

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
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<http://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionphilly>

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

Sunday, October 9, 2016 | 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 7 – Holy Apostle James, Son of Alphaeus (1st c.)
Glorification of St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow (1989)

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 Michael's 40th Annual Russian Festival
4th & Fairmount Ave - Philadelphia, PA

Tuesday: October 11 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in church basement.
Continue reading the Book of Exodus

Saturday: October 15 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: October 16 – Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of
the 7th Ecumenical Council.
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: October 16 – Fall General Parish Meeting after Divine
Liturgy in the church basement.

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 – Saint Tikhon)

Chosen by God in a turbulent time, / thou hast glorified God in complete holiness, / and attained greatness through humility, / showing forth the / power of God through simplicity and piety. / Thou didst lay down thy life for the Church and her people, / O holy Confessor and Patriarch, Father Tikhon. / Pray to Christ God with Whom thou wast also crucified, / that He may save our souls!

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 2 – Saint Tikhon)

A gentle manner adorned thee: / thou didst show kindness and compassion to those who repented; / thou wast firm and unbending in confessing the Orthodox Faith, / and zealous in loving the Lord. / O holy Hierarch of Christ and Confessor Tikhon, / pray for us that we may not be separated from the love of God, //which is of Christ Jesus, our Lord!

Prokeimenon (Tone 7)

The Lord shall give strength to His people / The Lord shall bless His people with peace!
v. Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 7)

- v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning and Thy truth by night. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 7:11-16

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

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)

2017 Saint Tikhon's Monastery Calendar - Taking orders now:
 The parish will be ordering 2017 calendars from Saint Tikhon's Monastery. There is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board downstairs next to the other three sign up sheets (i.e. cleaning, coffee hour, reading schedule). The cost of the 2017 St Tikhon's calendars is \$6 per calendar. The deadline for ordering these calendars will be: Sunday, October 30, 2016!
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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 40 Days for Life continues until 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.

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.

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.
October order date: October 10 & 11. Pick Up Date: October 14.

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:

Emelie Albrecht offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John Sidoriak, Thomas Mattie, Annamae Witiak offered by M/M Herbert

Irene Kavcsak offered by Nina Patterson

Annamae Witiak offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich

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 (newly departed); 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!

Also for Michael Spack, William Scanlon, and Catherine Wanenchak-Gentry on their birthdays this week.

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Building Fund – In Memory of Annamae Witiak

- * M/M Ken Kavalkovich
- * Helen Sivak
- * Nina Patterson
- * M/M Rick LeRoy
- * Yongkuk Choe & Jamie Mak
- * Sandra Hourahan
- * Matthew Andrews
- * Martha Palubinak
- * Melanie Albrecht
- * David & Margarot Pellack
- * Nancy Panza

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 (September/October)

	<u>Week of Sep 26 to Oct 2</u>	<u>September Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	27	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,143.08	\$ 5,683.08
Funds Out:	\$ 3,695.22	\$ 6,260.06
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 2,552.14)	(\$ 576.98)

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

1st Sunday of each month – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy.

Fall General Parish Meeting - Sunday, October 16, 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 General Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 16. Discussions will include events since the June Parish Meeting; activities over the next few months; the status of the Property Committee; and any other business that needs to be discussed. Meeting should take about an hour but should not exceed past 90 minutes.

TODAY - St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church 40th Annual Russian Festival - 4th St & Fairmount Avenue – Philadelphia, PA.

The parish's popular and festive event continues this weekend. The event will feature a range of Russian food delights, 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.

Clean up day outside the Church & Hall – Sat Oct 29, 2016!

The parish will be cleaning up around the outside of the church and the hall on this day. Please bring, if you can, tools and supplies to assist in the beautification of the property. Items that you may find helpful in cleaning up are: broom, shovel, trash bags, shears, branch clippers, rake, leaf blower, weed wacker, and any other type of gardening equipment or outdoor cleaning supply. Time TBD during the Fall General Parish Meeting on October 16. Rain Date – the following Saturday, Nov 5



Glorification of St Tikhon, the Apostle to America [Oct 9th]

St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Apostle to America was born as Vasily Ivanovich Belavin on January 19, 1865 into the family of Ioann Belavin, a rural priest of the Toropetz district of the Pskov diocese. His childhood and adolescence were spent in the village in direct contact with peasants and their labor. From his early years he displayed a particular religious disposition, love for the Church as well as rare meekness and humility.

When Vasily was still a boy, his father had a revelation about each of his children. One night, when he and his three sons slept in the hayloft, he suddenly woke up and roused them. He had seen his dead mother in a dream, who foretold to him his imminent death, and the fate of his three sons. She said that one would be unfortunate throughout his entire life, another would die young, while the third, Vasily, would be a great man. The prophecy of the dead woman proved to be entirely accurate in regard to all three brothers.

From 1878 to 1883, Vasily studied at the Pskov Theological Seminary. The modest seminarian was tender and affectionate by nature. He was fair-haired and tall of stature. His fellow students liked and respected him for his piety, brilliant progress in studies, and constant readiness to help comrades, who often turned to him for explanations of lessons, especially for help in drawing up and correcting numerous compositions. Vasily was called “bishop” and “patriarch” by his classmates.

In 1888, at the age of 23, Vasily Belavin graduated from the St Petersburg Theological Academy as a layman, and returned to the Pskov Seminary as an instructor of Moral and Dogmatic Theology. The whole seminary and the town of Pskov became very fond of him. He led an austere and chaste life, and in 1891, when he turned 26, he took monastic vows. Nearly the whole town gathered for the ceremony. He embarked on this new way of life consciously and deliberately, desiring to dedicate himself entirely to the service of the Church. The meek and humble young man was given the name Tikhon in honor of St Tikhon of Zadonsk.

He was transferred from the Pskov Seminary to the Kholm Theological Seminary in 1892, and was raised to the rank of archimandrite. Archimandrite Tikhon was consecrated Bishop of Lublin on October 19, 1897, and returned to Kholm for a year as Vicar Bishop of the Kholm Diocese. Bishop Tikhon zealously devoted his energy to the establishment of the new vicariate. His attractive moral make-up won the general affection, of not only the Russian population, but also of the Lithuanians and Poles. On September 14, 1898, Bishop Tikhon was made Bishop of the Aleutians and Alaska. As head of the Orthodox Church in America, Bishop Tikhon was a zealous laborer in the Lord’s vineyard.

He did much to promote the spread of Orthodoxy, and to improve his vast diocese. He reorganized the diocesan structure, and changed its name from “Diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska” to “Diocese of the Aleutians and North America” in 1900. Both clergy and laity loved their archpastor, and held him in such esteem that the Americans made Archbishop Tikhon an honorary citizen of the United States.

On May 22, 1901, he blessed the cornerstone for St Nicholas Cathedral in New York, and was also involved in establishing other churches. On November 9, 1902, he consecrated the church of St Nicholas in Brooklyn for the Syrian Orthodox immigrants. Two weeks later, he consecrated St Nicholas Cathedral in NY.

In 1905, the American Mission was made an Archdiocese, and St Tikhon was elevated to the rank of Archbishop. He had two vicar bishops: Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) in Alaska, and St Raphael (Hawaweeny) in Brooklyn to assist him in administering his large, ethnically diverse diocese. In June of 1905, St Tikhon gave his blessing for the establishment of St Tikhon’s Monastery.

In 1907, he returned to Russia, and was appointed to Yaroslavl, where he quickly won the affection of his flock. They came to love him as a friendly, communicative, and wise archpastor. He spoke simply to his subordinates, never resorting to a peremptory or overbearing tone. When he had to reprimand someone, he did so in a good-natured, sometimes joking manner, which encouraged the person to correct his mistakes.

When St Tikhon was transferred to Lithuania on December 22, 1913, the people of Yaroslavl voted him an honorary citizen of their town. After his transfer to Vilnius, he did much in terms of material support for various charitable institutions. There too, his generous soul and love of people clearly manifested

themselves. World War I broke out when His Eminence was in Vilnius. He spared no effort to help the poor residents of the Vilnius region who were left without a roof over their heads or means of subsistence as a result of the war with the Germans, and who flocked to their archpastor in droves.

After the February Revolution and formation of a new Synod, St Tikhon became one of its members. On June 21, 1917, the Moscow Diocesan Congress of clergy and laity elected him as their ruling bishop. He was a zealous and educated archpastor, widely known even outside his country.

On August 15, 1917, a local council was opened in Moscow, and Archbishop Tikhon was raised to the dignity of Metropolitan, and then elected as chairman of the council. The council had as its aim to restore the life of Russian Orthodox Church on strictly canonical principles, and its primary concern was the restoration of the Patriarchate. All council members would select three candidates, and then a lot would reveal the will of God. The council members chose three candidates: Archbishop Anthony of Kharkov, the wisest, Archbishop Arseny of Novgorod, the strictest, and Metropolitan Tikhon of Moscow, the kindest of the Russian hierarchs.

On November 5, following the Divine Liturgy and a Molieben in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, a monk removed one of the three ballots from the ballot box, which stood before the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God. Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev announced Metropolitan Tikhon as the newly elected Patriarch. St Tikhon did not change after becoming the primate of the Russian Orthodox Church. In accepting the will of the council, Patriarch Tikhon referred to the scroll that the Prophet Ezekiel had to eat, on which was written, "Lamentations, mourning, and woe." He foresaw that his ministry would be filled with affliction and tears, but through all his suffering, he remained the same accessible, unassuming, and kindly person.

All who met St Tikhon were surprised by his accessibility, simplicity and modesty. His gentle disposition did not prevent him from showing firmness in Church matters, however, particularly when he had to defend the Church from her enemies. He bore a very heavy cross. He had to administer and direct the Church amidst wholesale church disorganization, without auxiliary administrative bodies, in conditions of internal schisms and upheavals by various adherents of the Living Church, renovationists, and autocephalists.

The situation was complicated by external circumstances: the change of the political system, by the accession to power of the godless regime, by hunger, and civil war. This was a time when Church property was being confiscated, when clergy were subjected to court trials and persecutions, and Christ's Church endured repression. News of this came to the Patriarch from all ends of Russia. His exceptionally high moral and religious authority helped him to unite the scattered and enfeebled flock. At a crucial time for the church, his unblemished name was a bright beacon pointing the way to the truth of Orthodoxy. In his messages, he called on people to fulfill the commandments of Christ, and to attain spiritual rebirth through repentance. His irreproachable life was an example to all.

In order to save thousands of lives and to improve the general position of the church, the Patriarch took measures to prevent clergy from making purely political statements. On September 25, 1919, when the civil war was at its height, he issued a message to the clergy urging them to stay away from political struggle.

The summer of 1921 brought a severe famine to the Volga region. In August, Patriarch Tikhon issued a message to the Russian people and to the people of the world, calling them to help famine victims. He gave his blessing for voluntary donations of church valuables, which were not directly used in liturgical services. However, on February 23, 1922, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee published a decree making all valuables subject to confiscation.

According to the 73rd Apostolic Canon, such actions were regarded as sacrilege, and the Patriarch could not approve such total confiscation, especially since many doubted that the valuables would be used to combat famine. This forcible confiscation aroused popular indignation everywhere. Nearly two thousand trials were staged all over Russia, and more than ten thousand believers were shot. The Patriarch's message was viewed as sabotage, for which he was imprisoned from April 1922 until June 1923.

His Holiness, Patriarch Tikhon did much on behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church during the crucial time of the so-called Renovationist schism. He showed himself to be a faithful servant and custodian of the undistorted precepts of the true Orthodox Church. He was the living embodiment of Orthodoxy, which was unconsciously recognized even by enemies of the church, who called its members "Tikhonites."

When Renovationist priests and hierarchs repented and returned to the church, they were met with tenderness and love by St Tikhon. This, however, did not represent any deviation from his strictly Orthodox policy. "I ask you to believe me that I will not come to agreement or make concessions which could lead to the loss of the purity and strength of Orthodoxy," the Patriarch said in 1924.

Being a good pastor, who devoted himself entirely to the church's cause, he called upon the clergy to do the same: "Devote all your energy to preaching the word of God and the truth of Christ, especially today, when unbelief and atheism are audaciously attacking the Church of Christ. May the God of peace and love be with all of you!"

It was extremely painful and hard for the Patriarch's loving, responsive heart to endure all the Church's misfortunes. Upheavals in and outside the church, the Renovationist schism, his primatial labors, his concern for the organization and tranquility of Church life, sleepless nights and heavy thoughts, his confinement that lasted more than a year, the spiteful and wicked baiting of his enemies, and the unrelenting criticism sometimes even from the Orthodox, combined to undermine his strength and health.

In 1924, Patriarch Tikhon began to feel unwell. He checked into a hospital, but would leave it on Sundays and Feast Days in order to conduct services. On Sunday, April 5, 1925, he served his last Liturgy, and died two days later. On March 25/April 7, 1925 the Patriarch received Metropolitan Peter and had a long talk with him. In the evening, the Patriarch slept a little, then he woke up and asked what time it was. When he was told it was 11:45 P.M., he made the Sign of the Cross twice and said, "Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee." He did not have time to cross himself a third time.

Almost a million people came to say farewell to the Patriarch. The large cathedral of the Donskoy Monastery in Moscow could not contain the crowd, which overflowed the monastery property into the square and adjacent streets. St Tikhon, the eleventh Patriarch of Moscow, was primate of the Russian Church for seven and a half years.

On September 26/October 9, 1989, the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church glorified Patriarch Tikhon and numbered him among the saints. For nearly seventy years, St Tikhon's relics were believed lost, but in February 1992, they were discovered in a concealed place in the Donskoy Monastery.

It would be difficult to imagine the Russian Orthodox Church without Patriarch Tikhon during those years. He did so much for the Church and for the strengthening of the Faith itself during those difficult years of trial. Perhaps the saint's own words can best sum up his life: "May God teach every one of us to strive for His truth, and for the good of the Holy Church, rather than something for our own sake."

