

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> St. & Snyder Ave.)  
Philadelphia, PA 19145 \* Church Phone: (215) 468-3535  
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**Sunday, January 17, 2016 | 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**  
Tone 8 – Venerable and Godbearing Father Anthony the Great(356)  
“Sanctity of Life Sunday”

### **V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector**

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### **Weekly Schedule**

**Tonight:** January 17 – 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Novogodny Ball hosted by St Stephen’s OCF  
at the Radisson Hotel – Philadelphia Northeast, Trevoise, PA 19053

**Friday:** January 22 – March for Life - Washington, DC  
Gathering before noon at 17<sup>th</sup> St NW & Constitution Avenue

**Saturday:** January 23 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

**Sunday:** January 24 – Venerable Xenia of Rome (5<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Xenia of St Petersburg (19<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Reading of Hours – 9:40am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

**Sunday:** January 24 – Annual Parish Meeting immediately following Divine  
Liturgy in the Church Basement

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 8)**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – Saint Anthony)**

Thou didst imitate the ways of zealous Elijah, / and didst follow the straight path of John the Baptist. / Thou becamest a desert-dweller, strengthening the world by thy prayers. // O Father Anthony, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved!

### **Kontakion (Tone 8)**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

### **Kontakion (Tone 2 – Saint Anthony)**

Thou didst reject the tumult of this life / living thy life to the end in solitude, imitating the Baptist in every way. / With him we honor thee, most venerable Anthony, // thou foundation of the Fathers.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 8)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!  
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

### **Epistle Reading: Colossians 1:12-18**

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)

v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)



### **Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27**

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

### **Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings.  
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.

In honor of the 45th Anniversary of the Glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska, an exhibition — ***"Russian America: The Alaskan Native Spiritual Legacy"*** — will open at Villanova University here on January 22, 2016.

The exhibition, which runs through May 16, was organized by Archpriest John J. Perich, Curator of the Metropolitan Museum of the Orthodox Church in America and Saint Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary Icon Repository, South Canaan, PA, and the Rev. Richard G. Cannuli, OSA, Villanova University Art Gallery. Artifacts on display reflect the various native American peoples of Alaska, their culture and the spiritual legacy of the Russian Orthodox Church.

An opening reception will be held at the Villanova University Art Gallery, Connelly Center, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA on January 22 from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Detailed information on the exhibition may be found at [www.ArtGallery.Villanova.edu](http://www.ArtGallery.Villanova.edu) and [www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/artgallery/current\\_exhibit.html](http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/artgallery/current_exhibit.html).

## Announcements (cont.)

### 10 Spiritual New Year's Resolutions for Orthodox Christians

***[ Resolutions #6 through #10 are listed below! Resolutions #1 through #5 were listed in last week's bulletin. ]***

**6) Put your God-given Talents to use.** We all have hidden talents, or talents not used to their full potential. Recognize them, ask for guidance from Our Lord and put them to use for the benefit of God's Holy Church.

**7) Invite your children, grandchildren, siblings and friends to Church Services.** Become a host to your own family. Guide them and explain to them that the One Holy Universal and Apostolic Church is the One True Church. Explain that Orthodoxy offers all to its faithful. Bring one guest to Church per year at least and allow God to do His work.

**8) Contact your family members that have stepped away from your family; or if you have stepped away, call your family.** Practice patience, understanding and forgiveness. We are on this earth but once. We have one opportunity to practice forgiveness and ask for it as well. It is never wrong to come back home, even after a lengthy absence. We should never be embarrassed to admit our faults to our families and our desire to renew our relationships. We must remember, we are not perfect, we all have faults and we never know when we may be called by God to return home.

**9) Experience the life of the Church and her many gifts to heal you.** Attend Church services; come to Confession and Communion on a regular basis. We were born unto this earth dependent upon our Lord. Use Confession to unburden your sins and Communion to heal you. Rely on your Parish Priest to be your Father Confessor and Spiritual Guide.

**10) Recognize that we are tested by Our Lord and tempted by the devil himself, daily.** We are put to the test daily, as in school, so in life. Pray frequently, ask for guidance, see beyond the test, look for the good only in all situations. Avoid temptations that are "too good to be true." Recognize that we are accountable for all of our thoughts, actions and deeds.

- By Father Stephen Lourie



**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Father John Udics offered by Nina Patterson  
Father John Udics offered by Pellack Family  
Father John Udics and Annamae Witiak offered by Peter Witiak  
Lloyd and Peggy Williamson offered by Emelie Albrecht  
Father John Udics, Family & Friends, and Mary Herbert offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Jean Hourahan offered by Sandra Hourahan and Family  
Helen Gersamoff offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

**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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Please help yourself and take any Poinsettias that are left downstairs in the church basement on the stage. Thank You!

**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 (January)

	<u>Week of Jan 4 to Jan 10</u>	<u>January Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	30	32 (average)
Funds In:	\$12,678.44	\$14,073.44
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,719.74
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$12,678.44	\$10,353.70

[NOTE: \$11,521.44 results from an insurance claim proceeds for the Hall repairs]

**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.

**[Note:** The readings for the Saint is as follows: Epistle – Hebrews 13:17-21 and Gospel - Luke 6:17-23]



## Calendar of Events

### **79th Annual Novogodny Ball – Tonight - 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 | Trevose, PA 19053.

**DEADLINE FOR TICKETS AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS WAS JANUARY 9, 2016!!!**

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

### **March for Life – Friday, January 22 in Washington, DC**

Orthodox Christian marchers are asked to gather before noon at 17<sup>th</sup> St NW & Constitution Ave. (Look for the Iconic “Orthodox Christians for Life” banner & signs). At the end of program, marchers will head to US Supreme Court. At the end of the March, Metropolitan Tikhon will offer prayers for those who have fallen victim to abortion.

**Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, January 24, 2016 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #3 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 next 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!**

- \* At least two participants to prepare their best soup. Any type of soup can be prepared (no fasting restrictions on that Sunday). Any type of crackers or bread can be included as a compliment to the soup.
- \* Make enough soup for the parishioners & guest (between 30-35 people)
- \* Parishioners & guests will indulge in each one of the soups (at least try 1/2 bowl or cup of each soup)
- \* Parishioners & guests will cast a ballot for which one they enjoyed.
- \* The results (“Score”) will be announced by the Commissioner: M Koczak
- \* The winner gets to enjoy for the year that their soup was the best and select a charity of their choosing from the coffee hour proceeds from this event
- \* Donation of “free-will” offering will be accepted for this coffee hour event.
- \* Any other ideas or suggestions, please inform the parish council member.



## **St Nino (Nina), Equal of the Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia [January 14<sup>th</sup>]**

*[The life story of Saint Nino continues from last week's church bulletin]*

King Tiridates located the women and, following Diocletian's example, was charmed by Rhipsimia's beauty and resolved to marry her. But St. Rhipsimia would not consent to wed him, and in his rage the king had her tortured to death with Gaiana and the fifty other virgins. St. Nino, however, was being prepared for a different, greater task, and she succeeded in escaping King Tiridates' persecutions by hiding among some rose bushes.

When she finally arrived in Georgia, St. Nino was greeted by a group of Mtskhetan shepherds near Lake Paravani, and she received a blessing from God to preach to the pagans of this region.

With the help of her acquaintances St. Nino soon reached the city of Urbnisi. She remained there a month, then traveled to Mtskheta with a group of Georgians who were making a pilgrimage to venerate the pagan idol Armazi. There she watched with great sadness as the Georgian people trembled before the idols. She was exceedingly sorrowful and prayed to the Lord, "O Lord, send down Thy mercy upon this nation...that all nations may glorify Thee alone, the One True God, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ."

Suddenly a violent wind began to blow and hail fell from the sky, shattering the pagan statues. The terrified worshippers fled, scattering across the city.

St. Nino made her home beneath a bramble bush in the garden of the king, with the family of the royal gardener. The gardener and his wife were childless, but through St. Nino's prayers God granted them a child. The couple rejoiced exceedingly, declared Christ to be the True God, and became disciples of St. Nino. Wherever St. Nino went, those who heard her preach converted to the Christian Faith in great numbers. St. Nino even healed the terminally ill Queen Nana after she declared Christ to be the True God.

King Mirian, a pagan, was not at all pleased with the great impression St. Nino's preaching had made on the Georgian nation. One day while he was out hunting, he resolved to kill all those who followed Christ.

According to his wicked scheme, even his wife, Queen Nana, would face death for failing to renounce the Christian Faith. But in the midst of the hunt, it suddenly became very dark. All alone, King Mirian became greatly afraid and prayed in vain for the help of the pagan gods. When his prayers went unanswered, he finally lost hope and, miraculously, he turned to Christ: "God of Nino, illumine this night for me and guide my footsteps, and I will declare Thy Holy Name. I will erect a cross and venerate it and I will construct for Thee a temple. I vow to be obedient to Nino and to the Faith of the Roman people!"

Suddenly the night was transfigured, the sun shone radiantly, and King Mirian gave great thanks to the Creator. When he returned to the city, he immediately informed St. Nino of his decision. As a result of the unceasing labors of Equal-to-the-Apostles Nino, Georgia was established as a nation solidly rooted in the Christian Faith.

St. Nino reposed in the village of Bodbe in eastern Georgia and, according to her will, she was buried in the place where she took her last breath. King Mirian later erected a church in honor of St. George over her grave.