

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 29, 2015 | 26th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – Martyr Paramon and 370 Martyrs in Bithynia (250). Martyr Philumenus of Ancyra, and with him Martyrs Valerian & Phaedrus

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Parish Council Meeting After Divine Liturgy

Thursday: December 3 – Tree Cutting & Branch Trimming around the Church beginning around 9:30am! See Bulletin for Details!

Saturday: December 5 – Clean-up Day **Outside** the Church beginning around 9:30am! See Bulletin for details!

Saturday: December 5 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: December 6 – Saint Nicholas The Wonderworker,
Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (ca. 345)

Reading of Hours – 9:40am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

GENERAL PARISH MEETING AFTER DIVINE LITURGY!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Troparion (Tone 4 – Martyrs)

Thy holy martyrs Paramon and Philumenus and those with them, O Lord, / through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God. / For having Thy strength, they laid low their adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through their intercession, save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 1)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Martyrs)

Urged on by the commandments of God, / with patience, ye cleansed thy souls from all defilement. / Ye reached perfection as spiritual athletes; / and renounced sacrifice to idols. / Imitating Christ, ye were slain with a spear, / O most blessed Paramon and Philumenus. / Always fervently intercede with Christ on behalf of the world!

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:9-19

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 1)

v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)
v. He magnifies the salvation of His King and deals mercifully with David,
His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:10-17

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath? And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! 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.

Welcome to all of our visitors & guest worshiping 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.

Announcements (cont.)

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. Information:

- * 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.
- * Try to have at least one person there to cover the hour.

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.

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

The Deaneries have completed their presentations regarding 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. Discussion of the Philadelphia Deanery meeting held last week in Wrightstown, PA will occur during our General Parish Meeting next Sunday.

Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers! We are continuing to collect for Christmas flowers. There are special envelopes available to use 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 are now collecting for Christmas items. The parish is providing at least one (1) basket to a family in the community at this time. We will have a list available of those items to be donated and the list will be attached to the care box. The Christmas Basket will be delivered on Sunday, December 20th after Divine Liturgy!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Father Mark Kozak, Emelie Albrecht, Claire Remington, Catherine & Albert Kavalkovich, Simon Herbert, Nadia Womick, Grace Corba, offered by M/M Herbert
Ken Walker offered by Pellack Family
Anastasia Kavalkovich, Sharon Orr, Ronald Kavalkovich, Emma Mae offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Stephen Slivka, Theodore Slivka, Anna Bondira, Michael Spack Sr offered by M/M Herbert
Anna Zuzulock offered by Joseph Rabik and Mary McKinney
Julia Jugan, Anna Zuzulock, Florence Savchak, Florence Telichan, Anna Zuzulock offered by Pellack Family.

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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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 19 victims of the tragedy at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako, Mali!

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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 16 to Nov 22</u>	<u>November Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	34	34 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,247.00	\$10,251.55
Funds Out:	\$ 433.62	\$ 5,646.80
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 813.38	\$4,604.75

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

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). We will be moving brankches & debris away from the sidewalk. Some will even feed branches into the wood chipper machine.

Clean-up Day Outside of the 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 branches & debris and beautifying the outside property of the church is greatly appreciated! A luncheon is tentatively planned for that afternoon.

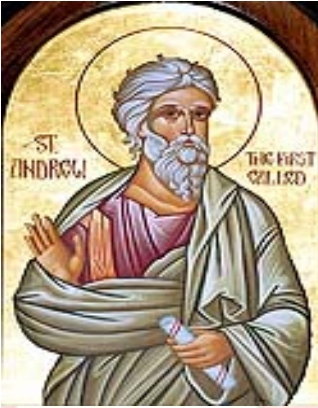
General Parish Meeting – Sunday, December 6 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #3 of 3. According to Article 10, Section 1, of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the meeting. A general parish meeting is scheduled next Sunday 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 a Sunday 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. (continue w/ Chpt 5)

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

Annual Advent Lecture at Saint Stephen’s Cathedral on Sunday, December 13th beginning at 4:00PM. Topic: Dealing with Despondency – The Letters of St John Chrysostom to Olympia the Deaconess. Lecturer: Dr. David Ford, PhD. Address: 8598 Verree Rd. - Philadelphia, PA 19111

Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree tentatively scheduled for Saturday, December 19th. This date may change pending on the schedule of those organizing the decorating.



The Holy and All Praised Apostle Andrew the First called [November 30th]

Tomorrow the Church celebrates the Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called who was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ, and he later brought his own brother, the holy Apostle Peter, to Christ (John 1:35-42). The future apostle was from Bethsaida, and from his youth he turned with all his soul to God. He did not enter into marriage, and he worked with his brother as a fisherman. When the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John began to preach, St Andrew became his closest disciple. St John the Baptist himself sent to Christ his own two disciples, the future Apostles Andrew and John the Theologian, declaring Christ to be the Lamb of God.

After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, St Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, he reached the River Danube, went along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the Black Sea region and along the River Dniepr he climbed to the place where the city of Kiev now stands.

He stopped overnight on the hills of Kiev. Rising in the morning, he said to those disciples that were with him: "See these hills? Upon these hills shall shine forth the beneficence of God, and there will be a great city here, and God shall raise up many churches." The apostle went up around the hills, blessed them and set up a cross. Having prayed, he went up even further along the Dniepr and reached a settlement of the Slavs, where Novgorod was built. From here the apostle went through the land of the Varangians towards Rome for preaching, and again he returned to Thrace, where in the small village of Byzantium, the future Constantinople, he founded the Church of Christ. The name of the holy Apostle Andrew links the mother, the Church of Constantinople, with her daughter, the Russian Church.

On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans: they cast him out of their cities and they beat him. In Sinope they pelted him with stones, but remaining unharmed, the persistent disciple of Christ continued to preach to people about the Savior. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the Lord worked miracles. By the labors of the holy Apostle Andrew, Christian Churches were established, for which he provided bishops and clergy. The final city to which the Apostle came was the city of Patra, where he was destined to suffer martyrdom. The Lord worked many miracles through His disciple in Patra, including the Apostle Andrew healing Maximilla, wife of the governor of Patra, and his brother Stratokles.

Few pagans remained at Patra, but among them was the prefect of the city, Aegeatos. The Apostle Andrew repeatedly turned to him with the words of the Gospel. But even the miracles of the Apostle did not convince Aegeatos. The holy Apostle with love and humility appealed to his soul, striving to reveal to him the Christian mystery of life eternal, through the wonderworking power of the Holy Cross of the Lord. The angry Aegeatos gave orders to crucify the apostle. The pagan thought he might undo St Andrew's preaching if he were to put him to death on the cross.

St Andrew the First-Called accepted the decision of the prefect with joy and with prayer to the Lord, and went willingly to the place of execution. In order to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeatos gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to tie them to the cross. For two days the apostle taught the citizens who gathered about. The people, in listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and tried to take St Andrew down from the cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeatos gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands. The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, said: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." Then a blazing ray of divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it. When the light faded, the holy Apostle Andrew had already given up his holy soul to the Lord. Maximilla, the wife of the prefect, had the body of the saint taken down from the cross, and buried him with honor.