

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
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<http://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionphilly>

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

Sunday, September 11, 2016 | 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross

Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Venerable Theodora of Alexandria/Hieromartyr Autonomus

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church school room

Today: St Nicholas 35th Annual Russian Day Festival – Bethlehem, PA.

Tuesday: September 13 – Vespers Liturgy at 6:30pm
The Universal Exaltation (Elevation) of the Lifegiving Cross.
Strict Fast Day on September 14!

Saturday: September 17 – **NO Great Vespers on this day!**

Sunday: September 18 – Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross.
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Nativity of the Theotokos)

Thy nativity, O Virgin, / has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! / The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, / has shone from thee, O Theotokos. / By annulling the curse, / He bestowed a blessing. // By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Kontakion (Tone 3)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Nativity of the Theotokos)

By thy nativity, most pure Virgin, / Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, / Adam and Eve – from the corruption of death. / And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: //“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

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

Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.
Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. Alleluia (3x's)
v. For My hand shall defend him, and My arm shall strengthen him. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing Irmos of Ode 9:

Magnify, O my soul, / the most glorious birth of the Mother of God! /
Virginity is foreign to mothers; / childbearing is strange for virgins. /
But in thee, O Theotokos, / both were accomplished. / Therefore all we nations // of the
earth unceasingly magnify thee.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
Alleluia (3x's)

Today, September 11, 2016, on the fifteenth Anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, DC and on United Airline Flight 93, we remember those victims who perished on that tragic morning and the first response heroes who sacrificed their lives to save others.

May their memories be eternal! Never Forget! God Bless America!!!

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Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guest 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 (cont.)

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Fall Season:

The next 40 Days for Life will begin in three weeks and occur from September 28 to November 6. This will be the largest campaign ever with peaceful vigils occurring in ALL 50 states at the same time! Meanwhile the killing still continues at Planned Parenthood. Thank you so much in advance for signing up for this list and being willing to continue standing up for those that can't speak for themselves.

Information:

- * Contacts: Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084
- * Email: roobearoo@hotmail.com
- * Website: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/philadelphia/>
- * Prayer vigil located at 12th & Locust St, Philadelphia – Planned Parenthood
- * Vigils open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.
- * Try to have at least one person there to cover the hour.
- * There are more abortions performed there than at any other Planned Parenthood in Pennsylvania!

The 40 Days For Life is not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a peaceful physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves.

Other peaceful vigils located in the surrounding areas include:

New Jersey - Absecon (Atlantic City area) and Cherry Hill

Pennsylvania – Bryn Mawr, Norristown, Warminster, and West Chester

Delaware - Wilmington

IOCC Fifth Annual Benefit Banquet – Friday, October 28, 2016!

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church – 900 S. Trooper Road – Jeffersonville, PA 19403

Hors d'oeuvres and Silent Auction at 6:00pm * Dinner and Program at 7:30pm

Tickets are \$60 per person.

Register online at IOCC website at: iocc.org/philadelphia

Flyer and Information posted on Bulletin Board down in the church basement

Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church 2016 Pierogie Sale!

Call in orders ONLY!!! Orders taken Monday or Tuesday from 9AM to 11AM and pick up on Friday from 1PM-2PM.
September order date: September 12 & 13. Pick Up Date: September 16.

Phone number: 302.798.4588. Church location: 1406 Philadelphia Pike – Wilmington, DE.

Cost: Potato = \$8/dozen Sauerkraut = \$8/dozen Cheese = \$12/dozen

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Emilie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson
Julia Makara offered by David Pellack
Witiak Family offered by M/M Peter Witiak
May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John Pellack offered by Pellack Family
M/M John Homa on their wedding anniversary offered by M/M Ron Homa
May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery); Mat. Jan Koczak; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; 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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Also, anyone wishing to send Julia Makara a card or note at the Rehab center where she is located may send it to the following address:

Crestview Center
Attn: Julia Makara – Room 301b
262 Tollgate Road
Langhorne, PA 19047

2016 PARISH CALENDAR:

A computer printout version of the 2016 church calendar for the months of September and October is located on the back pew in the church. We will continue to generate the remaining months for 2016.

Also, for those who have access to the Internet, the calendar for September and October will be 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 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 – Icon Fund (2016)
- 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 (August/September)

	<u>Week of August 29 to September 4</u>	<u>August Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	34	32 (average)
Vespertal Liturgy (9/7)	10	
Funds In:	\$ 1,193.14	\$ 4,963.14
Funds Out:	\$ 3,283.45	\$ 5,755.34
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 2,090.31)	(\$ 792.20)

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 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.

Calendar of Events

Vesperal Liturgy Service – Tuesday, September 13 - Service at 6:30PM:

Eve of The Universal Exaltation (Elevation) of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

TODAY - Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room!

All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Continued discussions on the status of the Church Hall along with the other properties will be on the agenda.

Tuesday, September 13 20 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and begin reading and studying the next book in the Bible...Exodus. Yes, they have completed Genesis, so be prepared to begin learning about God's rescue of his people from Egypt, their journey to Sinai, and the covenant between them. **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!!!!**

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church - Bethlehem, PA - 35th Annual Russian Day Festival – September 9 to September 11 2016.

The parish's annual festive event is this weekend from (Friday, September 9 to Sunday, September 11). The festival will feature a range of Russian food delights throughout each day, live Polka music, the Russian Tea Room and home baked goods, and specialty shops with Treasurers of Russian.

St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church 40th Annual Russian Festival

4th St & Fairmount Avenue – Philadelphia, PA October 7 to 9 2016.

The parish's popular and festive event will be held the first full weekend of October (this year from Friday, October 7 to Sunday, October 9). The weekend will feature a range of Russian food delights for lunch through dinner, live accordion music, the Sunday School's Russian Dancers, and specialty shops from Russian made artifacts, books of interest, handmade decorations, drawing opportunities, and a variety of collectibles and treasures for ones enjoyment.

Coffee with Sister Vassa – October 2016 Speaking Tour:

Sister Dr. Vassa Larin will be making a series of presentations around the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania beginning on October 17, 2016. The closet her speaking schedule brings her to the Philadelphia area will be on Thursday, October 20 at 7:00pm at St. Stephen Orthodox Cathedral (Northeast Philadelphia)

8598 Verree Rd – Philadelphia, PA 19111. Phone: 215.342.0866

Her Topic: *Keeping Christ in Orthodoxy*

To learn more about Sister Vassa, please visit her website at:

www.coffeewithsistervassa.com

You can also view her presentations on the Internet website YouTub.com and use the search: Coffee with Sr Vassa. Each of her video presentations are about 10 to 20 minutes in length.

Information and Flyer are posted on our parish bulletin boards!



The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary [Sep 8th]

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.