

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>



<http://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionphilly>

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

Sunday, December 25, 2016 | 27th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – The Nativity According To The Flesh of
Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar and Balthasar.

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: **Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!**
Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great – 10:00am.

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

Monday: December 26 – Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

Tuesday: December 27 – Holy Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen

Saturday: December 31 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: January 1 – The Saturday After the Nativity and Before the
Theophany. Leavetaking of the Nativity.

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

[Note: The First Antiphon, Second Antiphon, and Third Antiphon are printed on the last page of the bulletin for your singing pleasure!]

Troparion (Tone 4 - Feast)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shone 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!

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Feast)

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!

[Instead of the Trisagion...]

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee / Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!
v. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name! Give glory to His praise!

Epistle Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Brethren: But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.
Alleluia (3x's)

v: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declare knowledge. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ “Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

[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!

(or, the ninth heirmos of the second canon)

Out of fear, we should choose to love silence,
for that is a safer course;
so difficult it is to lovingly compose intricately woven songs
to you, O Virgin.
But grant us strength, O Mother,
equal to our natural calling.

Communion Hymn:

The Lord has sent redemption to His people! Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

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

Announcements (cont.)

10 Spiritual New Year's Resolutions for Orthodox Christians

The first 5 are listed below. The remaining 5 will be in next weeks bulletin.

1) Arrive for Church Services on time! We take for granted the Divine Liturgy at the best of times. Often we believe that as long as we are there for the Gospel, Sermon and Communion we have had “a good enough dose of God for the week.” Partaking of the Matins or Orthros service and the full Divine Liturgy will prepare you fully for stepping up to the precious and life giving Chalice of Christ. This will in turn fortify your spiritual journey into the world for the coming week. Our responsibility to Our Lord is to respect the schedule laid out for us, at least once a week.

2) Ask for forgiveness from our family, friends and Christian brothers and sisters in our parish. Forgiveness is a difficult virtue to put into practice and even more difficult to use regularly. Let us therefore use the virtue of forgiveness as a basis for our continued commitment to theosis and by regarding our earthly relationships with one another as truly important. Let us practice forgiveness, as it is the first step in preparing for Holy Confession and Holy Communion each and every Sunday.

3) Learn about praying and prayers. We tend to use the prayers we were taught as children. There are many prayers available for parishioners to use: check the prayer book and ask your Priest, he can assist by providing prayers that pertain to your specific situation(s). Pray often, more than once a day. If you do not have a prayer corner set up in your home, ask your Parish Priest to assist you in setting one up.

4) Become a steward in your parish and community. Become an active, involved, caring Orthodox Christian. Donate to your Parish, become, if not already, involved in keeping our environment clean (God placed us on this earth to care for His creations!!!), donate to food banks, school lunch programs, etc. Create an organized community outreach for the less fortunate residents of your area. As stewards of humanity, it is incumbent upon us, as Orthodox Christians to lead by example.

5) Attend more than one (1) Church Service per Month. Don't be a “C ” &”E “(Christmas & Easter) Parishioner. Place prayer, worship and Church Services on your list of priorities, above all other recreational activities. The benefit of a fulfilling spiritual life will lead you to many rewards in the future.

- By Father Stephen Lourie

[Items #6 thru #10 will continue in next week's bulletin]

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Jane Brasko offered by Nina Patterson
David Albrecht Sr., David Albrecht Jr., Anastasia Kavalkovich, Sharon Orr, Albert Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Marc Ferguson, Anastasia, Alexander, Albert, Catherine, Patricia, William, Edward, William, Edward, John, Susan, Sharon, Brianne, Family & Friends, David, Melanie, David offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich
Brubaker and Perozzi Families offered by Pellack Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Vito, Patricia, John, Anne, Helen, Andrew, Al, Marion, Denise, Anthony, James offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich
John Pellack offered by Pellack Family
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Pellack offered by Pellack Family
Mr. & Mrs. William Zuzulock offered by Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; + Dolores Helms (newly departed and Fr. Mark's Mother); Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery); Mat. Jan Kozak; Rick LeRoy, Julia Makara; Margaret Pellack; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; David Albrecht Sr.; 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!
#####

Also, please remember in your prayers those who perished and the injured in the senseless and brutal attack that occurred last week in Berlin, Germany. Twelve people were killed and 48 were injured when a terrorist driving a stolen 27.5 ton truck smashed into wooded hunts at an outdoor Christmas market in Breitscheidplatz Square.

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. 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 – Icon Fund (2016)
- 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 12 to Dec 18</u>	<u>December Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	38	34 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,778.00	\$ 5,463.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,976.85	\$ 5,839.85
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 198.85)	(\$ 376.85)

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

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.

Calendar of Events

1st Sunday of each month – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy. *(if needed)*
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy. *see below*

Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers! TODAY is the last day we will collect 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!

80th Annual Novogodny Ball – Sunday, January 15, 2017

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 IS JANUARY 7, 2017**

Dinner begins at 5:00PM

Dancing from 7:30PM to 11:30PM

Dinner & Dancing

Age 23+: \$91 | Ages 13-22: \$81 | Age 12 & Under: \$54

Dancing & Treats Only

Age 23+: \$50 | Ages 13-22: \$39 | Age 12 & Under: \$34

Radisson Hotel Info & Room Reservations:

Phone#: 215.638.8300 Website: www.radisson.com/trevoese

Room Rate: \$87/night between Jan 13 & Jan 16

Reservations **MUST** be made by **Jan 5, 2017**

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

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on a Sunday in late January 2017 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

An exact date is still To Be Determined, however, tentative dates scheduled are either Sunday, January 22 or Sunday, January 29. Confirmation on the definite Sunday will be decided within the next week or two.

The Spiritual Advisor's report, the Treasurer's report, the voting on the 2017 budget, and the election of officers will take place during the meeting along with any other business that needs to be discussed.

Soup N' Bowl II Challenge - Sunday, February 5, 2017 after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)! We are looking for participants to prepare their best soup, stew, or chili and faceoff against each other. The parishioners & guest will indulge in each dish & cast a ballot for which one they enjoyed the most. Additional details to follow!

The First Antiphon

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

They are sought out according to His will.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

The Second Antiphon

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Glory and wealth are in His house, and His righteousness endures forever.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

The Third Antiphon

Reader: The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand..." **Troparion in Tone 4**

Reader: "...until I make Thine our enemies Thy footstool!" **Troparion in Tone 4**

Reader: The Lord will send Thee the scepter of power from Zion: "Rule in the midst of Thine enemies!"

Troparion in Tone 4

Reader: Authority shall be with Thee on the day of Thy power, in the splendor of Thy holy ones!

Troparion in Tone 4

Priest: "Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee." The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind: "Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." **Troparion in Tone 4**