

## 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 24, 2016 | 34<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – Venerable Xenia of Rome (5<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Venerable Xenia of Saint Petersburg (19<sup>th</sup> c.)

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

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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### Weekly Schedule

Saturday: January 23 - Great Vespers

**CANCELLED DUE TO WINTER STORM!!!**

Sunday: January 30 – Divine Liturgy

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Saturday: January 30 – Synaxis of the Three Ecumenical Teachers and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom.

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Saturday: January 30 - Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: January 31 – New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

Reading of Hours – 9:40am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: January 31 – Annual Parish Meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement

[ RESCHEDULED FROM SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 DUE TO SNOW STORM ]

## **Texts for the Liturgical Service**

### **Troparion (Tone 1)**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

### **Troparion (Tone 3 – Venerable Xenia of Rome)**

Living the life of a stranger in the world, / thou hast estranged thyself from every sin; / thou hast abandoned comforts and fleeting honors / and betrothed thyself to thine immortal Bridegroom. // O glorious Xenia, entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

### **Troparion (Tone 5 – Venerable Xenia of St Petersburg)**

Having lived as a stranger in the world, thou didst outwit the deviser of evil by thy pretended foolishness, O Xenia. Thou didst receive the grace from God to foresee and foretell things to come. Now as thou hast been translated from earth to heaven, // thou art numbered with the choirs of the angels.

### **Kontakion (Tone 1)**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 2 – Venerable Xenia of Rome)**

We celebrate the memory / of the life thou hast lived as a stranger in the world, / and as we honor thee with love, O Xenia, / we praise Christ Who gave thee power to grant healing to all; // ever pray to Him on our behalf!

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Venerable Xenia of St Petersburg)**

Thou gavest thy wealth to the poor, O Xenia, accepting poverty out of love for Christ; // having lived a life rivaling the angels, thou wast accounted worthy of glory on high.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 1)**

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: Colossians 3:4-11**

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.



Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)  
v. He magnifies the salvation of His King and deals mercifully with David,  
His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 18:35-43**

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.  
exciting

### **Communion Hymn:**

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.)

### **Strong Orthodox presence at DC March for Life – despite the weather!**

Washington, DC (OCA)

Despite the brutal weather and the threat of the worst snowfall in the US capital in some 90 years, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, clergy and seminarians, and faithful from across the country took part in the annual March for Life here on Friday, January 22, 2016.

Metropolitan Tikhon was accompanied by His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey. Also participating were His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey and His Grace, Bishop John of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of Worcester.

The March marked the 43rd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States.

During the pre-March rally, Metropolitan Tikhon was among the hierarchs on the stage as Metropolitan Evangelos offered the opening invocation. Marchers representing the pan-Orthodox community braved the cold, carrying icons and “Orthodox Christians for Life” banners and signs. At the conclusion of the rally, marchers made their way to the US Supreme Court while Metropolitan Tikhon offered prayers for those who have fallen victim to abortion.

### **St. Herman of Alaska exhibition at Villanova University!**

In honor of the 45<sup>th</sup> 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 and run through May 16, 2016. Exhibit organized by Archpriest John J. Perich.

Detail information:

[www.ArtGallery.Villanova.edu](http://www.ArtGallery.Villanova.edu)

[www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/artgallery/current\\_exhibit.html](http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/artgallery/current_exhibit.html)

Villanova University Art Gallery location  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Connelly Center (University Campus)  
800 Lancaster Avenue  
Villanova, PA 19085  
Phone: 610-519-4612

Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday: 8am-11pm | Sat-Sun: 11am-11pm



**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Olga & Benjamin Macalush, Nina Patterson, Kimberly Herbert, Albrecht Family, Joseph Herbert, Mary Herbert, and Father John Udics offered by M/M Herbert  
Father John Udics offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Father John Udics offered by Nina Patterson  
Sally Lyons offered by Pellack Family  
Father John Udics offered by M/M Rick LeRoy  
Father John Udics offered by Emily Gerasimoff

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Michael Spack Sr, Michael Slivka, Susan Dacey, and Mary Marushchik offered by M/M Herbert  
M/M William Zuzulock offered by Pellack Family  
Anna and Alexander Zuzulock 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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**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 11 to Jan 17</u>	<u>January Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	29	31 (average)
Funds In:	\$1,389.00	\$15,413.44
Funds Out:	\$ 1,697.59	\$ 5,368.33
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 308.59)	\$10,045.11
[NOTE: \$11,521.44 from insurance claim proceeds for 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.

**Bible Study – Tuesday, February 9 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.



## Calendar of Events

**Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, ~~January 24~~, JANUARY 31, 2016 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.** Due to the snow storm this weekend, the Annual Parish Meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 31 after Divine Liturgy. Notice of this Annual Parish Meeting has already been announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector over the past three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the meeting.

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. A report of the Diocesan Assembly (held January 28-29) may also be presented. Meeting should take about 90 minutes with information from Diocesan Assembly being reported.

**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. We do have one participant who will be preparing their favorite Stew!
- \* 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.

**Reading the Hours and Epistle Discussion begins on Sunday, February 14, 2016 after Divine Liturgy!** Anyone wishing to learn how to read the Hours and the Epistle are welcome to attend this discussion. Father Mark, and those knowledgeable with the readings, will offer instruction and information on how the readings are presented.

**Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week & Pascha begins on Sunday, February 21, 2016 after Divine Liturgy!** Choir members and anyone wishing to sing during Holy Week & Pascha are highly encouraged to attend. Choir Director, Nina Patterson, plans on holding five or six rehearsals between Feb 21 & the beginning of Holy Week!



## Blessed Xenia of Saint Petersburg [January 24<sup>th</sup>]

Saint Xenia lived during the eighteenth century, but little is known of her life or of her family. She passed most of her life in Petersburg during the reigns of the empresses Elizabeth and Catherine II.

Xenia Grigorievna Petrova was the wife of an army officer, Major Andrew Petrov. After the wedding, the couple lived in St Petersburg. St Xenia became a widow at the age of twenty-six when her husband suddenly died at a party. She grieved for the loss of her husband, and especially because he died without Confession or Holy Communion.

Once her earthly happiness ended, she did not look for it again. From that time forward, Xenia lost interest in the things of this world, and followed the difficult path of foolishness for the sake of Christ. The basis for this strange way of life is to be found in the first Epistle to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:18-24, 1 Cor. 2:14, 1 Cor. 3:18-19). The Lord strengthened her and helped her to bear sorrow and misfortune patiently for the next forty-five years.

She started wearing her husband's clothing, and insisted that she be addressed as "Andrew Feodorovich." She told people that it was she, and not her husband, who had died. In a certain sense, this was perfectly true. She abandoned her former way of life and experienced a spiritual rebirth. When she gave away her house and possessions to the poor, her relatives complained to the authorities. After speaking to Xenia, the officials were convinced that she was in her right mind and was entitled to dispose of her property as she saw fit. Soon she had nothing left for herself, so she wandered through the poor section of Petersburg with no place to lay her head. She refused all assistance from her relatives, happy to be free of worldly attachments.

When her late husband's red and green uniform wore out, she clothed herself in rags of those colors. After a while, Xenia left Petersburg for eight years. It is believed that she visited holy Elders and ascetics throughout Russia seeking instruction in the spiritual life. She may have visited St Theodore of Sanaxar (February 19), who had been a military man himself. His life changed dramatically when a young officer died at a drinking party. Perhaps this officer was St Xenia's husband. In any case, she knew St Theodore and profited from his instructions.

St Xenia eventually returned to the poor section of Petersburg, where she was mocked and insulted because of her strange behavior. When she did accept money from people it was only small amounts, which she used to help the poor. She spent her nights praying without sleep in a field outside the city. Prayer strengthened her, and in her heart's conversation with the Lord she found the support she needed on her difficult path. When a new church was being built in the Smolensk cemetery, St Xenia brought bricks to the site. She did this in secret, during the night, so that no one would know.

Soon her great virtue and spiritual gifts began to be noticed. She prophesied future events affecting the citizens of Petersburg, and even the royal family. Against her will, she became known as someone pleasing to God, and nearly everyone loved her. They said, "Xenia does not belong to this world, she belongs to God." People regarded her visits to their homes or shops as a great blessing. St Xenia loved children, and mothers rejoiced when the childless widow would stand and pray over a baby's crib, or kiss a child. They believed that the blessed one's kiss would bring that child good fortune.

St Xenia lived about forty-five years after the death of her husband, and departed to the Lord at the age of 71. The exact date and circumstances of her death are unknown, but it probably took place at the end of the eighteenth century. She was buried in the Smolensk cemetery.

By the 1820s, people flocked to her grave to pray for her soul, and to ask her to intercede with God for them. So many visitors took earth from her grave that it had to be replaced every year. Later, a chapel was built over her grave.

Those who turn to St Xenia in prayer receive healing from illness, and deliverance from their afflictions. She is also known for helping people who seek jobs.