

St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral

Stavropigia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyivan Patriarchate

Bulletin for Sunday, April 2, 2023

St. Mary of Egypt

COMMEMORATED TODAY, ON THIS 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT,
AS A MODEL OF TRUE REPENTANCE

Commemorating St. Mary of Egypt reminds us that no sin – regardless of thought, word or deed – is so shameful that we cannot repent it. During Lent, we examine our lives under a bright, harsh light so that all of our failings become known. Only then can we humbly confess, ask for mercy and do whatever is necessary to heal.



The history of St. Mary of Egypt was related by Hieromonk Zosimas after he met her during a Lenten journey in the wilderness. Her life story serves as an example of true repentance and the profound compassion of God.

ABOUT ST. MARY OF EGYPT

St. Mary was born in Egypt, c. 344, and for 17 years, from the age of 12, lived as a prostitute. While in Jerusalem, she attempted to enter a church, but an unseen power prevented her from doing so. She turned to an icon of the Mother of God at the entrance, prayed before it and then entered without fear. Upon leaving, she heard a voice, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find true peace." She then retreated to the desert, renounced her worldly desires and lived as a hermit in penitence for the next 48 years until her death in c. 421.

Schedule of Services

Saturday, April 1	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, April 2	9:00 am: Reading of the Third Hour 9:15 am: Vesting 9:30 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, April 5	5:00 pm: Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday, April 8 LAZARUS SATURDAY	9:00 am: Reading of the Third Hour 9:15 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm: Vespers and Blessing of Pussy Willows
Sunday, April 9 PALM SUNDAY	9:00 am: Reading of the Third Hour 9:15 am: Vesting 9:30 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, followed by a traditional "Potato Pancake" Fellowship Brunch in the Cathedral Hall

Holy Week

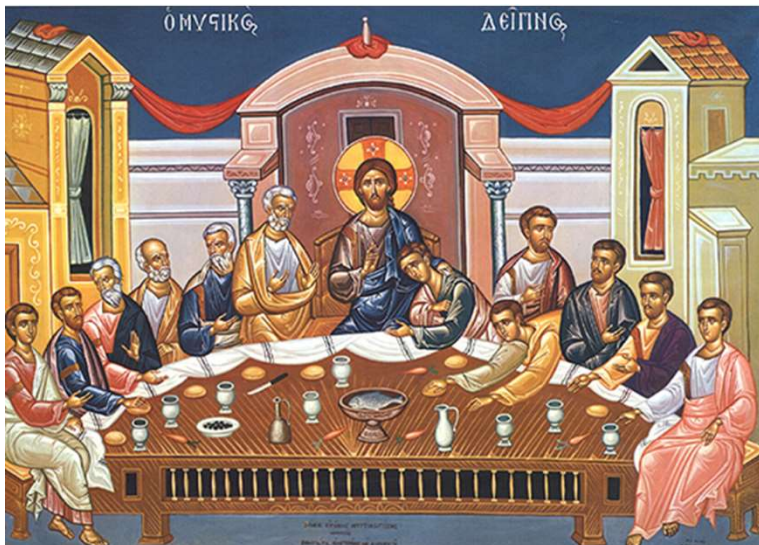
Wednesday, April 12	6:00 pm: Holy Unction Healing Service
Thursday, April 13 HOLY THURSDAY	9:00 am: Reading of the Hours 9:30 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm: Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels
Friday, April 14 HOLY FRIDAY	3:00 pm: Vespers 6:30 pm: Funeral Service and Procession with Plaschanitsa
Saturday, April 15 HOLY SATURDAY	9:00 am: Reading of the Hours 9:15 am: Vesting 9:30 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Baskets in the Sanctuary
Saturday-Sunday, April 15-16 PASCHA-EASTER	11:30 pm: Matins, Procession, Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Baskets and Agape Breakfast in the Cathedral Hall
Monday, April 17 BRIGHT MONDAY	9:00 am: Reading of the Hours 9:15 am: Vesting 9:30 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy and Procession
Saturday, April 22	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, April 23 ST. THOMAS SUNDAY	9:00 am: Reading of the Hours 9:15 am: Vesting 9:30 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Graves at Oakland Cemetery
Saturday, April 29	5:00 pm: Vespers

Come participate in the
**Holy Unction
Healing Service**
**Wednesday, April 12,
6:00 PM**

The Sacrament of Holy Unction is offered for the healing of soul and body and for the forgiveness of sins. At the conclusion of the service, Bishop Luke puts holy oil on the forehead, eyes, ears, nostrils, lips, chest and hands of the parishioners in the form of the cross, saying: "*O Holy Father, physician of our souls and bodies, heal Thy servant [name] from every physical and emotional affliction.*"



Healing Service, April 20, 2022



We need 12 MEN to hold the large pillar candles on Holy Thursday night, April 13, 6:00 PM, during the reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels. Please let Bishop Luke or Tom Hanney know if we can count on YOU to participate in this solemn service. At the conclusion, please stay to help set up the tomb in the center of the Sanctuary. **THANK YOU!**

CONFESSIONS

Bishop Luke will hear your confession Sunday mornings between the start of Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM and the Entrance Hymn "O Come Let Us Worship." If you want confession, you can approach Bishop Luke during this time, and he will walk from the Bishop's Chair in the center of the Sanctuary to the confessional area at the far left of the altar. Confessions are also heard every Saturday at 5:00 PM at Vespers and during Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM.

SUNDAY VIGIL CANDLES LIT TODAY

1. For the health of Dawn Healey, offered by Rayisa Kovalova
2. For the health of Ellen Hanavin, offered by Rayisa Kovalova
3. For the health of my nephew Chris Kavchok, offered by Diane Kavchok and Family
4. For the health of my beloved wife, Ellen, Love, Phil
5. For the health of Ellen Hanavin and a speedy recovery, Love, Susan
6. For the health and speedy recovery of Ellen Hanavin, Love, Tom and Judy Hanney
7. For the health of Barbara Marozzi on her 80th birthday, Love, Tom and Judy Hanney
8. For a successful surgery for Alex Mandell-Zayon, offered by Tom and Judy Hanney
9. For the health of my sister, Barbara Marozzi, on her special birthday, Love, Ellen and Phil
10. For the health of Aunt Barbara Marozzi on her 80th birthday, Love, Dawn and Ron xoxo
11. For the health of Barbara Marozzi on her milestone birthday! Offered by Susan Guz
12. For the health of Barbara Marozzi on her birthday, offered by the Sisterhood
13. For the health of our son/brother, Matt Murphy, on his 19th birthday, Love, Mom, Dad and Alex
14. For the health of my nephew, Matthew Murphy, on his 19th birthday, offered with love, Aunt Gail
15. For the health of Judy Hanney on her birthday, offered by Susan Guz
16. For the health of Judy Hanney on her birthday, Love, Ellen and Phil
17. For the health of Judy Hanney on her birthday, offered by the Sisterhood
18. In memory of Father/Grandfather, George Wohar, on the Anniversary of his passing, offered by the McMonigle family
19. In memory of Anna Kuliasha on the 1st anniversary of her passing, March 31, 2022. Memory Eternal.
20. For the health of Ellen Hanavin, Love, Barbara and George Latsios and Cassandra and Ray McNulty
21. For the health of our sister/aunt, Judy Hanney, on her birthday, Love, Barbara, George, Cassandra and Ray
22. For the health and happiness on the birthday of Judy Hanney - many more years! - love, Marcia, Mike and Zachary
23. For the healthy and speedy recovery of Ellen Hanavin, love, Marcia, Mike and Zachary
24. For the health of Dawn Healey and Phil Hanavin, love, Marcia, Mike and Zachary
25. For the health of cousin/Godmother Judy Hanney on her Birthday, offered by Colleen and Nicholas Philipp, George Zervos, Jennifer and Cory Redmond and Melissa Cardarelli
26. For the health of Ellen Hanavin and a speedy recovery after her surgery, offered by Colleen and Nicholas Philipp, George Zervos, Jennifer and Cory Redmond and Melissa Cardarelli
27. For the health of Phil Hanavin, offered by Colleen and Nicholas Philipp, George Zervos, Jennifer and Cory Redmond and Melissa Cardarelli
28. For the health of Dawn Healey, offered by Colleen and Nicholas Philipp, George Zervos, Jennifer and Cory Redmond and Melissa Cardarelli





ANALOI CANDLES LIT TODAY
for the health of my beloved wife

JUDY HANNEY

on her birthday, April 1

offered by

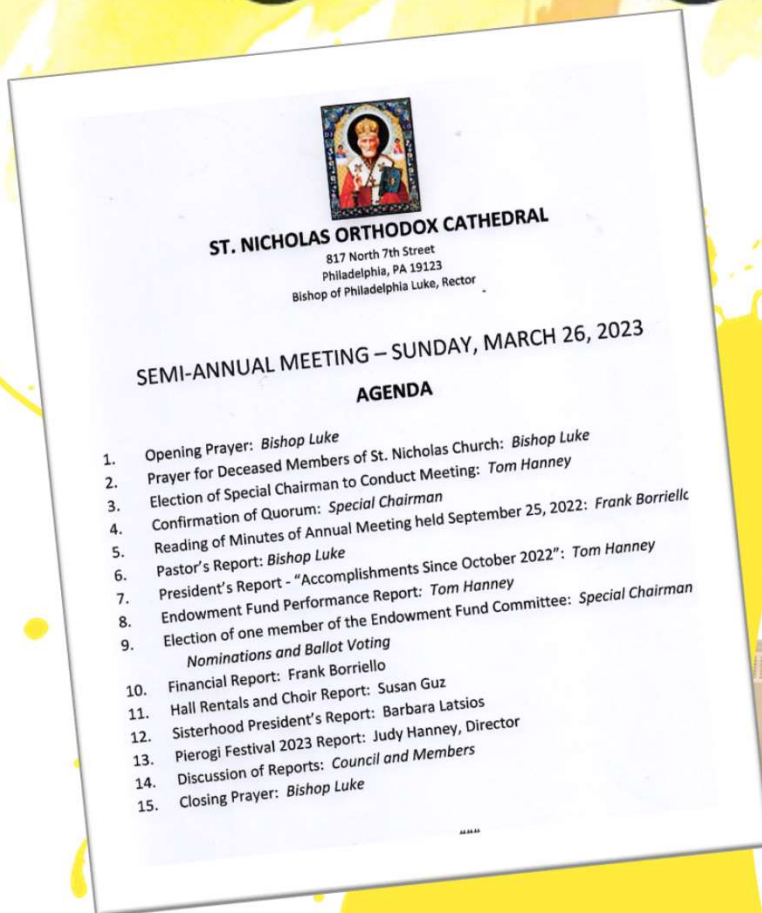
Tom

Alexandra, Lloyd and Aidan

Anastasia, Kirk and Helen

Highlights


from our
**Semi-Annual
Parish Meeting
Sunday,
March 26, 2023**



BISHOP LUKE opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer, followed by prayers for newly-departed Professor Alexander Kachur, Natalie Sobchak and Anna Kuliasha on the 1st anniversary of her passing. Then followed the Bishop's "Pastor Report," which included an invitation to listen to the "Bishop Luke Radio Hour" on WWDB-AM 860 every Wednesday afternoon from 3-4 pm. The show is a great opportunity to announce events at the Cathedral and invite listeners to worship with us.

A circular inset photograph of Tom Hanney, Cathedral Council President. He is a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a striped shirt. He is standing at a black podium, holding a microphone in his right hand and a piece of paper in his left. The background shows a well-lit room with large windows and a light-colored floor.

TOM HANNEY, Cathedral Council President, recapped our accomplishments during the past six months, including celebrating the Cathedral's 105th Anniversary; repairing, caulking and cleaning the front exterior steps and reinforcing the handrails; achieving a record-breaking Pierogi Festival in November; clearing the northside near 7th Street of vegetation and trees to maximize parking space for the Mercy vans; pouring a new concrete pad for our dumpster for easy mobility and to eliminate it sinking into the dirt; increased billing of Mercy vans from 11 to 14 vans; and the purchase of a new ice machine. *Tom announced that our operating expenses increased 33% on average -- and to be mindful that your donations must do the same in order to keep the Cathedral operating.*

A circular inset photograph of Frank Borriello, Cathedral Council Secretary. He is an older man with glasses, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a light-colored striped shirt. He is holding a microphone in his right hand. The background shows a room with a mirror on the wall reflecting other people.

FRANK BORRIELLO, Cathedral Council Secretary,, gave the Financial Report for the fiscal half-year, October 1, 2022-March 31, 2023 (in the absence of Treasurer, Ellen Hanavin who is recovering from surgery). Frank also explained the details surrounding the bequest the Cathedral recently received: In the summer of 2022, we received a call from Reclaimed Capital LLC (RC) in Haddonfield, NJ, a company that proactively specializes in identifying and locating abandoned and unclaimed assets. They specifically asked for Frank, who then worked with RC through the long process of filing forms and providing documentation required by the Pennsylvania Treasury Department. We ultimately received the bequest check last month. The donor is still unknown. **Memory Eternal to the Cathedral's very generous benefactor!**



JUDY HANNEY, Festival Director, was pleased to report that the Pierogi Shed has finally been fully insulated, thanks to the recent efforts of Nicholas Philipp and a friend. This was an essential improvement to protect our freezers in the shed.

SAVE THE DATE for this year's PIEROGI FESTIVAL: Saturday, November 4, and Sunday, November 5.

We need a sponsor for the tent (see Tom Hanney for cost) AND we want to buy NOW those food products that can keep or freeze well for the next 7 months, specifically 30 (2-lb) bags of Kissling's (Habbersett or Dietz & Watson) Sauerkraut and 20 bags of Pennsylvania Dutch (or Manischewitz) Medium Egg Noodles. Look for announcements in the Bulletin for food prep dates! We need everyone's help!

BARBARA LATSIOS, President of the Sisterhood, invited all women of the Cathedral to join the Sisterhood that currently has 25 members. Dues are only \$10 a year. The mission of the Sisterhood is to keep the Cathedral beautiful and tend to the needs of the Clergy. The Sisterhood recently gifted Bishop Luke with two new vestments. The Sisterhood regularly supplies the Sanctuary wine for Communion.

This year the Sisterhood celebrates its 92nd Anniversary! To commemorate the Feast Day for which the Sisterhood is named – "Protection of the Holy Theotokos" -- a celebratory lunch is held annually in October. The lunch is the Sisterhood's only fundraiser (tickets are \$25), and the organization uses this event each year to honor all the women in St. Nicholas Cathedral and to raise money for essential items needed by the Clergy. Barbara asked everyone to SAVE THE DATE for this year's Sisterhood lunch: **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023, following Divine Liturgy in our Cathedral Hall.**





SUSAN GUZ, Hall Manager and Choir Director, reported on the operation of Liberty North Hall and the Patriarchal Choir.

LIBERTY NORTH HALL: Not raising the Hall rental fee this year was a good decision. The Hall is extremely popular and is rented continuously (95 events have been booked so far this fiscal year!). **Income** is currently at \$60K+. Baby showers are the most popular event. It is highly likely that we will meet last year's income goal (\$75K), and there's a strong possibility that we will surpass it. Improvements include repainting the Hall sometime in the future and buying a coat rack for event attendees. [Note: Anastasia and Kirk Whitmer immediately came forward following the meeting to donate a new coat rack! **THANK YOU!**]

THE PATRIARCHAL CHOIR consists of four professional singers who have been dedicated members of the Choir for the past 5 years. We think everyone will agree that their voices inspire the congregation in prayerful and attentive worship. The Choir is currently rehearsing and preparing for the lengthy Holy Week and Easter services.



*Thank you,
Anastasia and
Kirk Whitmer,
for your donation
of a new coat rack
for Liberty North
Hall!*

A New Endowment Fund Committee Member!
Congratulations to long-time parishioner,
ALEX JANOCZKIN, who was unanimously
elected to fill the position vacated by
Susan Guz on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

Endowment Committee Members serve a 5-year term and are up for re-election or replacement on a rotating basis.

- Susan Guz: up for re-election in 2023
 - Thomas Hanney: " in 2024
 - George Latsios: " in 2025
 - Stephen Mandell: " in 2026
 - Frank Murphy: " in 2026
 - Alex Janoczkin: " in 2027





At the conclusion of the Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 26, 2023, Bishop Luke expressed appreciation to Tom Hanney, President, Cathedral Council, and to the Council Officers, for their collaborative, harmonious relationship with the Clergy.



On Palm Sunday, we will be selling a limited supply of Easter Lamb Breads for your Easter basket! \$10 each.

PREPARING FOR EASTER

Just as you prepare yourself spiritually for Easter, we all need to prepare for the complete experience of Easter, and that includes flowers, vigils, and the Agape Breakfast.

FLOWERS

In preparation for Holy Friday, the Tomb of Jesus will be set up in the Sanctuary Holy Thursday night, April 13, following the Holy Passion service of the reading of the Twelve Gospels. A variety of seasonal, potted, flowering Easter plants will decorate the Tomb. This year again, instead of pre-ordering, you will be able to select from the plants and take one or more home after Divine Liturgy on Bright Monday, April 17 – FOR A SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$15.



BASKETS of fresh cut flowers, however, will still need to be pre-ordered. Please give your basket order to Ellen Hanavin in the Candle Room. The baskets are \$40 each and are beautifully arranged by our florist for decades, Carrolls Flowers.

EASTER VIGILS

Diane Kavchok will be contacting you by email for any revisions to your Easter vigil list. To our new parishioners: please contact Diane by email, kavchokd@aol.com, if you would like to have Vigils published in the Easter edition of our Bulletin. **Responses are due back to Diane by April 3, 2023.**



AGAPE BREAKFAST

We will be passing the basket following Divine Liturgy on Sundays to collect donations for the Agape Breakfast, organized once again by Vicki Borriello. If you want to bring your favorite Pascha dish for the breakfast, there is a sign-up sheet in the Candle Room. THANK YOU!





Nathan Borriello turned “double-digits,” and Bishop Luke, Father Oleksii and the parish sang a resounding **Happy Birthday!** to the young man on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

Nathan's

**10TH
BIRTHDAY**

Thank you to Vicki Borriello and Gail Osborn for preparing a delicious Lenten Fellowship Lunch on Sunday, March 26, 2023, that we enjoyed prior to the start of the Semi-Annual Meeting.

CATHEDRAL COUNCIL

- Thomas J. Hanney, President
- Susan Guz, Vice-President
- Ellen Hanavin, Treasurer
- Frank Borriello, Secretary

ST. NICHOLAS PATRIARCHAL CHOIR

- Eve Edwards, Soprano
- Nancy Stott Trauger, Alto
- Nathaniel McEwen, Tenor
- Anthony Sinigaglio II, Bass
- Susan Guz, Choir Director

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

- Thomas J. Hanney
- Alex Janoczkin
- George Latsios
- Stephen Mandell
- Frank Murphy



CLERGY

Bishop Luke (Zhoba) of Philadelphia,
Rector, St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral
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Email sneoct00@gmail.com to contribute information to this Bulletin. Info must be received by 9 am on WEDNESDAY to be published in the Sunday Bulletin.
Editor-Publisher: Susan Guz

THE SCRIPTURE READING FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – ST. MARY OF EGYPT



PRIEST: Let us attend! Peace be unto all!

READER: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon in the 1st Tone: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

CHOIR: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye Righteous! Praise befits the just! Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

CHOIR: As we have set our hope on Thee.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from the Hebrews.

PRIEST: Let us attend!

READER: Brothers...But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? **(Hebrews 9:11-14)**

PRIEST: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

READER: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! **CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

READER: God gives vengeance unto me and subdues people under me!
He magnifies the salvation of the king and deals mercifully with Christ, with David and his seed forever.

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

PRIEST: Let us attend. Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again. Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. **(Mark 10:32-45)**

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.



ANNUAL ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE

Our annual **ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE** began simultaneously with the start of Lent. It is customary to give alms -- a charitable gift -- during Lent. What better beneficiary than our beloved St. Nicholas Cathedral to ensure its future!

By donating to the Endowment Fund, you make a long-term investment in St. Nicholas Cathedral. Your contribution is invested in mutual funds administered by a professional money manager. The Endowment Fund ensures sustainability of the Cathedral and a stable financial position years down the road. Funds can only be distributed after approval by the Endowment Committee, comprised of five Cathedral members who are responsible stewards of your gift.

The Cathedral Council has authorized the **MATCHING** of your contribution to the Endowment Fund this year. An equal sum will be transferred from the Cathedral's Operating Fund directly into the Endowment Fund following Easter, the conclusion of the annual fund drive.

\$

Your
contribution

+

\$

Cathedral
contribution

=

\$\$

Double the
Savings!

Please pick up a PINK envelope from the Candle Room and give generously. You can also give online on our website. Go to stnicholaseoc.org; click the DONATE tab at the bottom of the home page; scroll down and click "Endowment Fund."

THANK YOU!

2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



ANNUAL VIGIL CANDLES LIT AT EVERY SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Sunday Vigil:	\$2
Analoi Candles:	\$25
Altar Candles:	\$35
Annual Vigil:	\$100
Bulletin Sponsor:	\$25

1. +The Repose of the soul of Carol Dantine, offered by David Dantine, Jr. and Family. exp. 11/1/23
2. +The Repose of the souls of George and Barbara Wohar, offered by Barbara McMonigle and Family. exp. 11/1/23
3. +The Repose of the souls of John and Helen Guz; John and Mary Dzwonczyk; Paul and Anna Guz, offered by daughters/granddaughters Patricia Walker and Susan Guz. exp. 12/31/23
4. +The Repose of the souls of Helen and Michael Zaruba, and Christina and Christopher Natale. May Their Memory Be Eternal. Offered with love by Daughter/Sister/Aunt, Marcia O'Connor. exp. 10/1/26
5. +The Repose of the souls of All Members of the Sisterhood Fallen Asleep in the Lord, offered by the Sisterhood of the Pokrova. exp. 10/13/23
6. +The Repose of the souls of the Boljarevich Family, Anastasia (Nancy) Yarosh, Helen Kon, Helen and John "Whitey" Horbacz, Harry Mason, Sophie Gamble, Michael Zaruba and John Martin. PERPETUAL
7. +The Repose of the soul of my beloved husband, our devoted father and grandfather, Jack Kavchok. May his memory be eternal! Offered with love, Diane, John, Michael, Melissa, Makenzie, Riley and Kylie. exp. 8/1/23
8. +The Repose of the souls of Emil and Helen Levchenco offered by daughter, Ellen Hanavin. exp. 12/31/23
9. +The Repose of the souls of Irina and Michael Sierp, Konstantin, Olga, Lydia and Juris Teterski, Richard Boswell, and the health of all living members of the Teterski, Sierp, Boswell and Lis Families, offered by Susan Lis. exp. 9/18/23
10. +The Repose of the soul of our mother and grandmother, Helen Marx, offered by Victoria, Frank, Christopher, Stephanie, Julia, Nicholas, Krissy, Nathan and Morgan Borriello. exp. 4/19/23
11. +In memory of John and Susan Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/23
12. +In memory of Paul Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. Exp. 12/31/23
13. +In memory of Vera, Richard and Paul Wienckowski, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/23
14. +In memory of Evelyn Atlee, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 12/31/23
15. +In memory of Nadia Borriello, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 5/31/23
16. +In loving memory of our mother, Lillian Fox, and our sister, Karen Niehoff, offered by Renee Murphy and Gail Osborn & Families. exp. 9/1/23
17. +The Repose of the souls of the Kowal Family: Andrew, Paraskeva, Andrew, Catherine, Susan, John, Nionila, Anna, David, Franklin Shultz and Edward Barrett, offered by Drew Kowal. exp. 11/1/30
18. For the health of Mykhailo, Tetiana, David, Svitlana, Vitaliy, Marina, Viktor, Ilona, Bogdan, Oleksandra, Maksym, Volodymyr, Halyna, Victoria, Mykola, Bishop Luke and his family, Veronika, Tetiana, Oleksander, Diana-Olga, Hrystyna, Dimitriy, Diana; and +In memory of Mykhailo, Yaroslav, Anna, Petro, Bohdan and Hanna, offered by Michael, Tetiana and David Kuchmiak. exp. 12/31/23
19. For the health of Viktor, Oksana, Volodymyr, Anna-Diana, Olga, Vasyl, Maria, Mykhailyna, Anna, Olga, Mykola, Marianna, Oksana, Olga, Roman, Bogdan, Iryna-Olesia. +In memory of Anna, Sophia, Petro, Volodymyr, Joseph, Petrunelia, Vasyl, Maria, Stepan, Anna, Volodymyr, Stepania, Maryna, Vasyl, offered by Oksana and Viktor Voloshnovskyy. exp. 9/1/23
20. +The Repose of the souls of Stephen and Helen V. Sameruck, offered by Barbara Latsios, Judy Hanney and families. exp. 10/25/23
21. +The Repose of the souls of Mary and Gregory Buckley. Memory Eternal. Offered by the children and grandchildren of the Buckley, Janoczkin and Wojnarowicz Families. exp. 12/31/23
22. +In memory of Alexander and Ewdokia Janoczkin and son Michail, offered by the Janoczkin, Wojnarowicz and Adams families. exp. 12/31/23
23. +In memory of Joseph and Mary Ann Visman, offered by Debbie and Michael. exp. 5/2/23
24. +In memory of Tatiana, Alexander, Sergey, Nadezhda, Alexander and Anna, offered by Anton Spassky. exp. 6/12/23
25. For the health of soldier Olexiy, Loubov, Vadym, Olexander, Iryna, George, Svilana and Maria. exp. 6/19/23

On Thursday, March 16, 2023, Bishop Luke opened the official meeting of the City Council of Philadelphia with a prayer. Together with the City Council members, Bishop Luke prayed for the USA, President Joe Biden, and the Philadelphia local authorities -- and for peace in Ukraine and around the world.

Addressing City Council President Darrell Clarke, Members of the City Council, Brothers and Sisters in the City of Philadelphia, he said:

"I am Bishop of Philadelphia Luke, Rector of St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral located in Northern Liberties. Today at this meeting of the esteemed members of the Philadelphia City Council, I am honored to give the invocation. I thank Councilman Brian O'Neill for the invitation to be here with you this morning. Let us bow our heads now as we pray to the Lord:

- ❖ For this wonderful country, the United States of America, for our President, Joe Biden, for our armed forces, and for all those in civil authority.
- ❖ In memory of the Founding Fathers and all those who gave their lives for our freedom.
- ❖ For all those in the world today, especially the suffering people in Ukraine, who are fighting for the freedoms we enjoy every day.
- ❖ For this beautiful city of Philadelphia, and for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them.
- ❖ For you, the members of the Philadelphia City Council.

Let us pray to the Lord for His mercy, guidance and grace. Apostle Paul writes in Romans Chapter 8, verse 28 "...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

So, we pray for you, entrusted City Council members, as representatives of the people of the City of Philadelphia, that the Lord continue to grant you wisdom, honesty, integrity, empathy, confidence, the ability to work together, and joy in fulfilling the mission before you today. Let us all pray to the Lord and give thanks -- for His mercy endures forever. **GOD BLESS YOU ALL. GOD BLESS AMERICA! AMEN.**"



Following the prayer, on behalf of His Holiness Patriarch Philaret, Bishop Luke awarded City Council President Darrell L. Clarke a medal “For Sacrifice and Love of Ukraine.” Bishop Luke awarded another medal, on behalf of His Holiness Patriarch Philaret, to Councilman Brian O’Neill “For Sacrifice and Love of Ukraine” and for his exceptional help regarding the Ukrainian refugees in Philadelphia. Bishop Luke noted for the record that over the past several years he came to know and enjoyed working on various projects with former Councilman-At-Large David Oh, who recently resigned from his position due to his mayoral campaign. Bishop Luke gave his blessing to David Oh in his future endeavors and also blessed the members of the Philadelphia City Council for every success and good health in the coming year.



City Council President Darrell L. Clarke



Councilman Brian O'Neill





Councilman Brian O'Neill

A mosaic depicting Jesus on the left, wearing a blue robe over a red tunic, with a halo around his head. He is holding a golden chalice and offering it to a disciple in the center, who is kneeling and drinking from it. Several other disciples are visible in the background, looking on. The background is a golden mosaic.

Scripture Reading

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Mark 10:32-45

In Sunday's Scripture reading, Jesus talked to his Disciples and foretold things that would happen to Him: His entrance into Jerusalem – that we celebrate Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday -- His crucifixion, His resurrection. The Disciples responded that they wanted to be part of His glory, that they were qualified, they were ready. They were NOT was Jesus' response, and that was a great surprise to the Disciples.

It is not enough to be booksmart or recite Bible verses by heart. As Jesus told His disciples -- those men who were the closest to Him, hanging on His every word, witnessing the miracles, following Him -- even THEY, the disciples, did NOT possess the qualifications to sit on either side of Jesus and be guaranteed a reward in Heaven. And they were stunned and greatly disappointed to learn this. But Jesus taught them a great lesson – and for us a lesson in life – and a lesson in faith: He said: “Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...” Jesus teaches us that we must serve others in order to lead. And being a good leader is a measure of greatness. So, do not crave power and attention. Do not look for worship and adulation. Serve for the glory of serving. For, as Jesus taught His disciples – AND US -- we now know what it takes to be great.

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