

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



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

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

### Sunday, October 1, 2017 | 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – The Protection (Pokrov) of Our Most  
Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.  
Venerable Romanus the Melodist (5<sup>th</sup> c.)

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

615 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020  
Phone: Home: 302-322-0943 | Mobile: 302-547-4952  
Email: [mwkoczak@gmail.com](mailto:mwkoczak@gmail.com) or [mkoczako5@aol.com](mailto:mkoczako5@aol.com)

*Parish President - Peter Parsells*

*Phone: (908) 872.5657*

### Weekly Schedule

Friday to Sunday: October 6 to 8 – St Michael's Orthodox Church 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Russian Festival - 4<sup>th</sup> & Fairmount Ave. – Philadelphia, PA

Friday: October 6 - Glorification of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, and Apostle to the Americas. Also, Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas.

Saturday: October 7 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: October 8 – Venerable Pelagia the Penitent  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: October 8 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church school room

Tuesday: October 10 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement. Continue reading the Book of Numbers.

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 8)**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to thee!

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – The Protection)**

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy, / illumined by your coming, O Mother of God. / Beholding your pure image, we fervently cry to you: / “Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection; / deliver us from every form of evil / by entreating Christ, your Son and our God, // that He may save our souls.”

### **Kontakion (Tone 8)**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

### **Kontakion (Tone 3 – The Protection)**

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, / and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us. / Angels and bishops worship, / Apostles and Prophets rejoice together, // since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 8)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!  
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

### **Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1**

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” Therefore Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.” Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!  
Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him  
with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 6:31-36**

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

**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)

*[Note: Today's readings for the Protection of the Ever-Virgin Mary are as follows:  
Epistle – Hebrews 9:1-7 and Gospel – Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28]*

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**2018 Saint Tikhon's Monastery Calendar - Taking orders now:**

The parish will once again be ordering 2018 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 2018 St Tikhon's calendars is \$6 per calendar. The deadline for ordering these calendars will be: Sunday, October 29, 2017!

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**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

*[...continued from the last page on the life of the Protection...]*

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867 or according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860. Ironically, this Feast is considered important by the Slavic Churches but not by the Greeks.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor also notes the miraculous deliverance followed an all-night Vigil and the dipping of the garment of the Mother of God into the waters of the sea at the Blachernae church, but does not mention Saints Andrew and Epiphanius and their vision of the Mother of God at prayer. These latter elements, and the beginnings of the celebrating of the Feast of the Protection, seem to postdate Saint Nestor and the Chronicle. A further historical complication might be noted under (October 2) dating Saint Andrew's death to the year 936.

The year of death might not be quite reliable, or the assertion that he survived to a ripe old age after the vision of his youth, or that his vision involved some later pagan Russian raid which met with the same fate. The suggestion that Saint Andrew was a Slav (or a Scythian according to other sources, such as S. V. Bulgakov) is interesting, but not necessarily accurate. The extent of Slavic expansion and repopulation into Greece is the topic of scholarly disputes.

In the PROLOGUE, a Russian book of the twelfth century, a description of the establishment of the special Feast marking this event states, "For when we heard, we realized how wondrous and merciful was the vision... and it transpired that Your holy Protection should not remain without festal celebration, O Ever-Blessed One!"

Therefore, in the festal celebration of the Protection of the Mother of God, the Russian Church sings, "With the choirs of the Angels, O Sovereign Lady, with the venerable and glorious prophets, with the First-Ranked Apostles and with the Hieromartyrs and Hierarchs, pray for us sinners, glorifying the Feast of your Protection in the Russian Land." Moreover, it would seem that Saint Andrew, contemplating the miraculous vision was a Slav, was taken captive, and became the slave of the local inhabitant of Constantinople named Theognostus.

Churches in honor of the Protection of the Mother of God began to appear in Russia in the twelfth century. Widely known for its architectural merit is the temple of the Protection at Nerl, which was built in the year 1165 by holy Prince Andrew Bogoliubsky. The efforts of this holy prince also established in the Russian Church the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, about the year 1164.

At Novgorod in the twelfth century there was a monastery of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (the so-called Zverin monastery) In Moscow also under Tsar Ivan the Terrible the cathedral of the Protection of the Mother of God was built at the church of the Holy Trinity (known as the church of Saint Basil the Blessed).

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Daria LeRoy offered by Nina Patterson  
Ronald Kavalkovich, Lorraine Kavalkovich, and Emelie Albrecht  
offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

**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);  
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!

Also, for all those who are struggling and seeking relief in addition to all those first responders  
assisting them as a result of the damaging affects of Hurricane Harvey along the Texas and  
Louisiana Gulf Coast; Hurricane Irma along the Caribbean Islands, Florida, South Carolina, and  
Georgia; Hurrican Jose; and Hurrican Maria along Puerto Rico.

Keep in your prayers the victims, injured, and those assisting in relief efforts as a result of the  
earthquake that rocked Central Mexico.

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**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 (September)

	<u>Week of Sep 18 to Sep 24</u>	<u>September Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	34	38 (average)
Church Life Class:	20	
Funds In:	\$ 1,262.00	\$ 8,337.00
Funds Out:	\$ 938.20	\$ 7,370.45
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 323.80	\$ 966.55

*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 Divine 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 Divine Liturgy.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

### **St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Russian Festival**

**4<sup>th</sup> St & Fairmount Avenue – Philadelphia, PA October 6 to 8 2017.**

The parish's popular and festive event will be held the first full weekend of October (this year from Friday, October 6 to Sunday, October 8). 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.

### **St. Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church of Philadelphia, PA is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on – Sunday, October 15 2017.**

The parish will be celebrating with a Divine Liturgy at 10am and then afterwards a Gala Luncheon in their Church Hall. Tickets (\$50) are available and a RSVP to the Gala Committee is required ASAP.

Flyers are posted on the bulletin boards down in the basement for more information.

### **St. Nicholas Orthodox Church of Coatesville, PA is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on – Sunday, October 15 2017.**

The parish will be celebrating with a Divine Liturgy conducted by Archbishop Mark at 9:30am (light refreshments following Liturgy in Church Hall). Then afterwards a Celebratory Banquet at the Coatesville Country Club beginning at 3:30pm. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$20 for children under 12 (Children's dinner). Cash bar.

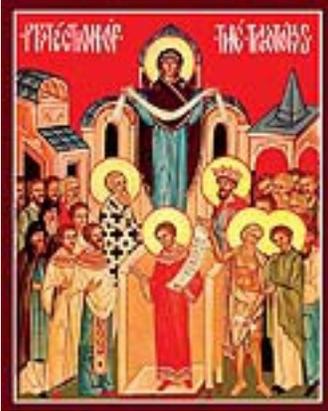
Flyers are posted on the bulletin boards down in the basement for more information.

### **Fall General Parish Meeting - Sunday, October 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 General Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 22. Discussions will include events since the last 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.

### **Saturday, November 4 from 9AM to 1PM – Harvest Fest Luncheon and Fall Outside Church and Hall Clean Up.**

With the beauty of Autumn comes the falling of the leaves, so the Property Committee is asking everyone to join them on November 4 to help clean up the church hall yard and outside property. In addition, Father Mark will bless the newly planted pussy willow tree in the yard. Afterwards, we will enjoy a lunch filled with Fall themed goodies! Yummmmm!



## The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary [Oct 1<sup>st</sup>]

Today the Church celebrated the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos: “Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of Saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and Bishops venerate Her, Apostles and prophets rejoice together, Since for our sake she prays to the Eternal God!”

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from

Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ St Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. St John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop’s Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed “more than the rays of the sun.” St Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, “Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” Epiphanius answered, “I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe.”

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, “O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them not go away from my icon unheard.”

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and “for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation.”

At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting Saint Andrew in contemplation of her.

*[...continue the life of the Protection on page 4...]*