
St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

2300 W. Huntington Dr.

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Sunday November 17, 2019 22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5. St. Gregory, Wonderworker of Neo-Cæsarea (ca. 266-270). Ven. Nikon, Abbot of Rádonezh, disciple of Ven. Sergius (1426). Ven. Lazarus the Iconographer, of Constantinople (ca. 857). Martyr Gobron (Michael) and 133 soldiers, of Georgia (914). Ven. Genadius of Vatopedi (Mt. Athos).

This Week's Schedule

Wednesday 11/20 *Eve of the Entrance of the Theotokos*

Great Vespers 7:00 p.m.

Thursday 11/21 *Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*

Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Friday 11/22 *Little Angels 9:30 a.m.*

Saturday 11/23 *Reader's Vespers 5: 00 p.m.*

Sunday 11/24 *Hours 8:40 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.*

followed by Church School

Reader Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>3RD HOUR</u>	<u>6TH HOUR</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>
Nov 17	DORAZIO	BUNITSKY	FINCK
Nov 21	ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS		
Nov 24	SKOMORUCHA	SULPIZI	LEWIS
Dec 01	J PECK	PECK	PECK

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 8 **Troparion** *(Hierarch Gregory the Wonderworker)*

You became worthy of your name* through your way of life;
through your vigilance in prayer and your constant works of mercy.
Therefore, O Father Gregory, beseech Christ God to enlighten our minds,
that we may not sleep in sin, which leads to death!

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 2 **Kontakion** *(Hierarch Gregory the Wonderworker)*

You received the power to perform miracles,
frightening the devils and healing the sick through your wonderworking.
All-wise Father Gregory,
your deeds truly entitle you to be called “Wonderworker.”

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 Announcements

Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple Several feasts are dedicated to the Mother of God commemorating and celebrating her life. This week we will celebrate Her entrance into the Temple. In this feast 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. "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) We will celebrate this feast with Vespers Wed. Nov 20th at 7:00p.m. and Divine Liturgy Thurs. Nov. 21st at 9:30 a.m.

Fr. Barnabas to be Away The parish office will be closed November 22- November 29. Next Saturday evening Fr. Dn. James will offer the Reader's Vespers and Sunday (Nov.24) Fr. Gregory Dudash will offer the Divine Liturgy. For any parish emergencies or problems please call Fr. Dn. James Carpenter (609) 202-4255 or Jeff Kendall (302) 420-6600. Thank you!

Archbishop MARK to Visit His Eminence Archbishop MARK will be with us on Sunday Dec. 1st to award Father Deacon James Carpenter the Double Orarion (*orare* means to pray). Deacon James celebrates the 5th anniversary of his ordination on Nov. 21st. We are thankful to God for Deacon James service to Christ's Holy Altar and we look forward to Archbishop Mark's visit. We will also have a special potluck luncheon following liturgy that day with a St. Barbara's Day celebration. Join us!

Family Promise Dec.2, 3 and 5 we will cook/serve dinner to local homeless families at St. Philips Lutheran Church 5320 Limestone Rd,

Wilmington DE 19808. Please sign up on FP board in the narthex to share our bounty, compassion and love to our less fortunate neighbors. See Ellen Gundersen for details.

The Nativity Fast This is just a reminder that the Nativity Fast is now upon us (Nov.15th). The fast 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 wisemen, bring your gifts and bear witness. For the Virgin is coming bearing Christ in her womb' (Vesperal Hymn of Saint Nicholas Day). Please try and make an effort!

Thanksgiving Molieben Thursday morning (Thanksgiving Day) Nov. 28 we 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...." Join us!

No Study Group Our study group will give way this week for the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. We will also break next week for the Thanksgiving holiday . We will resume in two weeks, Thurs. Dec. 5th, with chapter 8 of St. Matthew. All are welcome to join us!

Church Library Be sure to check out a book or DVD during the Nativity fast! Remember that continued education in our faith is necessary for effective and enduring discipleship and stewardship.

Coffee Hour/Service Duty/ Volunteers We are beginning to compile our 2020 stewardship lists for coffee hour, candle duty, and church cleaning. As Julianne Peck mentioned in her email, we are looking for new volunteers to sign up for coffee hour and also candle duty and church cleaning. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for any new volunteers. If you wish to work as a team, please identify it on the sheet. Also, let us know if there are any other changes to last year's list as this will be used as our starting point. Thank you in advance for your service.

Amazon Smile for St. Michael's At this time of year, as Nativity approaches, 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. We have already been receiving benefits from this program. Just type the address into your web browser. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0545881>

The Jefferson Bible Rewrite

The Church remembers many saints who are intimately connected with the Holy Bible. Two of them are the Gospel writer Matthew, and Saint John Chrysostom.

Matthew's Gospel enlightens readers about Jesus Christ as the promised Savior and fulfiller of the Old Testament prophecies. Writing to his fellow Jews, Matthew presents Christ's life as the completion of God's plan for humanity, worked out over the centuries of Israel's history. Saint John Chrysostom loved the Bible, and passionately exhorted Christians to read it. He wrote, "If we are willing to examine the Scriptures in this way, carefully and systematically, we shall be able to obtain our salvation."

Chrysostom was particularly concerned about children: "Never deem it an unnecessary thing that [a child] should be a diligent hearer of the divine Scriptures...Do not imagine that the monk alone stands in need of these lessons from Scripture. Of all others, the children just about to enter the world especially need them."

We might imagine that the brilliant Thomas Jefferson also honored the Scriptures and agreed with Chrysostom that they undergird our salvation. But a small book called "The Jefferson Bible" proves that we would be wrong.

To create his book, Thomas Jefferson cut, rearranged and pasted the Gospels, leaving out the miracles and other parts he deemed useless. Jefferson admired many sayings of Jesus as displays of "fine imagination, correct morality and the most lovely benevolence." But other sayings were full of "so much ignorance, so much absurdity, so much untruth, charlatanism and imposture, as to pronounce it impossible that such contradictions should have proceeded from the same Being." Jefferson blamed the "feeble minds" of the disciples for the problem. They had piled superstitions, fabrications and "things impossible" on top

of Jesus' pure moral and ethical teachings. So he removed their additions, leaving the exquisite moral precepts intact.

The resulting book has strange gaps left by Jefferson's editing. One example is Jesus' encounter with the man born blind. The disciples ask Him who sinned, the man or his parents. Jesus answers, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

But the very next verse is, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door of the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." The blind man's healing, the exact thing to which Jesus is referring when He says that the works of God should be made manifest in him, is gone. The sheepfold verses don't even logically follow, and the healing miracle which exemplifies Jesus' divine compassion is consigned to the wastebasket.

There are people today who also cut and paste the Bible, and accuse the followers of Jesus Christ of adding to His original teachings. But we are called to take the Bible as the Church has given it to us. Otherwise we are, in Chrysostom's words, merely performing "labors without advantage."

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

"1. If the highest end of virtue is that which aims at the advancement of most, gentleness is the most lovely of all, which does not hurt even those whom it condemns, and usually renders those whom it condemns worthy of absolution. Moreover, it is the only virtue which has led to the increase of the Church which the Lord sought at the price of His own Blood, imitating the lovingkindness of heaven, and aiming at the redemption of all, seeks this end with a gentleness which the ears of men can endure, in presence of which their hearts do not sink, nor their spirits quail.

2. For he who endeavours to amend the faults of human weakness ought to bear this very weakness on his own shoulders, let it weigh upon himself, not cast it off. For we read that the Shepherd in the Gospel carried the weary sheep, and did not cast it off. And Solomon says: "Be not overmuch righteous;" for restraint should temper righteousness. For how shall he offer himself to you for healing whom you despise, who thinks that he will be an object of contempt, not of compassion, to his physician?"

- On Repentance, Book I., Chapter I., St. Ambrose of Milan (337 AD - 397 AD), whose feast day we celebrate today, December 7

Prayers for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Peter Melnik, Michael Sinovich, Marie Karawulan, Virginia Sekerak David Rex, Marie Weremedic

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Fr. Deacon James Carpenter, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Lemlem Resat, Olga Riley, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Maria & Doug Dozier, Mona Elia, Mary Anne Farrell, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Lubov Baldychev, Stephanie Hojnicky, Laura Cristina Najemy, Harry Kutch, Dimitrios Jim Petrides, Albert Shock, Elizabeth Melnik, Alexandra Grishin, Sam Sylvest

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
17-Nov	Najemy/Kendall	Riley/Riley	Baldychev/Shatley/	Gundersen
24-Nov	Pacienza/George/Grishin	Sulpizi/Finck	Suplizi	Farrell
1-Dec	J. Peck/Weins	Hojnicky/Souder	Riley	Skomorucha
8-Dec	Hojnicky/Flynn/Roberts	Telep/Baldychev	Bunitsky/Finck	Maloney
15-Dec	Gerissimakis/Bunitsky	Bunitsky/Morjana	Farrell	Gundersen
22-Dec	Bacuta/Fravel	Riley/Riley	Clause/Whalen	Farrell

Upcoming Dates to Keep in Mind

Nativity Fast Nov. 15 -Dec.25

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple Nov. 21st

Archbishop MARK visit Dec. 1st

Family Promise Dec. 2nd , 3rd , & 5th

St. Nicholas Day Dec. 6th