

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, January 3, 2016 | 31st Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Sunday Before the Theophany. Forefeast of the Theophany. Holy Prophet Malachi (ca. 400 B.C.). Martyr Gordius (4th c.).

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Tuesday: January 5 – Eve of Holy Theophany of our Lord!
Vespers | Great Complines | Matins begin at 5:00PM
STRICT FAST DAY!

Wednesday: January 6 – Holy Theophany of our Lord!
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am [with Blessing of Water]

Saturday: January 9 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: January 10 – Afterfeast of the Theophany.
Sunday after 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 6)

The angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Forefeast)

Prepare, O Zebulon, / and adorn thyself, O Naphtali! / River Jordan, cease flowing, / and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! / Adam, rejoice with our first Mother, / and do not hide yourselves as ye did of old in Paradise; / for having seen you naked, / He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. // Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Martyr Gordius)

Thy holy martyr Gordius, O Lord, / through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. / For, having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through his intercessions save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 6)

When Christ God the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Martyr Gordius)

Holy Gordius, the earth has received the sweat of thy labors; / the blood thou didst shed has made the universe rejoice. / Save by thy prayers those who sing of thy glory in faith, // fittingly honoring thee, O divine and glorious martyr worthy of all praise.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Forefeast)

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: / “Do not be afraid to baptize me. // For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save thy people, / and bless Thy inheritance!
v. Unto Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

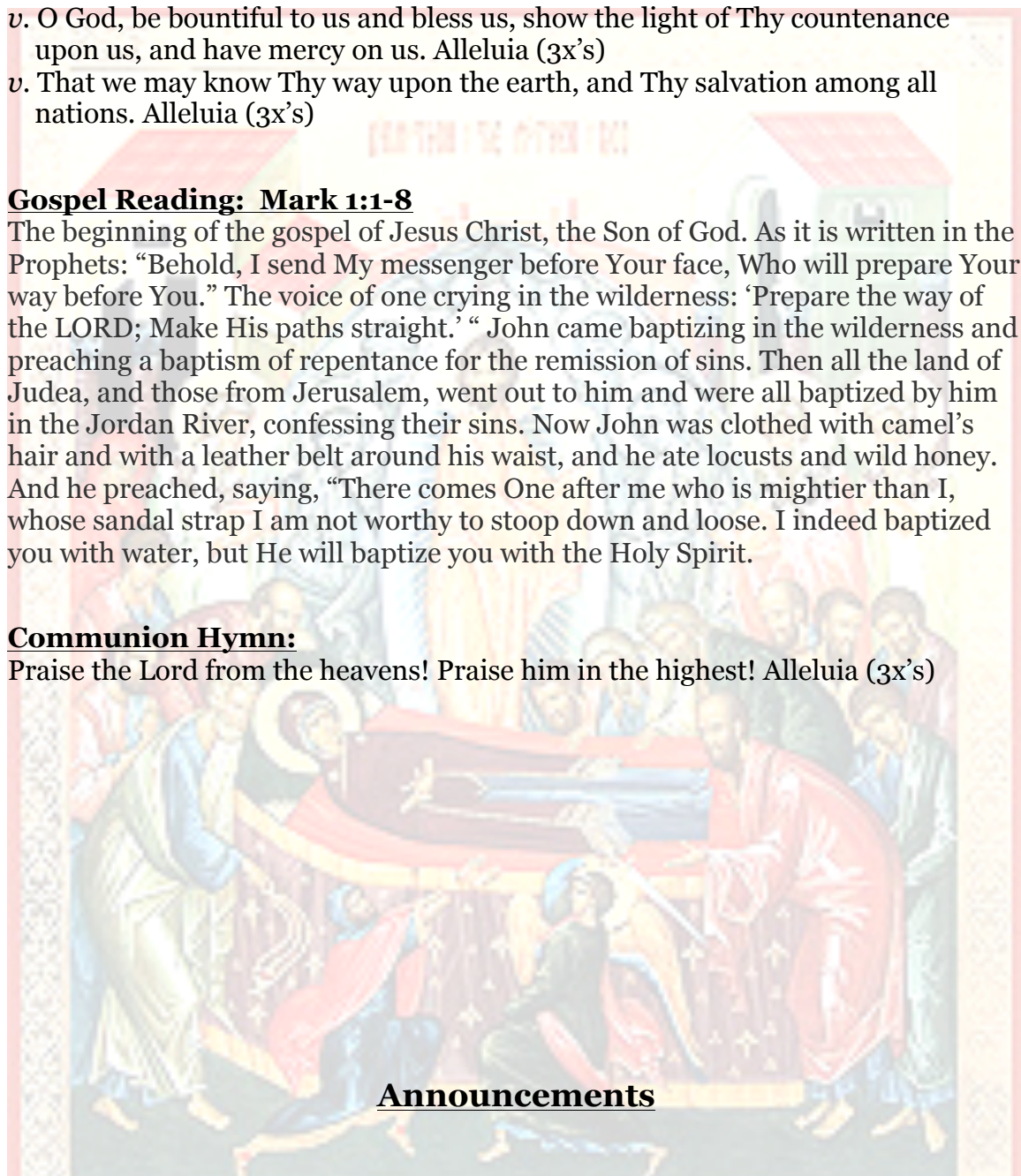
- v. O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' " John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)



Announcements

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.)

Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, January 24, 2016 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #1 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. The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 24. The Spiritual Advisor's report, the Treasurer's report, the voting on the 2016 budget, and the election of officers will take place during the meeting along with any other business that needs to be discussed. Meeting should take about an hour but should not exceed past 90 minutes.

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.

KNOW YOUR ORTHODOXY...Placement of Fingers in Icons

Question: What is the significance of the placement of the fingers of the right hand I notice in icons of Christ and certain saints?

Answer: The fingers are arranged to form the following letters—IC XC—which are the first and last letters of “Jesus” and “Christ” in Greek.

Hence, the index finger points upward, forming an “I.” The middle finger is curved to form a “C.” The fourth finger crosses over the thumb to form an “X,” while the little finger is curved in a manner similar to that of the middle finger, thereby forming another “C.”

~ from The Orthodox Church in America – The Orthodox Faith's Questions and Answers regarding Orthodoxy and Liturgical Arts.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Olga & Ben Macalush, Clare Remington, Mary (Paytas) Wlazelek, Benjamin Bava, Helen Riley, Helen Wanenchak, Bernardin Marczyk, Stanley Wlazelek offered by M/M Herbert
Anastasia, Alexander, Parents, Siblings, Family and Friends, offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich
Albrecht Family offered by Emelie Albrecht
Kavalkovich Family and Friends offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Family and Friends offered by Natalie Patterson
AnaMay Witiak and Father John Udics offered by Peter Witiak
Father John Udics offered by the following: M/M Rick LeRoy, Nina Patterson, Catherine Kavalkovich, and Peter Witiak
Witiak Family offered by Peter Witiak

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Michael Spack Sr., Mildred Capaccio, Maxim & Anna Herbert, Mary (Paytas) Wlazelek, Helen (Paytas) Wallace, Julia Mohnach, Stephen Bortniak offered by M/M Herbert
Grandparents, Family and Friends offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich
Grandparents, Parents, and Family offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Parents John & Anne Rabik offered by Joe Rabik and Marie McKinney
Parents Paul & Irene Kavcsak offered by M/M Rick LeRoy

May Their Memories Be 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 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 21 to Dec 27</u>	<u>December Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	29 (41 for Christmas)	35 (average) (includes Nativity Liturgy)
Funds In:	\$2,133.00	\$7,446.00
Funds Out:	\$ 650.31	\$8,786.59
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$1,482.69	(\$1,340.59)

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.

Nativity Liturgy - Attendance: 41 Donations: \$1,224

Calendar of Events

Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Services:

Tuesday, January 5th – Eve of Holy Theophany:

Vespers | Great Complines | Matins (condensed version)

Time: **5:00PM**

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

Wednesday, January 6th – Holy Theophany Liturgy:

Reading of Hours – 9:40AM

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom – 10:00AM [with Blessing of Water]

CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN!

Bible Study – Tuesday, January 12 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.

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 | Trevoose, PA 19053.

DEADLINE 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/trevoosepa

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 - Sunday, January 24, 2016 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.



The Feast of the Circumcision: A Blessed New Year! [January 1st]

While January 1 marks the beginning of the civil new year—and we wish every blessing of the season to our readers—it also marks the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3).

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics (Docetists) taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Colossians 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by St Stephen of the St Sava Monastery (October 28 and July 13).

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Matthew 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Philippians 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Colossians 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.