

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: <https://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



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

** Serving the Orthodox Community in South Philadelphia for 110 years! **

Sunday, December 31, 2023 | 30th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King,
and James, the Brother of the Lord. Leavetaking of the Nativity.

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney

Choir Director – Nina Patterson

Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich

Reader – Mark Klus

Reader – David Pellack

Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

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

Monday: The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Friday: January 5 - Eve of Holy Theophany at **5:00PM** with Great Complines | Matins |
Great Blessing of the Water
[Strict Fast Day!]

Saturday: January 6 - Holy Theophany at **10:00AM** with the Festal Divine Liturgy

Saturday: January 6 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: January 7 – Sunday After Theophany
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Tuesday: January 9 - Bible Study - 6:30PM on ZOOM platform!

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 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 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

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Righteous Ones)

God is wonderful in His saints / the God of Israel

Epistle Reading: Galatians 1:11-19 (Sunday After)

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 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 declares knowledge. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Remember David, O Lord, and all his meekness. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-23 (Sunday After)

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

Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests 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

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PARISHIONERS AND PARISH FRIENDS

Again, the parish had a very successful *Saint Nicholas Fair* over the past four Sundays. Through your donations and purchases of crafts, baked goods, and handmade natural scented soaps, the Fair raised over **\$2,050** as of last Monday, December 25. Thank You all for your support towards the parish HVAC Project.

85th Annual Novogodny Ball – Sunday, January 14, 2024

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 | Trevose, PA 19053. **DEADLINE IS JANUARY 7, 2024**

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

Dinner & Dancing

Age 23+: \$110 | Ages 13-22: \$100 | Age 12 & Under: \$70

Dancing & Treats Only

Age 23+: \$65 | Ages 13-22: \$55 | Age 12 & Under: \$50

Obtain tickets: Make checks payable to St. Stephen's OCF and mail to:
85th Novogodny Ball | 1104 Amber Lane | Lansdale, PA 19446

General inquiries and questions:

Phone: 215.290.4542 (Andre Cox)

Email: novogodnyball@gmail.com

Radisson Hotel Info & Room Reservations:

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

Room Rate: \$119/night on Saturday, January 13, 2024

Room Rate: \$109/night on Sunday January 14, 2024

Reservations **MUST** be made by December 14, 2023

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

2024 Saint Tikhon's Church Calendars are now available

The parish received its order of 2024 Saint Tikhon's Calendars. We will begin distributing these calendars to those households today and tomorrow. If you're in church, please ensure your household gets its calendar. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Parishioners, Patricia, Catherine, Barbara, Emily offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Edward, James, Sharon, Diane, Susan offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Family and Parishioners offered by Catherine Kavalkovich (Dec 25)
Emily, Catherine, Patricia, Barbara, Steven, Susan, Debra offered by M/M K Kavalkovich (Dec 25)
Family and Friends offered by Nina Patterson (Dec 25)
Brooke, Lauren, Justine, Erica and their unborn children offered by M/M Rick Leroy (Dec 25)
Family offered by Emily Gerasimoff (Dec 25)

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Grandparents offered by Reader David Pellack
Vito, Albert, Ronald, Marc Sr., Marc Jr. Patricia offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
John and Anna Homa offered by Ron Homa (Dec 25)

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/24/23

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Pellack and Zuzulock Families
offered by the Reader David Pellack

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Anna Herbert
offered by the Herbert Family

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/25/23

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Pellack and Zuzulock Families
offered by the Reader David Pellack

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Michael Spack
offered by the Herbert Family

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Please remember in your prayers:

Norman Andrews; Emily Gerasimoff; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; Peter Witiak; and
all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Announcements (cont.)

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

*******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. By the action taken at the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, October 10, 2021, the parish body approved that the special collection for the first three Sundays of the month be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (now known as the Row House Fund).

The fourth Sunday (and fifth, when it occurs) the special collection will be earmarked towards Charity.

This new collection schedule began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021.
Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (December)

<u>Week of Sun Dec 17 to Sat Dec 23</u>	<u>December Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 33	34 (average)
Funds In: \$ 2,456.00	\$ 7,004.00
Funds Out: \$ 465.58	\$ 5,018.42
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 1,990.42	\$ 1,985.58

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 either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich 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

2023 Monthly/Quarterly Schedule

- 1st Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
4th Thursday of each month – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
5th Sunday of each quarter – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Dec 31)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 7)</u>
3 rd Hour:	John Spack	To Be Determined
6 th Hour:	Michael Wanenchak	To Be Determined
Epistle:	John Spack	To Be Determined

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which Team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside of the office room.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services & events in January 2024.

Friday, January 5th – Eve of the Holy Theophany:

Vespers | Great Complines | Matins (condensed version) | Blessing of the Water beginning at **5:00PM!**

Saturday, January 6th – Holy Theophany Liturgy:

Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM!**

Thursday, January 25 and Friday, January 26, 2024 – The 60th Annual Diocesan Assembly will be held at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Harrisburg, PA. If you are interested in attending as a Lay Delegate to represent the parish or attend just as an Assembly observer, please speak with Father Mark or Parish President Matthew Andrews.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

The Spiritual Advisor's report, the President's report, the Treasurer's report, and the voting on the 2024 budget will take place during the meeting along with any other business that needs to be discussed.



Holy Righteous Joseph the Betrothed [December 31th]

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 31th]

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.

