

St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

2300 W. Huntington Dr.

Wilmington, DE 19808

(302) 995-6775

www.stmichael-delaware-oca.org



Sunday December 15, 2019 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. Sunday of the Forefathers. Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Martyr Evanthia (2nd c.). Ven. Paul of Latros (955). St. Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Sourozh, Crimea (8th c.). Ven. Tryphon, Abbot of Pechenga (Kol'sk), and his martyred disciple, Jonah (1583). Martyr Eleutherius at Constantinople (3rd c.). Ven. Pardus, Hermit, of Palestine (6th c.). The Holy New-Hieromartyr Hilarion, Archbishop of Verey

This Week's Schedule

Thursday 12/19 Study Group 10:00 a.m.

Friday 12/20 Little Angels 9:30 a.m.

Saturday 12/21 Great Vespers 5: 00 p.m.

Sunday 12/22 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 15	SULPIZI	SKOMORUCHA	CAREY
Dec 22	DORAZIO	BUNITSKY	LEWIS
Dec 25	NATIVITY OF CHRIST		
Dec 29	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY

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 *(Forefathers)*

Through faith You justified the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.
These saints exult in glory,
for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:
she who bore You without seed.//
So, by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Troparion Tone 4

O Hilarion, **warrior** of Christ, / glory and boast of the Church of **Russia**,
/ thou didst confess Christ before the **perishing** world, / hast made the
Church **steadfast** by thy blood, / and having acquired divine
under**standing**, / hast proclaimed unto the **faithful**: / without the Church
there is no **salvation**!

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Forefathers)*

You did not worship the graven image,
O thrice-blessed ones,
but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:
“Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our aid,//
for You are merciful and able to do as You will!”

Kontakion Tone 6

O Hilarion, hieromartyr of Christ, / thou wast not afraid of the minions of the coming **Anti-Christ**, / but didst manfully **confess** Christ / and didst lay down thy life for the **Church** of God, / O adornment of the new martyrs of Russia, boast of **Holy Rus'**, / glory and confirmation of the Church.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Song of the Fathers*)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever! (*Song of the three Holy Children, v. 3*)

v: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (v. 4)

Epistle Colossians 3:4-11 (*Forefathers*)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps 99/100:6)

v: They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps 99/100:6)

Gospel Luke 14:16-24 (*Forefathers*)

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'

But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'

And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'

Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.'

And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'

Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'

'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps 32/33:1*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

This Week's Announcements

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.

Family Promise Many thanks to all who cooked and served our local homeless families through Family Promise last week. You were all so patient and kind with the new arrivals, especially the children. Your compassion for parents with 3 day old infant was instant. Family Promise's program helps us all become more aware of greater need in this Nativity season.

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

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 and Christ's "Calming of the storm". This coming Thursday All are welcome to join us!

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.

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



Hieromartyr Hilarion, Archbishop of Vereiya

The holy New Martyr Archbishop Hilarion (Vladimir Alexievich Troitsky in the world), an outstanding theologian, an eloquent preacher, and a fearless defender of Christ's holy Church, was born around 1885.

Vladika Hilarion wrote many books and articles on various topics, including "The Unity of the

Church.” His Master’s thesis, “An Outline of the History of the Church’s Dogma,” was over five hundred pages long, and was a well-documented analysis of the subject.

During the Council of 1917 he delivered a brilliant address calling for the restoration of the Moscow Patriarchate, which had been dissolved by Tsar Peter I in the eighteenth century. When Saint Tikhon (April 7) was chosen as Patriarch, Saint Hilarion became his fervent supporter.

Saint Hilarion was consecrated as bishop on May 20, 1920, and so the great luminary was placed upon the lampstand (Luke 11:33). From that time, he was to know less than two years of freedom. He spent only six months working with Patriarch Tikhon.

Vladika was arrested and exiled in Archangelsk for a year, then he spent six years (1923-1929) in a labor camp seven versts from Solovki. There at the Filomonov Wharf he and at least two other bishops were employed in catching fish and mending nets. Paraphrasing the hymns of Pentecost, Archbishop Hilarion remarked, “Formerly, the fishermen became theologians. Now the theologians have become fishermen.”

Archbishop Hilarion was one of the most popular inmates of the labor camp. He is remembered as tall, robust, and with brownish hair.

Personal possessions meant nothing to him, so he always gave his things away to anyone who asked for them. He never showed annoyance when people disturbed him or insulted him, but remained cheerful.

In the summer of 1925, Vladika was taken from the camp and placed in the Yaroslav prison. There he was treated more leniently, and received certain privileges. For example, he was allowed to receive religious books, and he had pleasant conversations with the warden in his office. Saint Hilarion regarded his time at the Yaroslav Isolated Detention Center as the best part of his imprisonment. The following spring he was back at Solovki.

In 1929 the Communists decided to exile Archbishop Hilarion to Alma-Atu in central Asia. During his trip southward from the far north, Saint Hilarion was robbed and endured many privations. When he arrived in Petrograd, he was ill with typhus, infested with parasites and dressed in rags. When informed that he would have to be shaved, he replied, “You may now do with me whatever you wish.” He wrote from the prison hospital, “My fate will be decided on Saturday, December 15. I doubt I will survive.”

Saint Hilarion died at the age of forty-four in the hospital of a Petrograd prison on December 15, 1929. His body was placed in a coffin hastily made from some boards, and then was released to his family. The once tall and robust Archbishop Hilarion had been transformed by his

sufferings into a pitiful white-haired old man. One female relative fainted when she saw the body.

Metropolitan Seraphim (Chichagov) provided a set of white vestments for the late Archbishop. He was also placed in a better coffin.

Metropolitan Seraphim presided at the funeral of Saint Hilarion, assisted by six bishops and several priests. The saint was buried at Novodevichy Monastery. (Hieromartyr Hilarion is commemorated December 15)

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"The judgments of man are one thing, and the judgments of God are another. The Lord says through His prophet: For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts (Is. 55:9). According to human opinion, the way to salvation, it would seem, has to be a smooth, quiet and peaceful way, but according to the Gospel, it is sorrowful, strait, and narrow (Mt. 7:14). Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword (Mt. 10:34), in order to separate the God-loving from the indulgent, and the humble from the lovers of the world. And, as a matter of fact, our salvation, according to the words of St. Peter of Damascus, lies between fear and hope, so that we may neither be self-reliant nor despair, but with good faith and hope in the mercy and help of God may try to lead a life in the fulfillment of the commandments of God. You mistakenly seek a completely, perfectly peaceful state of soul on earth, being incited to do so by the one who tempts us from the opposing side; and, in addition to that, you think this way simply out of spiritual inexperience, for such a state is something that belongs to the future age, whereas in the world you will have tribulation (Jn. 16:33), said the Lord to his apostles and everyone else."

- St. Ambrose of Optina, 1812-189

"Judge not, that ye be not judged." [Matthew 7:1]

Condemnation is rife with injustice and dispels the Grace of God

"[St. Paisios responds to the comment]: 'Geronta, I'm too quick to judge and condemn others.' Naturally, the ability to judge is a gift given to you by God. But the devil takes advantage of it and drives you to sin by condemning others. This why you should not trust in your own judgment, until it is purified and divine enlightenment has come to you. When one whose own judgment is not yet purified judges other people, he falls constantly into the sin of condemnation."

- St. Paisios the Athonite (1924–1994), was a well-known Greek Eastern Orthodox ascetic from Mount Athos

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>
15-Dec	Gerissimakis/Bunitsky	Bunitsky/Morjana	Farrell
22-Dec	Bacuta/Fravel	Riley/Riley	Clause/Whalen
29-Dec	Shatley/Hines	Sulpizi/Finck	Skomorucha/Lewis/M Kiflemarian
5-Jan	Bacuta/Fravel/Riley	Hojnicky/Najemy	S. Peck
12-Jan	Stephanie P/Grishin/Afoworkis	Telep/Baldychev	N. Carey

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