

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

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

### Sunday, December 4, 2016 | 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 7 – Great Martyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana (ca. 306)

Ven John of Damascus (776)

Glorification of Hieromartyr Protopresbyter Alexander Hotovitzky (1994)

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

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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### Weekly Schedule

Tuesday: December 6 – Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker  
Divine Liturgy – 9:00am.

Saturday: December 10 – Advent Adult Education at  
St Thomas Greek Orthodox Church – 615 Mercer St  
Cherry Hill, NJ      Fee: \$10      Time: 9:15am to 2:30pm  
Topic: The Mary and Martha in Us!

Saturday: December 10 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: December 11 – Sunday of the Forefathers  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: December 11 – Annual Deanery St Herman's Lecture at  
Saint Stephen's Cathedral – 8598 Verree Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19111-1367      Time: 4:00pm  
Topic: Theological Foundations of Icons and Iconography

Sunday: December 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy!

## 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 8 – Great Martyr Barbara)**

Let us honor the holy Martyr Barbara, / for, as a bird, she escaped the snares of the Enemy, // and destroyed them through the help and defense of the Cross!

### **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 4 – Great Martyr Barbara)**

Singing the praises of the Trinity, / thou didst follow God by enduring suffering; / thou didst renounce the multitude of idols, / O holy martyr Barbara. / In thy struggles, thou wast not frightened by the threats of thy torturers, / but cried out in a loud voice: // “I worship the Trinity in one Godhead.”

### **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: Ephesians 2:14-22**

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 7)

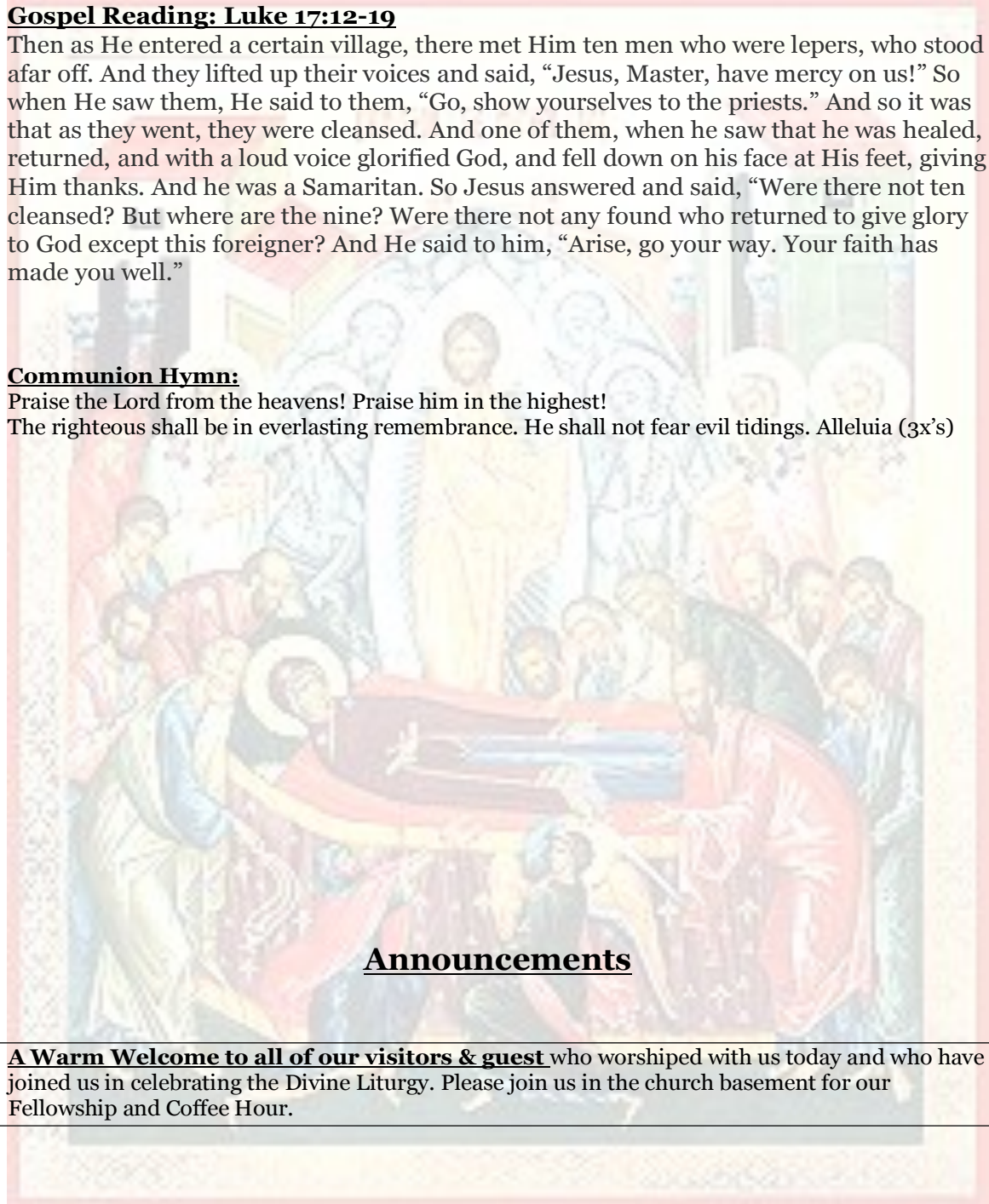
- v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 17:12-19**

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

**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**

**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.)

### **Advent Season Tutelage - 2016**

We are providing this tutelage for those who are unable to attend or view either the Bible Study or Church Life Discussion Classes during the Advent Season but wish to still remain closer to God as we prepare for the Holy Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This season we will provide information on the Ranks of Angels, the Hierarchies, and the names of the Archangels. So let's continue...

There are Nine Ranks of Angels and the Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies: highest, middle, and lowest. This week we will provide information on the Three Ranks of Angels in the Lowest Hierarchy which include the Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

#### **Lowest Hierarchy:**

##### **PRINCIPALITIES:**

PRINCIPALITIES (Col 1:16) have command over the lower angels, instructing them in the fulfilling of God's commands. They watch over the world and protect lands, nations and peoples. Principalities instruct people to render proper honor to those in authority, as befits their station. They teach those in authority to use their position, not for personal glory and gain, but to honor God, and to spread word of Him, for the benefit of those under them.

##### **ARCHANGELS:**

ARCHANGELS (1 Thess 4:16) are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.

##### **ANGELS:**

ANGELS (1 Pet 3:22) are in the lowest rank of the heavenly hierarchy, and closest to people. They reveal the lesser mysteries of God and His intentions, guiding people to virtuous and holy life. They support those who remain steadfast, and they raise up the fallen. They never abandon us and they are always prepared to help us, if we desire it.

Next week we will provide information on some of the names of the Archangels and how they are depicted on the holy icons.

## Announcements (cont.)

### Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

#### Health for the Living:

Olga Macalush and Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Claire Remington and Matesy Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
Abby offered by Pete Witiak  
Margaret Pellack offered by Pellack Family  
Marc, Anastasia, Alexander, Dominquic, Family and Friends offered by Patricia Ferguson  
Anastasia, Alexander, Catherine, Albert, Patricia, Marc, William, Ronald, Lorraine, Barbara,  
Norman offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

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

#### Memory for the Departed:

Benjamin Macalush offered by M/M Herbert

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; + Dolores Helms (newly departed and Fr. Mark's Mother); Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery); Mat. Jan Kozzak; Rick LeRoy, Julia Makara; Margaret Pellack; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; 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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#### Quote of the week!

During his recent visit to Moscow for the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill II; His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon still found time to offer an interview with Interfax news agency. When a question was asked to Metropolitan Tikhon whether any celebrities were of the Orthodox Christian faith, his Beatitude quickly and sharply responded, *"Stars or not, when they come to the church, they are all the same."*

**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 (November)

	<u>Week of Nov 21 to Nov 27</u>	<u>November Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	48	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,857.00	\$ 6,456.28
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,148.15
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,857.00	\$ 308.13

*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

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy. (if needed)  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy. see below

**FYI – The December Church Life Discussion will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month [December 18<sup>th</sup>] as a result of Christmas occurring on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of December this calendar year.** Please make a note of this change and mark it in your calendars for this month! Thank You!

**Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers!** We have begun collecting for Christmas flowers! There will be special envelopes available to be used for your offering for flower donations. Please give the envelopes to Debbie Kavalkovich or a member of the parish council. Thank you for your support!

**Sunday, December 11, 2016 – Philadelphia Deanery presents the 2016 Annual St Herman's Lecture!** Topic: Theological Foundations of Icons and Iconography with Iconographer Ivan Rumiantsev. Time: 4:00pm.  
Location: St Stephen Orthodox Cathedral–8598 Verree Rd-Philadelphia, PA  
Please see Flyer up on the bulletin boards.

### **Saturday – December 10, 2016 – Advent Adult Education Presentation:**

#### **The Mary & Martha in Us!**

With Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis Ph.D., guest speaker and facilitator

Sponsored by St. Irene Philoptochos Society of St Thomas Greek Orthodox Church

Time: 9:15am to 2:30pm

Location: St Thomas Greek Orthodox Church – 615 Mercer St – Cherry Hill, NJ

Fee: \$10 (includes breakfast, lunch, and refreshments)

Registration Deadline was yesterday: **December 3, 2016**

Please bring your Holy Bible & writing materials. Childcare service is available by reservation. Please see Flyer & Registration Form up on the bulletin boards.

### **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.  
December order date: December 5 & 6. Pick Up Date: December 9.

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

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



## Greatmartyr Barbara at Heliopolis, in Syria [Dec 4<sup>th</sup>]

The Holy Great Martyr Barbara lived and suffered during the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-311). Her father, the pagan Dioscorus, was a rich and illustrious man in the Syrian city of Heliopolis. After the death of his wife, he devoted himself to his only daughter.

Seeing Barbara's extraordinary beauty, Dioscorus decided to hide her from the eyes of strangers. Therefore, he built a tower for Barbara, where only her pagan teachers were allowed to see her. From the tower there was a view of hills stretching into the distance. By day she was able to gaze upon the wooded hills, the swiftly flowing rivers, and the meadows covered with a mottled blanket of flowers; by night the harmonious and majestic vault of the heavens twinkled and provided a spectacle of inexpressible beauty. Soon the virgin began to ask herself questions about the First Cause and Creator of so harmonious and splendid a world.

Gradually, she became convinced that the soulless idols were merely the work of human hands. Although her father and teachers offered them worship, she realized that the idols could not have made the surrounding world. The desire to know the true God so consumed her soul that Barbara decided to devote all her life to this goal, and to spend her life in virginity.

The fame of her beauty spread throughout the city, and many sought her hand in marriage. But despite the entreaties of her father, she refused all of them. Barbara warned her father that his persistence might end tragically and separate them forever. Dioscorus decided that the temperament of his daughter had been affected by her life of seclusion. He therefore permitted her to leave the tower and gave her full freedom in her choice of friends and acquaintances. Thus Barbara met young Christian maidens in the city, and they taught her about the Creator of the world, about the Trinity, and about the Divine Logos. Through the Providence of God, a priest arrived in Heliopolis from Alexandria disguised as a merchant. After instructing her in the mysteries of the Christian Faith, he baptized Barbara, then returned to his own country.

During this time a luxurious bathhouse was being built at the house of Dioscorus. By his orders the workers prepared to put two windows on the south side. But Barbara, taking advantage of her father's absence, asked them to make a third window, thereby forming a Trinity of light. On one of the walls of the bath-house Barbara traced a cross with her finger. The cross was deeply etched into the marble, as if by an iron instrument. Later, her footprints were imprinted on the stone steps of the bathhouse. The water of the bathhouse had great healing power. St Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9) compared the bathhouse to the stream of Jordan and the Pool of Siloam, because by God's power, many miracles took place there.

When Dioscorus returned and expressed dissatisfaction about the change in his building plans, his daughter told him about how she had come to know the Triune God, about the saving power of the Son of God, and about the futility of worshipping idols. Dioscorus went into a rage, grabbed a sword and was on the point of striking her with it. The holy virgin fled from her father, and he rushed after her in pursuit. His way became blocked by a hill, which opened up and concealed the saint in a crevice. On the other side of the crevice was an entrance leading upwards. St Barbara managed then to conceal herself in a cave on the opposite slope of the hill.

After a long and fruitless search for his daughter, Dioscorus saw two shepherds on the hill. One of them showed him the cave where the saint had hidden. Dioscorus beat his daughter terribly, and then placed her under guard and tried to wear her down with hunger. Finally he handed her over to the prefect of the city, named Martianus. They beat St Barbara fiercely: they struck her with rawhide, and rubbed her wounds with a hair cloth to increase her pain. By night St Barbara prayed fervently to her Heavenly Bridegroom, and the Savior Himself appeared and healed her wounds. Then they subjected the saint to new, and even more frightful torments.

In the crowd where the martyr was tortured was the virtuous Christian woman Juliana, an inhabitant of Heliopolis. Her heart was filled with sympathy for the voluntary martyrdom of the beautiful and illustrious maiden. Juliana also wanted to suffer for Christ. She began to denounce the torturers in a loud voice, and they seized her.

Both martyrs were tortured for a long time. Their bodies were raked and wounded with hooks, and then they were led naked through the city amidst derision and jeers. Through the prayers of St Barbara the Lord sent an angel who covered the nakedness of the holy martyrs with a splendid robe. Then the steadfast confessors of Christ, Sts Barbara and Juliana, were beheaded. Dioscorus himself executed St Barbara. The wrath of God was not slow to punish both torturers, Martianus and Dioscorus. They were killed after being struck by lightning.

In the sixth century the relics of the holy Great Martyr Barbara were transferred to Constantinople. Six hundred years later, they were transferred to Kiev (July 11) by Barbara, the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenos, who married the Russian prince Michael Izyaslavich. They rest even now at Kiev's St Vladimir cathedral, where an Akathist to the saint is served each Tuesday.

Many pious Orthodox Christians are in the habit of chanting the Troparion of St Barbara each day, recalling the Savior's promise to her that those who remembered her and her sufferings would be preserved from a sudden, unexpected death, and would not depart this life without benefit of the Holy Mysteries of Christ.