him. "If you do as I tell you," said the monk, "you will gaze upon the countenance of this illustrious man." In parting, the Elder handed Catherine an icon of the Theotokos with the divine Child Jesus on Her arm and told her to pray with faith to the Queen of Heaven, the Mother of the Heavenly Bridegroom, and She would hear Catherine and grant her heart's desire.

Catherine prayed all night and was permitted to see the Most Holy Virgin, Who said Her Divine Son, "Behold Thy handmaiden Catherine, how fair and virtuous she is." But the Child turned His face away from her saying, "No, she is ugly and unbelieving. She is a foolish pauper, and I cannot bear to look at her until she forsakes her impiety."

Catherine returned again to the Elder deeply saddened, and told him what she had seen in the dream. He lovingly received her, instructed her in the faith of Christ, admonished her to preserve her purity and integrity and to pray unceasingly. She then received the Mystery of holy Baptism from him. Again St Catherine had a vision of the Most Holy Theotokos with Her Child. Now the Lord looked tenderly at her and gave her a beautiful ring, a wondrous token of her betrothal to the Heavenly Bridegroom (This ring is still on her hand).

At that time the emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival. Therefore, the celebration was especially splendid and crowded. The cries of the sacrificial animals, the smoke and the smell of the sacrifices, the endless blazing of fires, and the bustling crowds at the arenas defiled the city of Alexandria. Human victims also were brought, the confessors of Christ, those who would not deny Him under torture. They were condemned to death in the fire. The saint's love for the Christian martyrs and her fervent desire to ease their sufferings compelled Catherine to speak to the pagan priest and to the emperor Maximian.

Introducing herself, the saint confessed her faith in the One True God and with wisdom exposed the errors of the pagans. The beauty of the maiden captivated the emperor. In order to convince her and to show the superiority of pagan wisdom, the emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers

and rhetoricians of the Empire to dispute with her, but the saint got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves. St Catherine made the Sign of the Cross over the martyrs, and they bravely accepted death for Christ and were burned alive by order of the emperor. Maximian, no longer hoping to convince the saint, tried to entice her with the promise of riches and fame. Receiving an angry refusal, the emperor gave orders to subject the saint to terrible tortures and then throw her in prison. The Empress Augusta, who had heard much about the saint, wanted to see her. She prevailed upon the military commander Porphyrius to accompany her to the prison with a detachment of soldiers. The empress was impressed by the strong spirit of St Catherine, whose face was radiant with divine grace. The holy martyr explained the Christian teaching to them, and they were converted to Christ.

On the following day they again brought the martyr to the judgment court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, they urged that she renounce the Christian Faith and offer sacrifice to the gods. The saint steadfastly confessed Christ and she herself approached the wheels; but an angel smashed the instruments of execution, which shattered into pieces with many pagans standing nearby.

Having beheld this wonder, the Empress Augusta and the imperial courtier Porphyrius with 200 soldiers confessed their faith in Christ in front of everyone, and they were beheaded. Maximian again tried to entice the holy martyr, proposing marriage to her, and again he was refused. St Catherine firmly confessed her fidelity to the heavenly Bridegroom Christ, and with a prayer to Him she herself lay her head on the block beneath the executioner's sword.

The relics of St Catherine were taken by the angels to Mount Sinai. In the sixth century, the venerable head and left hand of the holy martyr were found through a revelation and transferred with honor to a newly-constructed church of the Sinai monastery, built by the holy Emperor Justinian (November 14).

St Catherine is called upon for relief and assistance during a difficult childbirth. Pilgrims to her monastery on Mt Sinai are given souvenir rings as a remembrance of their visit

Troparion - Tone 5

*Let us praise Catherine the radiant bride of Christ,
guardian of Sinai, our helper and supporter.*

By the power of the Spirit,

she silenced the arrogance of the ungodly.

Crowned as a martyr, she now implores great mercy for all.

Prayers for the Departed: Hieromonk Alexander, Archpriest Oleg, Nabil Gouda, Dolores Kozak, Jesse Jones

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. Vladimir Petorak, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Lemlem Resat, Alfred Mokhiber, Peter Melnik, Agnes Timchak, Olga Riley, Anna Hotrovich, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, Maria Current, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Joseph Wojciechowski, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, , Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Caiton Tompkins, Michael Vannello, Catalina(Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Carson, Stephen, Maria, Aiden, Peck Family, Harry Kutch, Stephanie Hojnicki, Walter Danchenka, Abigail Brightwell

Service Ministries

<u>Date</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
20-Nov	Hamwi/ Morjana	Hojnicki/ Souder	Fravel	Skomorucha
27-Nov	Sulpizi/Skomorucha	Sheeler/ Baldychev	Gerassimakis	Maloney
4-Dec	Elia/Gundersen/ Farrell	Bunitsky/Lewis	Whalen/ Fink	Lewis
11-Dec	Peck/Wales	Elia/ Morjana	Nativity Cleanup	Gundersen
18-Dec	Hojnicki/Flynn/ Roberts	Riley	Farrell	Farrell

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

DATE	VESPERS and LITURGY
Nov-20	Team Conover
Nov-27	Team Gabriel
Dec-04	Team Conover
Dec-11	Team George

Attendance Nov 5th & Nov 6th

Great Vespers : 35 Liturgy: 120