

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

Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



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

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

Sunday, September 3, 2017 | 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him: Martyrs Theophilus the Deacon; Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter, Indes, Gorgonius, Zeno; the Virgin Domna (302).

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302-322-0943 | Mobile: 302-547-4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com or mkoczak05@aol.com

Parish President - Peter Parsells

Phone: (908) 872.5657

Weekly Schedule

Thursday: September 7 – Vesperal Divine Liturgy at **6:30pm!**
Eve of the Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos
And Ever Virgin Mary (September 8)

Saturday: September 9 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: September 10 – Sunday Before the Elevation of Cross
Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: September 10 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy
in the church school room.

Tuesday: September 12 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the Church Basement!
Reading and discussing the Book of Numbers.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 1 – Hieromartyr Anthimus)

Thou protected thy flock with thy blood, / Not fearing thy adversaries. / Now thou rejoice in heaven standing before the throne. / Glory to Christ who has strengthened thee; / Glory to thy courage; // Glory to thy endurance, O holy Hieromartyr Anthimus!

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Hieromartyr Anthimus)

Illustrious priest and steadfast martyr, / Anthimus, worthy of praise: / Thou assailed the worship of idols, / And championed thy flock which fervently cries to thee: // By thy prayers deliver us from dangers!

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works / in wisdom hast Thou made them all!
v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 4)

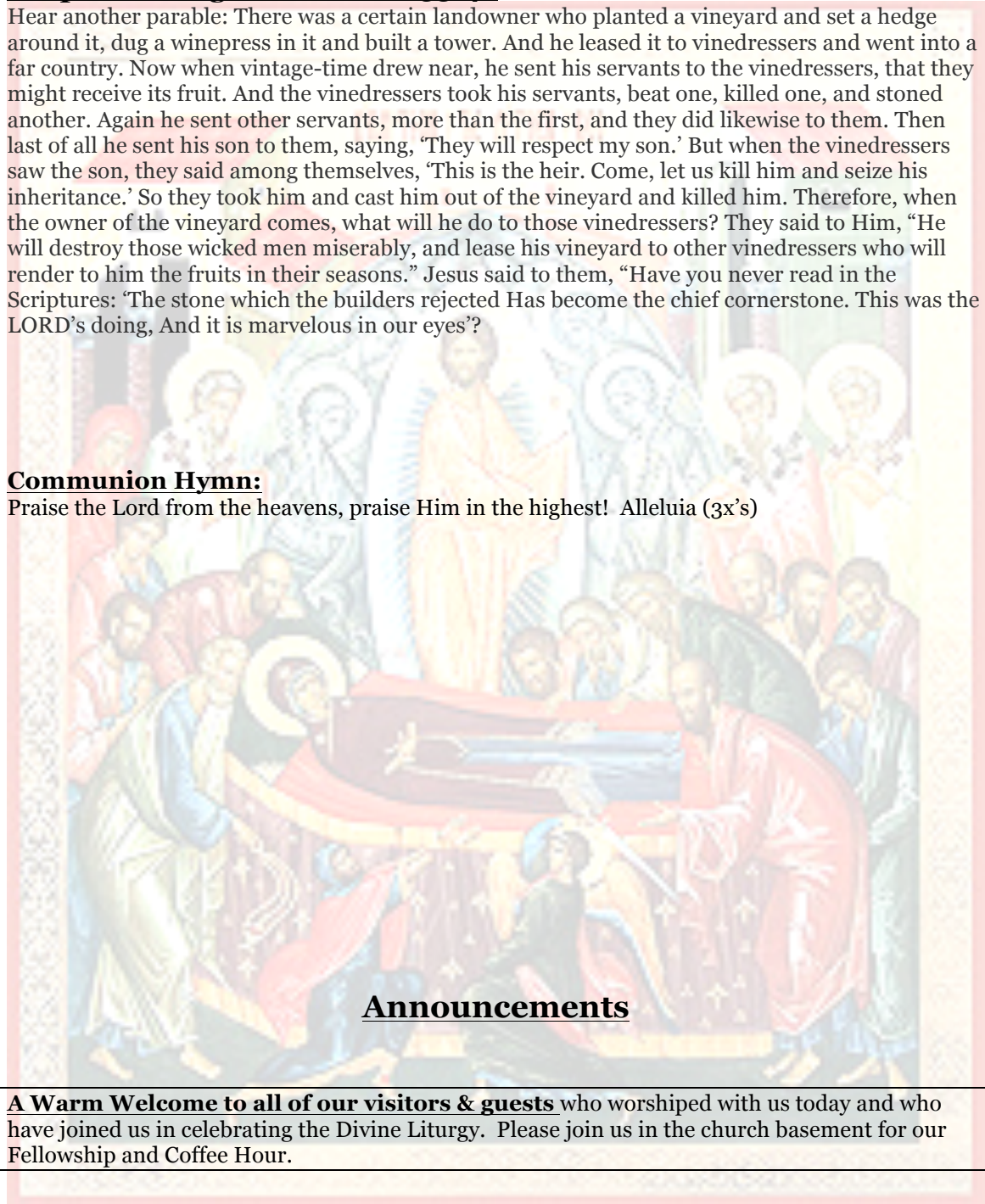
v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! Alleluia (3x's)
v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-42

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes?'

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)



Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests 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

As many of you already know from speaking with Lena Helen, Paul Filanowski was in an accident at work last Friday, August 25. The injuries to Paul were serious and therefore, he was taken to the hospital. Surgery was performed on the injured areas and with your prayers and the grace of God, he is expected to make a full recovery. At the time of this printing of the bulletin, Paul was expected to be discharged from the hospital early last week. Please keep Paul in your prayers as he makes a speedy recovery from his injuries.

Paul, Lena, and William want to sincerely thank all of you for your prayers and thoughts. If anyone wishes to send a get-well card to Paul, you can send it to the following address:

Paul Filanowski
2065 East York Street
Philadelphia, PA 19125

Paul and Heather Parsells would like to express their heart felt thanks to all of their family, friends, and parishioners who sent sympathy cards, prayers, and offered donations in memory of their daughter, the infant child Ivanna, who fell asleep in the Lord back in June. May her Memory be Eternal!

As many of you remember, donations in memory of Ivanna Parsells were being forward to our parish where the contributions were going to support the Taybeh Education Fund. This Fund helps educate young Christians in the Holy Land area by assisting them to be able to attend college. Taybeh is a Christian village in the Holy Lands with an Orthodox school as well as St George's Greek Orthodox Church. This charity is associated with Dr. Maria Khoury who is the author of the "Christiana Goes To" series of Orthodox children's books and her husband is the priest at the church, Fr. David Phillip Khoury. Many of you remember when Dr Maria visited our parish back on Saturday, May 13, 2017 to discuss her book series and events occurring in the Taybeh and the Holy Lands area.

From the book: *A Guide To Church Etiquette...In The Orthodox Church*

Additional Pious Customs

Crossing oneself: It is always appropriate to cross oneself at the mention of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; whenever entering or leaving the church; at the beginning of the Liturgy; when passing in front of the altar; when venerating an icon, the Gospel, or the cross; and at times for personal petitions. It is not necessary to cross oneself when the priest is giving a blessing or censuring the congregation. Instead, one should bow to receive the blessing.

Kneeling: In some Orthodox traditions there are times when kneeling is a pious practice in the Liturgy, the most notable being at the Consecration of the Holy Gifts. However, kneeling is prohibited during the Paschal season (from Pascha to Pentecost) as well as on Sundays, in honor of the Resurrection.

Bowing: Orthodox Christians bow when the Theotokos and Christ are petitioned. They also bow to the priest at his blessing, and when he asks forgiveness before the Great Entrance and again before Holy Communion. It is traditional for the Orthodox faithful to bow and cross themselves when they enter and leave the church, and when they pray before the icons.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Emelie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson
Family and parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy
Marie Simpson, Emelie Albrecht, Paul Filanowski offered by M/M Herbert
Kathleen, Marc, Paul, DorthyAnne, William, Lena, Ronald, Catherine, Albert, Teddy offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich and Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

Emelie Albrecht; Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Paul Filanowski (recovering);
Infant child Natasha Gerty; Katherine Gerty; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery);
Margaret Pellack; 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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Please keep in your prayers those who are suffering and seeking comfort and relief on the Texas Gulf Coast areas (Houston, Galveston, Victoria, & Corpus Christi) from the damaging affects of Hurricane Harvey (Aug 25 – Aug 31)!

Building Fund – In Memory of the infant child Ivanna Alexandra Parsells:
(to support the Taybeh Education Fund)

- * M/M Ken Kavalkovich
- * Matthew Andrews
- * Nina Patterson
- * Robert Wanenchak
- * M/M Al Kavalkovich
- * Pellack Family
- * Barbara Andrews
- * Jennifer Cantrell & Family
- * Daria Parsells
- * Ruth Federoff
- * M/M Hourahan & Family

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 (2016-17)
- 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)

	<u>Week of Aug 21 to Aug 27</u>	<u>August Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	48	37 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,888.00	\$ 6,504.00
Funds Out:	(\$ 107.24) <i>reimbursement</i>	\$ 5,461.67
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,995.24	\$ 1,042.33

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 Divine Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

TODAY – Final Day to bring school supplies for the FOCUS Back to School Backpack Program.

The FOCUS Back to School Backpack Program will be getting ready to provide elementary school supplies to kids when they go back to school. Please bring your donated school supplies to church by Sunday, September 3. The following supplies are appreciated as donations:

Pencils, pencil cases, pens, folders, crayons, glue sticks, white board markers, binders, magic markers, rulers, colored pencils, notebooks, index cards and erasers.

Please see the church bulletin boards both upstairs and in the basement for a flyer listing the quantity of supplies needed from the items noted above. Thank You!

Vesperal Liturgy Services - September 2017 - All Services at 6:30PM:

Thursday, September 7 – Eve of The Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady The Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Wednesday, September 13 – Eve of The Universal Exaltation (Elevation) of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

Sunday, Sept 10 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of each month)! All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting, Hall status rental update, prioritize additional work that needs to be done over at the Hall now that the tenants have officially moved into the Hall, and any additional action(s) that need to be taken.

Bible Study – Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the next section of the bible which is the Book of Numbers.

Sunday, September 24 - Church Life Discussion classes resumes. (The 4th Sunday of the month) The Topic – To Be Determined!!!!

Father Mark will announce the next topic either Today or next Sunday!



Hieromartyr Anthimus the Bishop of Nicomedia [Sep 3rd]

The Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him suffered during the persecution against Christians under the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). The persecution became particularly intense after a fire at the imperial court at Nicomedia. The pagans accused the Christians of setting the fire and reacted against them with terrible ferocity.

In Nicomedia alone, on the day of the Nativity of Christ as many as twenty thousand Christians were burned inside a church. However, this monstrous inhumanity did not frighten the Christians, who firmly confessed their faith and endured martyrdom for Christ.

Sts Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter, Indes and Gorgonius died during this period. One of them was beheaded by the sword, others perished by burning, or being buried alive, or by drowning in the sea. The soldier Zeno boldly denounced the emperor Maximian, for which he was stoned, and then beheaded.

Then the holy Virgin Martyr Domna, a former pagan priestess, perished at the hands of the pagans, and also Saint Euthymius, because of their concern that the bodies of the holy martyrs should be buried. Bishop Anthimus, who headed the Church of Nicomedia, hid himself in a village not far from Nicomedia at the request of his flock. From there he sent letters to the Christians, urging them to cleave firmly to the holy Faith and not to fear tortures.

One of his letters, sent with Deacon Theophilus, was intercepted and given to the emperor Maximian. Theophilus was interrogated and died under torture, without revealing to his torturers the whereabouts of Bishop Anthimus. After a while Maximian managed to learn where Saint Anthimus was, and sent a detachment of soldiers after him.

The bishop met them along the way, but the soldiers did not recognize the saint. He invited them to join him and provided a meal, after which he revealed that he was the one they sought. The soldiers did not know what to do. They wanted to leave him and tell the emperor that they had not found him. Bishop Anthimus was not one to tolerate a lie, and so he would not consent to this.

The soldiers came to believe in Christ and received holy Baptism. The saint ordered them to carry out the emperor's instructions. When Bishop Anthimus was brought before the emperor, the emperor ordered that the instruments of execution be brought out and placed before him. "Do you think, emperor, to frighten me with these tools of execution?" asked the saint. "No indeed, you cannot frighten one who wishes to die for Christ! Execution is frightening only for the cowardly, for whom the present life is most precious." The emperor then directed that the saint be fiercely tortured and beheaded by the sword.

Bishop Anthimus joyfully glorified God with his last breath, and received the crown of martyrdom. (See December 28 for another account of the Nicomedian martyrs.)