

## **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, December 9, 2018 | 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 3 – Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most-holy Theotokos  
Venerable Prophetess Anna (Hannah), mother of the Prophet Samuel  
St Sophronius, Archbishop of Cyprus (6<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)

*Parish President - Matthew Andrews*

*Phone: (856) 217.8075*

### **Weekly Schedule**

**Today:** Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church school room.

**Tuesday:** Bible Study at 6:30 PM in the church basement.  
Continue reading the Book of Judges and Book of Ruth.

**Thursday:** December 13 - Repose of Venerable Herman of Alaska

**Saturday:** December 15 and/or Sunday December 16  
If necessary, finish cleaning inside of the Church.  
Then, Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree.  
See Bulletin for details!

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

**Sunday:** December 16 – Sunday of the Forefathers  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

## 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 4 – Conception of the Theotokos)**

We Today the bonds of barrenness are broken: / God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna. / He has promised them beyond all their hopes to bear the Maiden of God, / by whom the Uncircumscribed One was born as a mortal Man; / He commanded an angel to cry to her: / “Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, // the Lord is with thee!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 3)**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Conception of the Theotokos)**

Today the universe rejoices, / for Anna has conceived the Theotokos through God’s dispensation, // for she has brought forth the one who is to bear the ineffable Word.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 3)**

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
v. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

### **Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4)**

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

### **Epistle Reading: Colossians 1:12-18**

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 3)

- v. In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me! Alleluia (3x's)
  
- v. The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord, and He is their protector in time of affliction Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 1]

**Gospel Reading: Luke 17:12-19**

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for the Conception of the Theotokos are as follows:  
Epistle – Galatians 4:22-31 and Gospel – Luke 8:16-21]*

We would like to say **"Thank You"** to all of those who spent their time yesterday and brought their energy, rags, buckets, sponges, soaps, brushes, polishes, and vacuum cleaners to assist in cleaning the Church. The whole inside area including the altar area and vestibule look beautiful.

**May God Grant You All Many Happy, Healthy, and Blessed Years!**

**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**

## **PARISH ADVENT VETERANS PROJECT!**

Thank you for your generous contributions towards the Veterans Project. We raised \$1,080 towards purchasing necessities (sheets, toiletry kits, and homemade hats) for the Veterans Homeless Center.

Today, Father Mark will present the gifts to the Veterans. The Veterans do appreciate your kindness, as once homeless and voiceless, they have food, some clothing and shelter, which is so easy to take for granted especially at this time of the season!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Advent Season Tutelage - 2018**

We are once again providing an Advent tutelage for those who are unable to attend or view either the Bible Study or Church Life Discussion Classes during the Advent Season but wish to still remain closer to God as we prepare for the Holy Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This season we will provide information on the Life of another North American Saint. Last year we provided information on the life of Saint Alexis Toth. This year we will offer information on the life of Saint Juvenal of Alaska. So let's continue...

During 1794, the hieromonks Juvenal and Macarius spent two months in the area around Kodiak teaching the inhabitants about Christ and baptizing them. They traveled in small boats of hide in all sorts of weather, dividing up the territory among themselves. Saint Herman tells of a conversation he heard one day as he walked with the hieromonks to a small hill on the south side of the harbor. They sat down facing the sea, and spoke of various things. Soon they began to discuss where each of them should go to preach. Aflame with zeal and eager to set out on their journey, a friendly argument ensued between Father Macarius and Father Juvenal. Father Macarius said he intended to go north to the Aleutian Islands, and then make his way to the Alaskan mainland, where the inhabitants had invited him to visit. The monks had a map of Captain Cook's which indicated that some Russians were living near a certain river in that particular area, and Father Macarius hoped to find them.

Father Juvenal interrupted, saying that he believed that the Alaskan mainland was his territory. "I beg you to yield to me and not offend me in this," he told Father Macarius, "since the ship is leaving for Yakutan. I shall begin preaching in the south, proceeding north along the ocean, cross the Kenai peninsula, then from the port there I shall cross to Alaska."

Saint Juvenal's Life to be continued in next week's bulletin.

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Marc Sr., Allison, Ronald, Sharon, Alex, Ana, Catherine, Albert, Patricia, Jude, Fr. Mark, Matuska  
Jan offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich  
Irene Torpey offered by Nina Patterson  
Family and Parishioners offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Joseph Herbert, Mildred O'Shura, John Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Linda Bucha, Louise Sutura offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Family offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik  
Irene Torpey offered by Daria LeRoy  
Parishioners offered by Pellack Family

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Anna Herbert, Sophie Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Anna and Michael Zuzulock offered by Pellack Family  
Anne Sabata offered by Pellack Family  
World War II Veterans offered by Pellack Family  
Paul and Mary Koran offered by Pellack Family

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

#####

**Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Dr. Jane Kelly; Luke Emmanuel Parsells (**newly born – Nov 1**) Heather Parsells; Peter Parsells; David Pellack; Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Also keep in your prayers those that were affected by the 7.0 earthquake (and any aftermath tremors) that hit just north of Anchorage, Alaska on Friday morning (Nov 30).

#####

**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 (November/December)**

Week of November 26 to December 2    November Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	45	35 (average)
<i>Vesperal Liturgy (12/5)</i>	14	
Funds In:	\$ 1,390.91	\$ 5,596.91
Funds Out:	\$ 3,834.23	\$ 5,941.38
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 2,443.32)	(\$ 344.47)

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.

**Today – Property Committee Meeting 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 water damage on north side of building; Hall status update and Lintel work performed; tenant situation at 2109 house; and the work performed on 2111 house.

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

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and finish up reading and discussing the section in the Bible – The Book of **Judges**. The class may start reading the next section in the Bible – The Book of **Ruth**.

**To Be Determined (Saturday, December 15 and/or Sunday, December 16)**

**Parish Christmas Decorating and Trimming of the Christmas Tree.**

**Time: Saturday – TBD and Sunday - After Divine Liturgy.**

Please see either Debbie Kavalkovich or Matthew Andrews today regarding the detail schedule of decorating the church and Christmas tree.

**Christmas Eve Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) – Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Time: Yet To Be Determined.**

Once time is finalized, it will be announced in church and printed in bulletin.

**Choir Rehearsal Schedule for The Feast of the Nativity services**

Please speak with Choir Director Nina Patterson with regards to choir rehearsals during the remaining few weeks of the month for the Nativity services.

**Cleaning Teams:** Today (Dec 9): Saint Innocent  
(David Albrecht and Melanie Albrecht).

Next Week (Dec 16): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia  
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, and Michael Spack).



## **The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God [December 9<sup>th</sup>]**

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord

announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of Her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from Her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

“In the icon Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, Who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under Her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power.”

There are also icons in which Saint Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna’s face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in the village of Minkovetsa in the Dubensk district of Volhynia diocese. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.