

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>

Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, November 22, 2015 | 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Afterfeast of the Entry of the Theotokos Into the Temple.
Apostles of the Seventy Philemon and Archippus, Martyr Apphia, wife of
Philemon and Equal-to-the-Apostles, and Onesimus, disciple of St. Paul

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302-322-0943 | Mobile: 302-547-4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com or mkoczak05@aol.com

Parish President – Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856-217-8075

Weekly Schedule

Today: Annual Ethnic Festival! – 12p to 4p
St. Nicholas Church – Philadelphia, PA

Today: Philadelphia Deanery Meeting – 4:00pm
St. Mark's Church – Wrightstown, PA

Thursday: November 26 - Thanksgiving! Remember to Give Thanks for the
Blessings You Have In Your Life.

Saturday: November 28 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: November 29 – Martyr Paramon and 370
Martyrs in Bithynia (250)

Reading of Hours – 9:40am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AFTER LITURGY!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Afterfeast of Theotokos Into Temple)

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, / of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. / The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, / in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. / Let us rejoice and sing to her: // “Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation!”

Kontakion (Tone 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Afterfeast of Theotokos Into Temple)

The most pure Temple of the Savior; / the precious Chamber and Virgin; / the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, / is presented today to the House of the Lord. / She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, / therefore, the angels of God praise her: / “Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

Epistle Reading: 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. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: 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.

Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing in Tone 4:

The Angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed! / How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies? / As you are a living Temple of God, / let no impure hand touch you, O Theotokos! / But let the lips of all believers sing, / constantly magnifying you in joy / with the angelic salutation: // Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One!

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

Biography of the Very Reverend Mark W Koczak. The resume and biography of our parish priest, Archpriest Mark, are posted on the bulletin boards in the back of the church and in the church basement. This same information is also posted on the parish website under the section “About Us”, then scroll down to the “Administration” area. Please take a moment and read about Father Mark’s experiences and accomplishments.

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Nativity Lent Season:

The next 40 Days for Life has begun for the 40 days of Lent (Nativity). Meanwhile the killing continues at Planned Parenthood. Thank you so much in advance for signing up for this list and being willing to continue standing up for those that can’t speak for themselves.

- * Contacts: Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084
- * Email: roobearoo@hotmail.com
- * Website: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/philadelphia/>
- * Prayer vigil located at 12th & Locust St, Philadelphia – Planned Parenthood
- * Vigils open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.

Announcements (cont.)

Welcome to all of our visitors & guest worshipping with us today. A warm welcome to all of our visitors and guest who have joined us today in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

General Parish Meeting - Sunday, December 6th after Divine Liturgy. This is Notice #2 of 3. According to Article 10, Section 1, of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the meeting.

In the News...Orthodox Church in America (OCA): oca.org

The new [Statute of the Orthodox Church in America](#), adopted by delegates to the [18th All-American Council](#) in July 2015, became effective November 1.

As detailed in the *Statute's* Article XVIII, dioceses, parishes, monasteries, institutions, offices, and organizations of the Church shall review their governing documents and administrative practices and conform them to the Statute by December 31, 2017. The Diocesan hierarchs will be working with the parishes, monasteries and institutions under their omophoria in the review process as necessary. Speaking of Diocesan review process...(below)

In the News...Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (DOPEA): dopea.org

The Deaneries are having presentations to discuss the Diocesan Bylaws, the proposed process how parishes will fund the Dioceses in the future, and how Treasurers & Financial Secretaries are to complete the new financial statements sent to the Diocese. Final Deanery presentation is as follows:

Philadelphia Deanery – Today @ 4pm in Wrightstown (St. Mark's)

Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers! We have begun collecting for Christmas flowers. There will be special envelopes available to be used for your offering for flower donations. Please give the envelopes to Debbie Kavalkovich or a member of the parish council. Thank you for your support!

Holiday Basket Brigade! The parish has begun accepting donations for the Holiday Basket Brigade. We will start with the traditional Thanksgiving items. The parish is providing two baskets to families in the community. We have a list available of those items to be donated and the list is attached to the care boxes. The Thanksgiving Baskets will be delivered Today after Divine Liturgy!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Mary & Simon Herbert, Daniel Herbert, John & Michele Spack, Michael & Joyce Spack, Barbara & Warren Hess, Dennis & Debra Slivka, Nancy & Marc Rowan, Claire & Otts Remington offered by M/M Herbert

Mary & Simon Herbert offered by Pellack Family

Helen Yarabinee and Kevin Walsh offered by Emelie Albrecht

Lorna Brostat offered by Melanie Albrecht

Daria LeRoy offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Mary Spack, Irene Kavcsak Theodore Kaczmar offered by Nina Patterson

May Their Memories Be Eternal

#####

Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Albert Kavalkovich, Anastasia Kavalkovich; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Robert Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; Father John Udics; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

+ + +

The 129 victims and more than 350 injured in the senseless atrocity against humanity in Paris! Also, the 224 passengers who lives were taken from them on the Russian MetroJet Flight 9268! Memory Eternal!

#####

BULLETIN INFO:

If you did not pick up a bulletin because there was none left on the Tetrapod, don't worry...a copy can be made. Please inform Dan Herbert or one of the parish council members that you would like that week's bulletin and a copy will be made for you. We also keep any extra bulletins back in the vestibule from the past three (3) months. They are located on the shelf where the prosfora is placed.

Also, for those who have access to the Internet, bulletins since June 2009 are posted on the parish website for your convenience. Thank you!

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. The sheets have been pretty bare over the past few weeks. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon. In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Youth Fund
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (November)

	<u>Week of Nov 9 to Nov 15</u>	<u>November Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	28	34 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 4,707.55	\$9,054.55
Funds Out:	\$ 1,926.60	\$5,263.18
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$2,780.95	\$3,791.37

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

"...to serve our neighbor is to serve Christ himself... Our brother is our salvation. Our brother, our neighbor is also our opportunity to save ourselves."
~ Archbishop Benjamin – Diocese of San Francisco (OCA)

Calendar of Events

November 26 – Thanksgiving Day

November 29 – Parish Council Meeting after Divine Liturgy!

November 30 – Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – Philadelphia, PA hosting their 44th Annual Ethnic Festival –TODAY! The parish is located at 817 North 7th Street. Phone # 215.922.9671. Festival is from 12pm to 4pm.

Tree Cutting and Branch Trimming scheduled for Thursday, December 3 around 9:30am. Please see Lena or Paul to discuss if they need assistance on this day. If so, all work would be “ground work” around the church property (no climbing of trees to cut down).

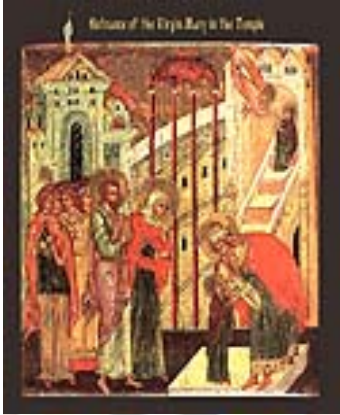
Clean-up Day Outside of Church Property scheduled for Saturday, December 5 at 9:30am. As a result of the Tree Cutting and Branch trimming on December 3rd, the property will be littered with small branches and leaves. Your assistance with cleaning any leftover debris and beautifying the outside property of the church is greatly appreciated!

General Parish Meeting – Sunday, December 6 after Liturgy in the church basement. A general parish meeting is scheduled for this date to discuss this past year and plan for next year. Meeting should take about an hour but will not be longer than 90 minutes. This is NOT the Annual Parish Meeting, which is scheduled for sometime in late January.

Bible Study – Tuesday, December 8 at 6:30pm in the church basement. The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Genesis. (continuing with Chapter 5)

Indoor Church Cleaning scheduled for Saturday, December 12th beginning at 10:00AM. Bring your rags and cleaning supplies to assist.

Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree scheduled for Saturday, December 19th. Time TBD.



The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple [November 21st]

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Sts Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her

finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said St Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

St Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Sts Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.