
St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

2300 W. Huntington Dr.

Wilmington, DE 19808

(302) 995-6775

www.stmichael-delaware-oca.org

Sunday December 8, 2019 25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. Ven. Patapius of Thebes (8th c.). Ven. Kirill, Abbot of Chelmogorsk (1378). Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Tychicus, Epaphroditus, Cæsar, and Onesiphorus (1st c.). Holy 362 Martyrs of Africa, martyred by the Arians (477). Martyr Anthusa, at Rome (5th c.).

This Week's Schedule

Thursday 12/12 Study Group 10:00 a.m.

Friday 12/13 Little Angels 9:30 a.m.

Saturday 12/14 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12/15 Hours 8:40 a.m. 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 08	WALES	WALES	WALES
Dec 15	SULPIZI	SKOMORUCHA	CAREY
Dec 22	DORAZIO	BUNITSKY	LEWIS
Dec 25	NATIVITY OF CHRIST		
Dec 29	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY



Hymns and Prayers

Tone 8 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 8 Troparion *(Venerable Patapius of Thebes)*

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Father,
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.
By so doing you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away
but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal.
Therefore your spirit, venerable Patapius, rejoices with the Angels.

Tone 8 **Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected
Adam.
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,
and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly
Merciful One!

Tone 3 Kontakion *(Venerable Patapius of Thebes)*

Your temple is found to be a source of healing,
and the people flock to it eagerly, O saint.
They seek the healing of their diseases
and the forgiveness of their sins,
for you are a protector for all those in need, ven'erable Patápius.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God! (*Ps 75/76:11*)

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps 75/76:1)

Epistle Ephesians 4:1-6

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v : Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps 94/95:1)

v : Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps 94/95:2)

Gospel Luke 17:12-19

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off.

And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,

and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"

Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?

And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Communion Hymn

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

This Week's Announcements

Family Promise Dec.9, 10 and 12 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.

Parish Directory We are currently updating the church directory in preparation for 2020. We are asking parishioners to review the 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 Anyone wishing to donate poinsettias in memory of a loved one for the Nativity decorations this year can do so by completing an order form which are located in the Narthex. This year we are asking for donations of \$10 for each flower. Flowers can be picked up after Divine Liturgy on Sunday December 29. A list of the dedications will be included in the bulletin on December 29. If you have any questions, please see Anne Rile

Study Group Our study group continued this past week with five of us reading and discussing chapter 8 of St. Matthew. This week we will

continue with chapter 8 and Christ's "Calming of the storm". All are welcome to join us!

Nativity Parish Holy Supper Holy Supper on Nativity eve 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. We will once again have a Parish Holy Supper on the Eve of Nativity. We will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by Nativity Vigil at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us. Please see Juliana Peck or Matushka Daria to help

Bookstore Nativity Gifts Our Parish Bookstore has a wide selection of gifts for this Nativity season. Stop by and pick something up today!

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).

Service Schedule for Nativity The feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ will be Tuesday December 24th Royal Hours for the Nativity at 9:00 a.m., Parish Holy Supper at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Vigil for the Nativity of our Lord at 7:00 p.m. Then on Christmas morning Wednesday December 25th at 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the Nativity followed by coffee for those who wish to stay. Please be sure to make plans now to be with us for this blessed feast of our Lord.

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.

Difficult Choices

Saint Paul wrote the letter to the Christians at Philippi while he was in prison. As he says in the letter's early verses, he so strongly proclaimed the faith that the "whole praetorian guard and all the rest" came to know that his imprisonment was for Christ.

Paul mentions his struggles, sorrows and privations in this letter. Those hardships have made him weary, and so have his imprisonment and the trial he is facing. He seems optimistic that the trial could result in his acquittal, saying that it is "my eager expectation and hope that I shall not be at all ashamed." But he warns the Philippians that it may not turn out that way. Then he speaks from the depths of his heart about life and death.

Paul knows very well that he will undoubtedly face more difficulties in the days and years to come. Therefore he doesn't hesitate to say that he is hard pressed to know whether life or death is better. In fact, for Paul "to die is gain" and his desire "is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better."

But Paul has given up his own will. So he tells the Philippians that despite his willingness to face death, he must go on living, and working for their "progress and joy in the faith." He is their teacher, guide and example, and they need him. Though it's a struggle, he will continue to serve them. He will put aside his longing to be with the Lord so he can continue to teach the Philippians about the Lord.

Saint Hilarion the Great, inspired by Saint Anthony, gave up the prosperous future for which his education had prepared him. He went into the desert to face down demons and to become a friend of God through intense prayer and rigorous fasting.

The desert fathers and mothers all had to wrestle with their personal temptations. But the history of Saint Hilarion includes some graphic details about his solitary life. We read that he, like many who went into that solitude, had to overcome "impure thoughts, vexations of the mind and the burning passions of the flesh." The history also tells us that when he was praying he would hear "children crying, women wailing, and the roaring of lions and other wild beasts."

The terror inspired by such sounds and images in the arid desert, far from the reassuring company of other human beings, would make many people long for the city. Perhaps Hilarion sometimes yearned for the comforts and delights of Alexandria, where he had gone to school. Certainly he was fearful, and tempted to leave the desert.

But like Paul he made the harder choice for the greater good—in his case, the good of his own soul. Like Paul, he trusted God's leading, even when his own inclination may have been to run as fast as he could in the opposite direction.

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

"Self-reform and peace are not achieved through the patience which others show us, but through our own longsuffering towards our neighbor. When we try to escape the struggle for long-suffering by retreating into solitude,

those unhealed passions we take there with us are merely hidden, not erased; for unless our passions are first purged, solitude and withdrawal from the world not only foster them but also keep them concealed, no longer allowing us to perceive what passion it is that enslaves us. On the contrary, they impose on us an illusion of virtue and persuade us to believe that we have achieved long-suffering and humility, because there is no one present to provoke and test us.

But as soon as something happens which does arouse and challenge us, our hidden and previously unnoticed passions immediately break out like uncontrolled horses that have long been kept unexercised and idle, dragging

their driver all the more violently and wildly to destruction. Our passions grow fiercer when left idle through lack of contact with other people. Even that shadow of patience and long-suffering which we thought we possessed while we mixed with our brethren is lost in our isolation through not being exercised. Poisonous creatures that live quietly in their lairs in the desert display their fury only when they detect someone approaching; and likewise passion-filled men, who live quietly not because of their virtuous disposition but because of their solitude, spit forth their venom whenever someone approaches and provokes them. This is why those seeking perfect gentleness must make every effort to avoid anger not only towards men, but also towards animals and even inanimate objects."

- St. John Cassian, 360-435 AD, On the Eight Vices: On Anger, [VI]85, The Philokalia

'The intellect of a man who enjoys the love of God does not fight against things or against conceptual images of them. It battles against the passions which are linked with these images. It does not, for example, fight against a woman, or against a man who has offended it, or even against the images it forms of them; but it fights against the passions which are linked with the images.'

- St. Maximos the Confessor

Prayers for the Departed: Peter Melnik, Michael Sinovich, Marie Karawulan, David Rex

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

Prayers for Catechmens Kristin Mackenzie, Edward Jones

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
8-Dec	Hojnicki/Flynn/Roberts	Telep/Baldychev	Bunitsky/Finck	Maloney
15-Dec	Gerissimakis/Bunitsky	Bunitsky/Morjana	Farrell	Gundersen
22-Dec	Bacuta/Fravel	Riley/Riley	Clause/Whalen	Farrell
29-Dec	Shatley/Hines	Sulpizi/Finck	Skomorucha/Lewis Kiflemarian	Skomorucha
5-Jan	Bacuta/Fravel/Riley	Hojnicki/Najemy	S. Peck	

Upcoming Dates to Keep in Mind

Nativity Fast Nov. 15 -Dec.25

Nativity of our Lord Dec. 24th & 25th

Dec 24th Royal Hours 9:00 a.m.

Parish Holy Supper 5:30 p.m.

Nativity Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 25th Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Theophany Jan. 6th

Entrance of our Lord into the Temple Feb. 2nd