



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 December 3, 2017 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias—635-605 B.C.). Ven. Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Zvenigorod, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh (1406). St. Theodulus, Eparch of Constantinople (ca. 440). Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas' Monastery (558). Hieromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria (606). Monk Martyr Cosmas of St. Anne's Skete (Mt. Athos).

This Week's Schedule

Tuesday 12/5 St. Nicholas Vespers & Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 12/9 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12/10 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>
Dec 03	BUNITSKY	BUNITSKY	LEWIS
Dec 10	SULPIZI	SOUDER	CAREY
Dec 17	WALES	WALES	WALES
Dec 24	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Dec 25	<i>NATIVITY OF CHRIST</i>		
Dec 31	SOUDER	SULPIZI	BRASOWSKI

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 1 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Tone 2 Troparion *(Prophet Zephaniah)*

We celebrate the memory
of Your prophet Zephaniah, O Lord;
through him we beseech You:
“Save our souls!”

Tone 1 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.
Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://
“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Prophet Zephaniah)*

You have been revealed by the Spirit of God to be brilliant, Prophet
Zephaniah,
for you proclaimed the coming of God:
“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to save mankind!”

Tone 1 Prokeimenon

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!
(Ps 32/33:22)

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

Epistle Ephesians 5:9-19

for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.. (Ps 17/18:47)

v: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps 17/18:50)

Gospel Luke 18:18-27

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"

And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."
And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?"
But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Communion Hymn

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

This Week's Announcement

St. Nicholas Day Vespertal Liturgy We will celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas on Tuesday evening Dec. 5th with Vespers and Divine Liturgy at 6:30 p.m. Join us for this blessed feast!

Parish Council Meeting Just a reminder that this Thurs. Dec. 7 we will have our monthly parish council meeting. Please see Catalina Finck if you are unable to attend.

2019 Church Directory We are currently updating the church directory in preparation for 2019. We are asking parishioners to review the 2018 directory in the Vestibule and to make any necessary changes. For new members, or members not currently listed and would like to be included, please add your information--name(s), address, telephone number(s), email address and also birth date(s) for the Birthday List.

Poinsettias for Nativity It's time to order Poinsettias to beautify the church for our Lord's Nativity! Order forms are available in the narthex

Study Group this Week Our study group continued this past Thursday with the book “Courage to Pray,” by Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh. The study group meets Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. All are welcome to join us!

The Nativity Fast This is just a reminder that we are in the midst of the Nativity Fast which continues until the Nativity of our Lord (Dec. 25th). 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 wise men, bring your gifts and bear witness. For the Virgin is coming bearing Christ in her womb’ (Vespereal Hymn of Saint Nicholas Day)

Stewardship Calling Presentation Dec. 16th In case you missed part one of the diocesan presentation “Stewardship Calling” last week, we will be offering it once again following Vespers on Dec. 16th. The presentation will speak to our current and future Church needs. We hope it will assist and enhance our parish vision and stewardship by addressing our continued and future parish work and ministries.

St. Michael’s and Amazon At this time of year, we begin buying gifts for our friends and family. This is just a reminder that if you purchase items from Amazon.Com, St. Michael’s could benefit from your purchases. Amazon Smile will give St. Michael’s a small rebate for every purchase you make if you use the address below. This address is specific to St. Michael’s so it is easy to use. So far this year, we have received over \$130. Just type the address into your web browser.
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0545881>

Bookstore Nativity Gifts Our Parish Bookstore will be having a sale over the next few weeks. Stop by to purchase gifts for those on your Christmas list.

Nativity Parish Holy Supper Holy Supper is a pious tradition from the Christian faithful of various Eastern European regions. The supper is observed on the eves of our Lord’s Nativity in the flesh and His baptism by Saint John in the Jordan River. The meal is a fasting meal with 12

courses representing Christ's twelve apostles. Our Parish Holy Supper will be Sunday evening Dec. 24th (Eve of Nativity) at 5:00 p.m. on. All are welcome to join us.

Coffee Hour Ministry Reminder We would like to thank all who continue to offer themselves in the ministry of the coffee hour. We want to remind everyone that the church will purchase all juice, coffee, nonperishable items such as creamers, butter, cream cheese, jelly, nut butter, plates, etc. Also remember that bagels and breads are available from Acme and Panera for a discount or for free. Please remember the purpose and spirit of coffee hour. It is an exercise in community building and fellowship. Coffee hour is an offering of hospitality and so with these things in mind please only bring what you can. No one is (or should be) judging the offerings at coffee hour. We also want to remind *All* that part of the coffee hour responsibility is cleaning. Please be courteous to those cleaning by clearing up your own table before leaving. This will ease the burden of those cleaning up. We also ask that everyone take suitable amounts of food. We want to avoid food waste and we also, ask parents to please supervise your children in the food line so that they take appropriate amounts. We continue to also have a need for volunteers to set up and cleanup for our monthly pot luck. It is our hope that with a little engagement, awareness, understanding, and effort, the coffee hour should continue to be a strength within our community.

What Kind of Conception?

On December 9th, the Orthodox Church celebrates a feast called, in its full formality, The Conception by Righteous St. Anna of the Theotokos. The festal icon shows Anna and her husband Joachim in a loving conjugal embrace.

This feast reveals one of the major differences between the teachings of the Orthodox Church and those of the Roman Catholic Church. In the Roman Church, the conception of Mary the Theotokos is called the Immaculate Conception. (Some people are not aware that this term refers to her conception rather than the conception of Jesus Christ.) The Roman Church teaches that Mary's conception was different from that of every other human being. Unlike the rest of us, she was born, through the intervention of God, without the stain of the Original Sin of Adam, which taints every human birth and which is transmitted through the act of sexual intercourse.

The Orthodox Church's teaching is that Mary was born just as the rest of us were; she is a human being and her conception was

*the same as ours. In Orthodox teaching we human beings do not bear guilt for a sin committed "in Adam." Nor is there any "stain" associated with the act of sexual intercourse which was, after all, created by God as the way for children to be born from the union of a man and a woman. But Mary was a person with a special destiny, whose upbringing prepared her for a great place in God's plan. Her aged, childless parents had longed for a baby for many years. They prayed fervently, and Mary's conception was God's answer. As Father Thomas Hopko has written in his book *The Winter Pascha*: "Mary is conceived in fulfillment of her parents' prayers in order to be formed in the womb, born on the earth, dedicated to the Lord, and nurtured in holiness to become by God's grace the mother of His Son the Messiah."*

The combination of Mary's unique destiny and her normal conception as a "mere human being" means a great deal for our lives. We can look to Mary as the model of Christian life, and it's a model to which we can actually aspire, since she is not separated from us by having a conception and birth totally unlike ours. Yet her pure life and obedience to God, and her resulting closeness to Christ, make her an intercessor like no other. As some of our prayers put it, "the entreaty of a mother has great power to win the favor of the Master." In fact, the word "immaculate" is sometimes used to describe the purity and loving obedience to the Lord that characterized the Theotokos' life. But this word should not be misunderstood as referring to her conception. In the Theotokos we have a woman born like us, yet able to be a mother to the whole Church. The prayers of the day invite us to share the joy of Joachim and Anna in Mary's conception, "for she is the fruit of the grace of God."

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

"We have one sword, the Prayer of Jesus. It is said "Strike the unseen enemies with this sword, for there is no more powerful weapon, either in Heaven or on earth."

Saint Barsanuphius, "Living Without Hypocrisy (Spiritual Counsels of the Holy Elders of Optina)"

Prayers for the Departed: Archpriest Stephen Mack, Archpriest Wsevolod Drobot, Protodeacon Keith Russin, Matushka Martha Ermikov, Matushka Marie (Gambal) Kreta

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Fr. Deacon James Carpenter, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Peter Melnik, Olga Riley, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Catalina(Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Benjamin, Charles, Patrica, Lubov, Marilyn Coyle, Alfred Mokhiber,

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

Prayers for Catechumens: Stephanie Smiertka Riley

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
3-Dec	PARISH POT LUCK	Hojnicki/Souder	Skomorucha/Lewis	Lewis
10-Dec	Peck / Wales	Sheeler/Baldychev	General Cleaning	Gundersen
17-Dec	Gerassimakis /Bunitsky	Bunitsky/Lewis	Baldychev/Shatley/Sidwell	Sidwell
24-Dec	Eve of Nativity	Elia/Morjana	Suplizi	Skomorucha
31-Dec	Whalen /Clause//Bisrat	Riley	Riley	Maloney

Church School Reminder

Dec.3 St. Barbara’s Day/ St. Nicholas Activities
 Dec. 10 Class
 Dec 17 Class/Church Decorating
 Sunday, December 31 No Class
 Nativity/ Theophany Break

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Dec-03 Rafael
 Dec-06 St. Nicholas Day Roel
 Dec-10 Roel
 Dec-17 Andrew
 Dec-24 Rafael
 Dec-25 NATIVITY All servers