

## 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, September 2, 2018 | 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 5 – Martyr Mamas of Caesarea in Cappodocia, and his  
Parents Martyrs Theodotus and Rufina (3<sup>rd</sup> c.)  
Saint John the Faster, Patriarch of Constantinople (595)

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

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### **Weekly Schedule**

Friday: September 7 – Great Vespers (with Litya) at **6:30PM!**  
The Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos

Saturday: September 8 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM!**  
The Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos

Saturday: September 8 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: September 9 – Sunday before Elevation of the 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 9 – Joint Property Committee and Parish Council  
Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

Tuesday: September 11 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement.

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 5)**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – Martyr Mamas)**

Thy holy martyr Mamas, O Lord, / through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. / For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through his intercessions save our souls!

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – St John the Faster)**

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; / thy humility exalted thee; / thy poverty enriched thee. / Hierarch Father John, / entreat Christ our God // that our souls may be saved!

### **Kontakion (Tone 5)**

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,/shattering its gates as Almighty, / resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 3 – Martyr Mamas)**

Holy Mamas, lead thy people as a flock to life-giving pastures / with the staff God has given thee; / crush the invisible and fierce enemies beneath the feet of those who honor thee! / For all of those who are in danger // have received thee as their fervent intercessor.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 5)**

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!  
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

### **Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4**

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14**

Hear And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.’” But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

**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**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Two Holies and a Saint Golf Tournament – Friday, September 28, 2018 at Ron Jaworski’s Ramblewood Country Club in Mount Laurel, NJ.**

This scramble format golf tournament is sponsored by Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Medford, NJ; Holy Assumption Orthodox Church in Philadelphia, PA; and Saint Stephen Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA. All proceeds from the tournament benefit St. Tikhon’s Charities.

Registration Time is 11:30AM    Shotgun Start Time is 1:00PM  
Golfer Registration Fee is \$85 per person that includes Lunch Snack & Dinner Buffet

Flyer and Registration Information posted on Bulletin Board down in the church basement. This same flyer was also provided in our church bulletin back in April (Easter bulletin) and June (Father’s Day) of this year.

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**St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Russian Festival  
4<sup>th</sup> St & Fairmount Avenue – Philadelphia, PA October 5 to 7 2018.**

The parish’s popular and festive event will be held the first full weekend of October (this year from Friday, October 5 to Sunday, October 7). 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.

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**IOCC 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Banquet – Sunday, October 21, 2018!**

Adelphia Restaurant’s Pan Athenian Grand Ballroom – 1750 Clements Bridge Road – Deptford, NJ 08096. The reception and silent auction will begin at 3:30pm, followed at 5:00pm by dinner and a special program highlighting IOCC’s U.S. programs, made possible by your generosity.

Tickets are \$65 per person.

Register online at IOCC website at: [ioccc.org/Philadelphia](http://ioccc.org/Philadelphia) or mail checks to:  
Connie Bandy – 2147 Robin Drive – Warrington, PA 18976

Flyer and Information posted on Bulletin Board down in the church basement

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**REQUEST TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH DIOCESAN CENTER MOVE**

Now that the Diocese has closed on the property for its new Headquarters in Bath, PA, they are looking for volunteers to assist with projects to get the property ready by mid-September (hopefully). If interested in assisting with this task, please call the Diocesan Office at 570.937.9331 or go online to the Diocese website for further information at [www.doepa.org](http://www.doepa.org) and click on the link for help with Diocese’s move.

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Glovach Family offered by Joseph Rabik

**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:**

Grace Corba; Sandra Hourahan, Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Dr. Jane Kelly; Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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**SUNDAY PUNDAY.....**

Pencils could be made with erasers at both ends, but then what would be the point?

**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 2.** 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!

**Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!**

## Announcements (cont.)

### **Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.**

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

**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 – Youth Fund (*reactivated July 2018*)
- 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 August 20 to August 26</u>	<u>August Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	37	38 (average)
<i>Vespers (8/25)</i>	20	
Funds In:	\$ 1,611.00	\$ 7,591.44
Funds Out:	(\$ 107.24) <i>reimbursement</i>	\$ 7,934.40
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,718.24	(\$ 342.96)

**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.

**Friday, September 7 – Vespers (with Litya) to be served at 6:30PM for the Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady the Theotokos**

**Saturday, September 8 – The Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady the Theotokos - Divine Liturgy will be served at 10:00AM!!**

**Sunday, September 9 – Property Committee Meeting (along with the Parish Council) after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month)!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting; Church status from the recent water damage on north side of building; Hall status update; tenant situation at 2109 house; and the work performed on 2111 house.

**Bible Study – Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30pm in the church basement.**

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the section in the Bible – The Book of **Joshua**.

Joshua is a story of conquest and fulfillment for the people of God. After many, many years of slavery in Egypt and 40 years in the desert, the Israelites were finally allowed to enter the land promised to their fathers.

**Thursday, September 13 – Vespersal Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of The Elevation of the Precious Cross (September 14<sup>th</sup>) at 6:30PM!**

**September Dates for your Calendar.**

September 23 – Church Life Discussion Class Resumes!!!  
*(There is still one final remaining class discussion on Iconography to be held!)*

September (a Saturday afternoon) – Saturday Sunday School [Saturday Date TBD]

**Cleaning Teams:** Today (Sep 2): Blessed Olga  
(Debbie Kavalkovich and Martha Palubniak).  
Next Week (Sep 9): Saint Juvenaly  
(Jennifer Cantrell (and family) and Ron & Cherly Homa).



## **Martyr Mamas of Caesarea in Cappadocia** **[September 2<sup>nd</sup>]**

The Holy Great Martyr Mamas was born in Paphlagonia, Asia Minor in the third century of pious and illustrious parents, the Christians Theodotus and Rufina. The parents of the saint were arrested by the pagans for their open confession of their faith and locked up in prison in Caesarea in Cappadocia.

Knowing his own bodily weakness, Theodotus prayed that the Lord would take him before being subjected to tortures. The Lord heard his prayer and he died in prison. Saint Rufina died also after him, after giving birth to a premature son. She entrusted him to God, beseeching Him to be the Protector and Defender of the orphaned infant.

God heard the dying prayer of Saint Rufina: a rich Christian widow named Ammia

reverently buried the bodies of Saints Theodotus and Rufina, and she took the boy into her own home and raised him as her own son. Saint Mamas grew up in the Christian Faith. His foster mother concerned herself with the developing of his natural abilities, and early on she sent him off to study his grammar.

The boy learned easily and willingly. He was not of an age of mature judgment but distinguished himself by maturity of mind and of heart. By means of prudent conversations and personal example young Mamas converted many of his own peers to Christianity.

The governor, Democritus, was informed of this, and the fifteen-year-old Mamas was arrested and brought to trial. In deference to his illustrious parentage, Democritus decided not to subject him to torture, but instead sent him off to the emperor Aurelian (270-275). The emperor tried at first kindly, but then with threats to turn Saint Mamas back to the pagan faith, but all in vain. The saint bravely confessed himself a Christian and pointed out the madness of the pagans in their worship of lifeless idols.

Infuriated, the emperor subjected the youth to cruel tortures. They tried to drown the saint, but an angel of the Lord saved Saint Mamas and bade him live on a high mountain in the wilderness, not far from Caesarea. Bowing to the will of God, the saint built a small church there and began to lead a life of strict temperance, in exploits of fasting and prayer.

Soon he received a remarkable power over the forces of nature: wild beasts inhabiting the surrounding wilderness gathered at his abode and listened to the reading of the Holy Gospel. Saint Mamas nourished himself on the milk of wild goats and deer.

The saint did not ignore the needs of his neighbors. Preparing cheese from this milk, he gave it away freely to the poor. Soon the fame of Saint Mamas's life spread throughout all of Caesarea.

The governor sent a detachment of soldiers to arrest him. When they encountered Saint Mamas on the mountain, the soldiers did not recognize him, and mistook him for a simple shepherd. The saint then invited them to his dwelling, gave them a drink of milk and then told them his name, knowing that death for Christ awaited him. The servant of God told the servant of the Emperor to go on ahead of him into Caesaria, promising that he would soon follow. The soldiers waited for him at the gates of the city, and Saint Mamas, accompanied by a lion, met them there.

Surrendering himself into the hands of the torturers, Saint Mamas was brought to trial under a deputy governor named Alexander, who subjected him to intense and prolonged tortures. They did not break the saint's will, however. He was strengthened by the words addressed to him from above: "Be strong and take courage, Mamas."

When they threw Saint Mamas to the wild beasts, these creatures would not touch him. Finally, one of the pagan priests struck him with a trident. Mortally wounded, Saint Mamas went out beyond the city limits. There, in a small stone cave, he gave up his spirit to God, Who in the hearing of all summoned the holy Martyr Mamas into His heavenly habitation. He was buried by believers at the place of his death.

Christians soon began to receive help from him in their afflictions and sorrows. Saint Basil the Great speaks thus about the holy Martyr Mamas in a sermon to the people: "Remember the holy martyr, you who live here and have him as a helper. You who call on his name have been helped by him. Those in error he has guided into life. Those whom he has healed of infirmity, those whose children were dead he has restored to life, those whose life he has prolonged: let us all come together as one, and praise the martyr!"