

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

### **Sunday, January 1, 2017 | 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 3 – Forefeast of the Theophany. Sunday before the Theophany.  
The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379).

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

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*Parish President – Matthew Andrews*

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## **Weekly Schedule**

Happy Civil New Year!

Thursday: January 5 – Eve of Holy Theophany at **6:00PM!**  
Vespers | Great Complines | Matins (modified) [**Strict Fast Day!**]

Friday: January 6 – Holy Theophany at **9:00AM!**  
Festal Divine Liturgy with Great Blessing of Water!

Saturday: January 7 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: January 8 – Afterfeast of the Theophany. Sunday After the Theophany.  
Ven. George the Chozebite.  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

From Christmas Day until January 4, inclusive, there is a general dispensation from all fasting!

## 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 1 – Circumcision)**

Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Thy divine Spirit, / O Jesus, Thou didst will to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, thy Mother. / Therefore Thou wast circumcised as an eight-day-old Child. / Glory to Thy most gracious counsel; / glory to Thy dispensation; // glory to Thy condescension, O only Lover of man!

### **Troparion (Tone 1 – Saint Basil)**

Thy proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / which was divinely taught by hearing thy voice. / Thou didst expound the nature of creatures / and didst ennoble the manners of men. / O venerable Father of royal priesthood, // entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 - Saint Basil)**

Thou wast revealed as the sure foundation of the Church, / granting all mankind a lordship which cannot be taken away, // sealing it with thy precepts, O venerable Basil, revealer of heaven.

### **Kontakion (Tone 3 – Circumcision)**

The Lord of all accepts to be circumcised, / thus, as He is good, He excises the sins of mortal men. / Today He grants the world salvation, / while light-bearing Basil, high priest of our Creator, // rejoices in heaven as a divine initiate of Christ.

### **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: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday Before Theophany)**

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us!. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday Before Theophany)**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' " John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

**[Instead of "It is truly meet.." we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]**

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: / the assembly of angels and the race of men. / O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, / the glory of virgins, / from whom God was incarnate and became a Child - / our God before the ages. / He made thy body into a throne, / and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. // Glory to thee!

**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)

*[Note: The readings for the Circumcision is as follows:  
Epistle – Colossians 2:8-12 and Gospel - Luke 2:20-21, 40-52  
and the readings for Saint Basil the Great is as follows:  
Epistle – Hebrews 7:26-8:2 and Gospel – Luke 6:17-23]*

**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.)

### 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:**

Family, Friends, and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
Albrecht Family offered by Emelie Albrecht  
Witiak Family offered by Pete Witiak  
Kavalkovich Family and Friends offered by Mr. & Mrs. Al Kavalkovich  
Corba Family offered by Grace Corba  
Marc, William, Patricia, Albert, Catherine, John, Family and Friends offered by Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kavalkovich

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Mr. & Mrs. John Rabik Sr. and all of the whole Rabik Family who have departed from this life offered by Joseph Rabik  
Parents Paul & Irene Kavcsak offered by Rick & Daria LeRoy  
Michael Popelak offered by Mary A Brodie  
Parents and Grandparents offered by Mr & Mrs Al Kavalkovich  
Parents John & Julia Drimak offered by John Drimak Jr.  
Sophie Herbert offered by Mr. & Mrs. S Herbert

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich; 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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Father Mark & Matushka Jan Kozak wish to thank you for all of your prayers, thoughts, cards, and gifts during Matushka's extended health challenges and recovery. They also want to thank you all for your prayers, kind thoughts and gifts following the death of Father Mark's beloved mother Dolores. May her memory be eternal! Also, they wish to thank everyone again for your Christmas cards and gifts. We rejoice together in the Birth of Our Lord and God and Savior!

**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 2017 Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading.** Sign up sheets for the above items for 2017 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 (December)

	<u>Week of Dec 19 to Dec 25</u>	<u>December Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	48	38 (average)
<i>Christmas Eve (12/24)</i>	32	
Funds In:	\$ 3,187.00	\$ 8,650.00
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,839.85
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 3,187.00	\$ 2,810.15

**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*

**Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers!** After Liturgy Today, please take any poinsettias that are on the floor next to the pews or the ones on the window sills. Please **DO NOT** take any flowers in front of or on top of the Tetrapod and any of the flowers on the Altar steps this week. Thank you!

### **80th Annual Novogodny Ball – Sunday, January 15, 2017**

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* | *Trevoise, PA 19053*. **DEADLINE IS JANUARY 7, 2017**

Dinner begins at 5:00PM

Dancing from 7:30PM to 11:30PM

Dinner & Dancing

Age 23+: \$91 | Ages 13-22: \$81 | Age 12 & Under: \$54

Dancing & Treats Only

Age 23+: \$50 | Ages 13-22: \$39 | Age 12 & Under: \$34

**Radisson Hotel Info & Room Reservations:**

Phone#: 215.638.8300 Website: [www.radisson.com/trevoise](http://www.radisson.com/trevoise)

Room Rate: \$87/night between Jan 13 & Jan 16

Reservations **MUST** be made by **Jan 5, 2017**

Novogodny Ball reservation forms are available in the back of the church.

### **Annual Parish Meeting – Sunday, January 22, 2017 after Divine Liturgy in the church**

**basement. This is Notice #1 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 Sunday, January 22. Much will be discussed covering events over the past year and the upcoming 2017 calendar. Meeting should take about 90 minutes but should not exceed two hours since there will be election of officers taking place.

**Soup N' Bowl II Challenge - Sunday, February 5, 2017 after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)!** We are looking for participants to prepare their best soup, stew, or chili and faceoff against each other. The parishioners & guest will indulge in each dish & cast a ballot for which one they enjoyed the most. Additional details to follow!



## **The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**[Jan 1<sup>st</sup>]**

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 17:10-14, Lev. 12:3).

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the

Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics (Docetists) taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Col. 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of the Saint Sava Monastery (October 28 and July 13).

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Mt.1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Phil 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

### **Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Services:**

#### **Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – Eve of Holy Theophany:**

Vespers | Great Complines | Matins (condensed version)

Time: **6:00PM**

Please make every effort to attend these services on the Baptism of Christ!

#### **Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – Holy Theophany Liturgy:**

Reading of Hours – 8:30AM

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom – 9:00AM [with Blessing of Water]

**CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN!**