

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, December 27, 2015 | 30th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Third Day of the Feast of the Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34 A.D.)

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

2016

Friday: January 1 – The Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ!
Civil New Year!

Saturday: January 2 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: January 3 – Forefeast of the Theophany.
Sunday before the Theophany.
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

From Christmas Day until January 4, inclusive,
there is a general dispensation from all fasting!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Nativity)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shown to the world the light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

Troparion (Tone 2 – Righteous Ones)

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; / and thou gavest glory with the shepherds; / thou didst worship with the magi, / and didst receive the news from the angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 5)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Righteous Ones)

Today godly David is filled with joy; / Joseph and James offer praise. / The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. / They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, // and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Nativity)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. / Angels with shepherds glorify Him; / the Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Prokeimenon (Tone 5)

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!
v. Save, me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!

Epistle Reading: Galatians 1:11-19

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

[Instead of "It is truly meet.." we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!
I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:
Heaven—the cave!
The cherubic throne—the Virgin!
The manger—the place where Christ lay,
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song!

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

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.

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.

The 52nd Diocesan Assembly will be held on Thursday and Friday, January 28 and 29, 2016 at St Michael Orthodox Church | 305 Walnut Street | Jermyn, PA 18433. All active clergy and lay delegates are required to attend this Assembly. Registration will begin on Thursday beginning at 3pm. Great Vespers will be at 4pm followed by the formal opening of the Assembly at 5pm and dinner at 6pm. The agenda is posted on the Diocese website (www.doepa.org).

The registration fee is \$150 for each parish, which includes one hotel room, six meals (clergy and lay delegate) and miscellaneous incidentals. If a parish requires a second room, the cost is an additional \$76 and should be covered by the respective parish. The hotel is the Best Western Hotel | 25 South Main St | Carbondale, PA 18407. This year the Diocese will make the hotel reservations directly for the parishes. Reservations must be directly sent to the Diocesan Center no later than January 15, 2016.

Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers! Today is the final day we are collecting for Christmas flowers! There are special envelopes available to use for your offering for Christmas flower donations. Please give the envelopes to Debbie Kavalkovich or to a member of the parish council for your offering. Thank you so much for your support!

THANK YOU to all who donated to the Holiday Basket Brigade! The parish was able to donate meals to needy families again this year during the Holiday season (Thanksgiving and Christmas). Thank you all who donated food and your time with this project. May God Grant You Many Blessed Years! Mnohaya I Blahaya Lita!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Daniel Herbert, Thomas Herbert, Simon Herbert, Melanie Albrecht, Rosalie Frederico, Father John Udics offered by M/M Herbert

Father John Udics, Ronald Kavalkovich, Albert Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich Family and Friends offered by M/M Rick LeRoy

Melanie Albrecht on her 50th Birthday offered by Nina Patterson

Father John Udics and Pellack Family offered by Pellack Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Millie Capaccio, Stephen Bortnak, Maxium & Anna Herbert offered by M/M Herbert

Kevin Parks offered by Emelie Albrecht

Diana Greco offered by Melanie Albrecht

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!

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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 for **2016** are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. 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 (December)

	<u>Week of Dec 14 to Dec 20</u>	<u>December Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	36	34 (average)
Funds In:	\$2,409.00	\$5,313.00
Funds Out:	\$2,786.24	\$8,136.28
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 377.24)	(\$2,823.28)

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.

Merry mas! It's just not the same without "Christ"!

Calendar of Events

Tuesday & Wednesday, January 5 & 6th – Eve of and The Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Services:

Vespers | Great Complines | Matins (condensed version)

Time: **To Be Determined by Father Mark**

Once confirmed, date, time and service schedule will be noted in the bulletin

Please make every effort to attend these services on the Baptism of Christ!

Bible Study – Either on Tuesday, January 12 or January 19 at 6:30pm in the church basement. Date Still To Be Determined!!!

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Genesis.

79th Annual Novogodny Ball – Sunday, January 17, 2016

St Stephen's OCF – Chapter #82 of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will host this annual event. This year's semi-formal gala will be located at the Radisson Hotel – Philadelphia Northeast | 2400 Old Lincoln Highway | Trevoese, PA 19053.

DEADLINE for Tickets and Room Reservations is JANUARY 9, 2016

Dinner begins at 5:00PM Dancing from 7:30PM to 11:30PM

Dinner & Dancing

Age 23+: \$89 | Ages 13-22: \$79 | Age 12 & Under: \$52

Dancing & Treats Only

Age 23+: \$48 | Ages 13-22: \$37 | Age 12 & Under: \$32

Radisson Hotel Info & Room Reservations:

Phone#: 267.525.4006 Website: www.radisson.com/trevoese

Room Rate: \$87/night between Jan 15 & Jan 18

Reservations MUST be made by Jan 9, 2016

Novogodny Ball reservation forms are available in the back of the church.

Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 24, 2016

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on this day. Official call to order regarding the annual meeting will start in next week's bulletin. The Spiritual Advisor's report, the Treasurer's report, the voting on the 2016 budget, and the election of officers will take place during this meeting along with any other business that needs to be discussed

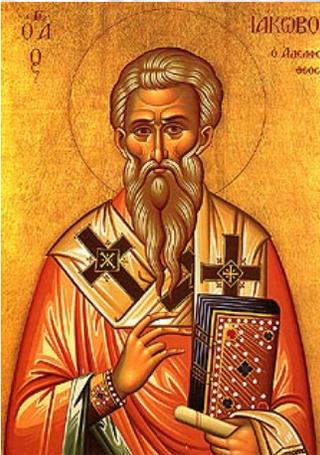


Holy Righteous Joseph the Betrothed [December 27th]

Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. In his first marriage, he had four sons and two daughters. After he became a widower, St Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity.

An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. St Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter. St Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred.

St Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, his Feast is moved to December 26. The Righteous Joseph is also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers.



Holy Righteous James the Brother of the Lord [December 27th]

The Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, was the eldest son of Joseph the Betrothed from his first marriage with Solomonia. The Apostle James is remembered after the Feast of the Nativity of Christ together with his father Joseph and the Prophet-King David, since he accompanied his family on the Flight into Egypt and lived there with the Infant Jesus, the Mother of God and Joseph. Later, he returned to Israel with them.

After the Ascension of the Lord, St James was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, gaining the great esteem not only of Christians, but also of Jews. He was thrown from the roof of the Jerusalem Temple because he had publicly preached to the people about the God-manhood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Apostle James is also commemorated on October 23.