

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, September 9, 2018 | 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos

Sunday before the Elevation of the Precious Cross

Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Joint Property Committee and Parish Council Meeting
after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

Monday: Funeral for Julia Gavula at 10AM (Viewing at 9:30AM)

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

Thursday: September 13 – Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 6:30PM for
the Elevation of the Precious Cross (September 14)

Strict Fast Day on Friday, September 14!

Saturday: September 15 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: September 16 – Sunday After Elevation of the Cross.
Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Nativity of the Theotokos)

Thy nativity, O Virgin, / has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! / The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, / has shone from thee, O Theotokos. / By annulling the curse, / He bestowed a blessing. // By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Troparion (Tone 1 – Joachim and Anna)

Since ye were righteous under the law of grace, O Joachim and Anna, / ye gave birth to the God-given infant for our sake. / Therefore, the divine Church radiantly keeps feast today, / Joyfully celebrating thine honorable memory and giving glory to God, // Who has raised up a horn of salvation from the house of David.

Kontakion (Tone 6)

When Christ God the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Nativity of the Theotokos)

By thy nativity, most pure Virgin, / Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, / Adam and Eve – from the corruption of death. / And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: //“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Joachim and Anna)

Anna is now no longer barren / and nurses the all-pure one. / She rejoices and calls us all to sing a hymn of praise to Christ, // Who from her womb gave mankind the only Ever-virgin Mother.

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Epistle Reading: Galians 6:11-18 (Sunday Before)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. Alleluia (3x's)
v. For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him. Alleluia (3x's)
v. Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17 (Sunday Before)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing Irmos of Ode 9:

Magnify, O my soul, / the most glorious birth of the Mother of God! /
Virginity is foreign to mothers; / childbearing is strange for virgins. /
But in thee, O Theotokos, / both were accomplished. / Therefore all we nations //
of the earth unceasingly magnify thee.

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 this Sunday are as follows:
Epistle – 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 and Gospel – Matthew 22:35-46]*

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

Thank you to all of those who stayed last Sunday and prepared backpacks for the FOCUS Back to School Backpack Program. Twenty (20) backpacks were packaged together with school supplies donated by our fellow parishioners and parish friends. These backpacks were delivered on Wednesday to one of the elementary schools within the Philadelphia School District.

The 2nd Annual Two Holies and a Saint Golf Tournament – Friday, September 28, 2018 at Ron Jaworski’s Ramblewood Country Club in Mount Laurel, NJ. – (Golf Registration Deadline was last Sun. Sep 2)

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.

**St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church 42nd Annual Russian Festival
4th 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.

IOCC 7th 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 or mail checks to:
Connie Bandy – 2147 Robin Drive – Warrington, PA 18976

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

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Matesy Herbert, John Herbert, Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Marie Fortner, Dr Jane Kelly offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Sharon Orr on her birthday offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Sharon, Allison, Katherine, Heather, Albert, Catherine, Patricia, Alexander,
Anastasia offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John Rabik, Irene (Rabik) Glovach offered by their brother Joseph Rabik
Helen Gerasimoff offered by Emily Gerasimoff
John and Anna Homa offered by Ron Homa
William Brasko Jr, William and Julia Brasko offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
John and Anna Homa offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

Julia Gavula (*newly departed - Sep 5*) 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.....

I just went on a once-in-a-lifetime vacation. I'll tell you what, never again.

Remember, Tuesday is September 11 and the seventeenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York
City, Washington, DC and on United Airlines Flight 93. We remember those victims who perished on that
tragic morning and the first response heroes who sacrifice their lives to save others. May their memories be
eternal! Never Forget! God Bless America!

**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/September)

<u>Week of August 27 to September 2</u>	<u>August Month (Unaudited)</u>	
Attendance:	32	38 (average)
<i>Nativity of Theotokos: Vespers (9/7) = 7 </i>		
<i>Nativity of Theotokos: Liturgy (9/8) = 14</i>		
<i>Great Vespers (9/8) = 8</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 2,074.01	\$ 7,594.45
Funds Out:	\$ 4,058.47	\$ 7,934.40
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,984.46)	(\$ 339.95)

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– Property Committee Meeting (along with the Parish Council) after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of each month)! All property committee and parish council 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 – Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of The Elevation of the Precious Cross (September 14th) at 6:30PM!

Sunday, September 23 - Church Life Discussion class (The 4th Sunday of the month)

There is still one final remaining class discussion on The Topic – Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. It's history and the stories displayed on them. This class discussion was scheduled for June 23, but was cancelled on that Sunday.

*Saturday Sunday School is scheduled to begin on a **Saturday in October**.
Currently, a Saturday date has yet to be determined. Stay tune for date details*

Cleaning Teams: Today (Sep 9): Saint Juvenaly
(Jennifer Cantrell (and family) and Ron & Cherly Homa).
Next Week (Sep 16): Saint Innocent
(David Albrecht and Melanie Albrecht).



Holy, Righteous Ancestors Of God, Joachim and Anna [September 9th]

Saint Anna was the daughter of Matthan the priest, who was of the tribe of Levi. Saint Anna's family came from Bethlehem.

Saint Joachim, the son of Barpathir, was of the tribe of Judah, and was a descendant of King David, to whom God had revealed that the Savior of the world would be born from his seed.

The couple lived at Nazareth in Galilee. They were childless into their old age and all their life they grieved over this. They had to endure derision and scorn, since at that time childlessness was considered a disgrace. They never grumbled, but fervently prayed to God, humbly trusting in Him.

Once, during a great feast, the gifts which Joachim took to Jerusalem as an offering to God were not accepted by the priest Reuben, who considered that a childless man was not worthy to offer sacrifice to God. This pained the old man very much, and he, regarding himself the most sinful of people, decided not to return home, but to settle in solitude in a desolate place.

When Saint Anna learned what humiliation her husband had endured, she sorrowfully entreated God with prayer and fasting to grant her a child. In his desolate solitude the righteous Joachim also asked God for this. The prayer of the saintly couple was heard. An angel told them that a daughter would be born to them, Who would be blessed above all other women. He also told them that She would remain a virgin, would be dedicated to the Lord and live in the Temple, and would give birth to the Savior. Obeying the instructions of the heavenly messenger, Saints Joachim and Anna met at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem. Then, as God promised, a daughter was born to them and they named her Mary.

Saint Joachim died a few years later at the age of 80, after his daughter went to live in the Temple. Saint Anna died at the age of 70, two years after her husband.

Saints Joachim and Anna are often invoked by couples trying to have children.

