

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 10, 2016 | 32nd Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 7 – Sunday After the Theophany. Afterfeast of the Theophany.
Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (4th c.).

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

Tuesday: January 12 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the Church Basement!
Continue reading Genesis

Saturday: January 16 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: January 17 – Venerable and Godbearing
Father Anthony the Great (356)
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: January 17 – 79th Annual Novogodny Ball hosted by St Stephen's OCF
at the Radisson Hotel – Philadelphia Northeast, Trevoese, PA 19053
See Details & Information in Bulletin.
[DEADLINE FOR TICKETS AND ROOM RESERVATIONS WAS
YESTERDAY JANUARY 9TH]

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy. / and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 1 – Feast)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan. / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, / and called Thee His beloved Son; / and the Spirit in the form of a dove / confirmed the truthfulness of His word. / O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself // and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Saints Gregory and Dometian)

O God of our Fathers, / always act with kindness towards us; / take not Thy mercy from us, / but guide our lives in peace // through the prayers of the hierarchs Gregory and Dometian!

Kontakion (Tone 7)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / “The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Kontakion (Tone 1 – Saint Gregory)

Thou didst keep watch with the eyes of thy soul, O holy bishop, / revealing thyself as a watchful pastor for the world. / With the staff of thy wisdom and thy fervent intercession, / thou drovest away all heretics like wolves, // and didst preserve thy flock free from harm, O most wise Gregory.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Feast)

Today Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, / and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. / Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O unapproachable Light.

Prokeimenon (Tone 1 – Sunday After)

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 4:7-13

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.” (Now this, “He ascended” – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5 – Sunday After)

- 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 4:12-17

The Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

[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!
No tongue is capable of praising you worthily;
The angelic mind is overawed in exalting you, O Theotokos!
But since thour art good, accept our faith,
Since you are gracious and knowest our divine love,
Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee!

Communion Hymn:

The grace of God hath appeared for the salvation of all men.
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! 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.

Announcements (cont.)

10 Spiritual New Year's Resolutions for Orthodox Christians

The first five are listed below. The remaining five will be in next week's 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

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

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family & Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Father John Udics, Ronald Kavalkovich, and Sharon Orr offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Fr John Udics, Bella Caruso, and Mary Herbert offered by Barbara Andrews
Witiak Family and Father John Udics offered by Peter Witiak

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Anna and Michael Pellack offered by Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen 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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We will be taking the Christmas decorations down TODAY after the Divine Liturgy. If you can stay for a few minutes and assist with removing the decorations, your time is very much appreciated. In addition, please help yourself and take any Poinsettias that are left in the church.

2016 PARISH CALENDAR:

A computer printout version of the 2016 church calendar for the months of January and February are located on the back pew in the church. If this version is acceptable, we will continue to generate the remaining months for 2016.

Also, for those who have access to the Internet, the calendar for January and February are posted in color on the parish website for your convenience under the "Service Schedule" tab section. 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/January)

	<u>Week of Dec 28 to Jan 3</u>	<u>December Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	34	35 (average)
Funds In:	\$1,395.00	\$7,446.00
Funds Out:	\$3,519.74	\$8,786.59
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$2,124.74)	(\$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.

“...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

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 | Trevese, 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/trevesepa

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

Reservations **MUST** be made by **Jan 9, 2016** (which was yesterday!)

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. This is Notice #2 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.

Soup N' Bowl I Challenge - Sunday, February 7, 2016 after Divine Liturgy! We are looking for two participants to prepare their best soup and faceoff against each other. The parishioners & guest will indulge in each soup & cast a ballot for which one they enjoyed. Additional details to follow!



St Nino (Nina), Equal of the Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia [January 14th]

The virgin Nino of Cappadocia was a relative of Great-martyr George and the only daughter of a widely respected and honorable couple. Her father was a Roman army chief by the name of Zabulon, and her mother, Sosana, was the sister of Patriarch Juvenal of Jerusalem. When Nino reached the age of twelve, her parents sold all their possessions and moved to Jerusalem. Soon after, Nino's father was tonsured a monk. He bid farewell to his family and went to labor in the wilderness of the Jordan.

After Sosana had been separated from her husband, Patriarch Juvenal ordained her a deaconess. She left her daughter Nino in the care of an old woman, Sara Niaphor, who raised her in the Christian Faith and related to her the stories of Christ's life and His suffering on earth. It was from Sara that Nino learned how Christ's Robe had arrived in Georgia, a country of pagans.

Soon Nino began to pray fervently to the Theotokos, asking for her blessing to travel to Georgia and be made worthy to venerate the Sacred Robe that she had woven for her beloved Son. The Most Holy Virgin heard her prayers and appeared to Nino in a dream, saying, "Go to the country that was assigned to me by lot and preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will send down His grace upon you and I will be your protector."

But the blessed Nino was overwhelmed at the thought of such a great responsibility and answered, "How can I, a fragile woman, perform such a momentous task, and how can I believe that this vision is real?" In response, the Most Holy Theotokos presented her with a cross of grapevines and proclaimed, "Receive this cross as a shield against visible and invisible enemies!"

When she awoke, Nino was holding the cross in her hands. She dampened it with tears of rejoicing and tied it securely with strands of her own hair. (According to another source, the Theotokos bound the grapevine cross with strands of her own hair.)

Nino related the vision to her uncle, Patriarch Juvenal, and revealed to him her desire to preach the Gospel in Georgia. Juvenal led her in front of the Royal Doors, laid his hands on her, and prayed, "O Lord, God of Eternity, I beseech Thee on behalf of my orphaned niece: Grant that, according to Thy will, she may go to preach and proclaim Thy Holy Resurrection. O Christ God, be Thou to her a guide, a refuge, and a spiritual father. And as Thou didst enlighten the Apostles and all those who feared Thy name, do Thou also enlighten her with the wisdom to proclaim Thy glad tidings."

When Nino arrived in Rome, she met and baptized the princess Rhipsimia and her nurse, Gaiana. At that time the Roman emperor was Diocletian, a ruler infamous for persecuting Christians. Diocletian (284-305) fell in love with Rhipsimia and resolved to marry her, but St. Nino, Rhipsimia, Gaiana, and fifty other virgins escaped to Armenia. The furious Diocletian ordered his soldiers to follow them and sent a messenger to Tiridates, the Armenian king (286-344), to put him on guard.

[The remaining story of Saint Nino's life to be continued in next week's church bulletin]