

## 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, February 3, 2019 | 36<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Afterfeast of the Meeting of our Lord into the Temple  
Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess  
Prophet Azariah (2 Chronicles 15 – 10<sup>th</sup> c. B.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: Soup N' Bowl IV Challenge immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement. Be prepared to indulge in some of the best warm and tasty soups/stews/chilies!

Saturday: February 9 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!** *[Note Time Change]*

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

Sunday: February 10 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement schoolroom.

Tuesday: February 12 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement. Continue reading the Book of Ruth.

## 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 1 – The Meeting of our Lord into the Temple)**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! / From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / enlightening those who sat in darkness. / Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, / thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, / Who grants us the Resurrection!

### **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 1 – The Meeting of our Lord into the Temple)**

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb / and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. / Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. / Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, / O only Lover of Man!

### **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 3)**

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

### **Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17**

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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. Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28**

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

**[Instead of "It is truly meet.." we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]**

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians,  
protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee!

In the shadow and letter of the Law, / let us, the faithful, discern a figure: / every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. / Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of a Father Who has no beginning, // the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

**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)

**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

### **2019 House Blessing**

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany, which is Sunday, January 6. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

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### **2019 Mission Service - Sunday, April 7, - At Our Parish**

Our parish will be hosting a Mission Vespers Service on Sunday, April 7 (the 4<sup>th</sup> of Great Lent – St. John Climacus) beginning at 4:00PM. As a result of hosting this service during the Lenten Season, a church cleaning is scheduled the day before on Saturday, April 6 with a start time To Be Determined as we get closer to that date.

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### **Saturday, February 2, 2019 – Hall Club Clean Up Day – 10:00AM!**

Next Saturday (February 9) we will be cleaning up the Hall Club beginning at 10:00AM! If any parishioner can spare an hour or two to come to the Hall Club, it would be appreciated. We need to continue to move heavy items, sweep up, cut up boxes for recycling, etc... Please bring rags, brooms, heavy boxes to transport items, buckets of water, paper towels, and industrial strength trash bags.

In addition, all personal items left in the Club must be removed unless arrangements have been made to hold onto for a short time. The parish will be contacting trash removal companies for estimates to remove many of the larger items except for the pool table which is under consideration to sell.

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### **Veterans Project Group – Food and Clothing Donation – Feb 10th**

Next Sunday, February 10, the parish's Veterans Project Group will be delivering food and clothing collected over the past few weeks to the Veterans Homeless Center. If you have any food or clothing donations you wish to make, please bring in those items for donation by next Sunday. Any questions, please speak with Dr. Janine or the Reader Michael McCartney.

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Mildred O'Shura and John Herbert offered by MM Herbert  
Irene Torpey offered by Nina Patterson  
Friends and Family offered by Daria LeRoy  
Family offered by MM A Kavalkovich  
Family offered by Emily Gerasimoff  
Catherine Kavalkovich on her retirement offered by Pellack Family

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Joseph Herbert offered by MM Herbert  
Joseph Herbert offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Deborah Archie offered by Pellack Family  
James and Harold offered by Anna Marie Smith

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 1/27/19:**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

+ Emelie Albrecht (on the one year anniversary of her falling asleep);  
+ Robert Corba (on the one year anniversary of his falling asleep);  
+ Father John Udics (on the anniversary of his falling asleep);  
+ Archimandrite Athanasy Mastalski (on anniversary of his falling asleep):  
Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich; Dr. Jane Kelly; Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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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.)

### 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 (January)

	<u>Week of January 21 to January 27</u>	<u>January Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	48	38 (average)
<i>Meeting of the Lord (2/2)20</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 1,702.00	\$ 9,752.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,137.90	\$ 9,193.74
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 564.10	\$ 558.26

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.

**Sunday, February 10, 2019 – 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; tenant situation at 2109 house; and the work performed on 2111

**Bible Study – Tuesday, February 12 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 **Ruth**.

**Sunday, February 17 - Church Life Discussion class (The 4<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month) The Topic:** Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Arrangements and Beauty of the Eight Tones during all Liturgical Services.

Please note the class will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month as a result of both our parish Meatfare dinner and the Youth Outing to the Franklin Institute on the Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> (the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month).

**Sunday, February 24 – The Annual Roast Pork Sandwich Luncheon [Meatfare Sunday] after Divine Liturgy!**

Plans on organizing the luncheon have begun. Please see Catherine Kavalkovich if you wish to provide a dish for this annual pre-Lenten luncheon. Catherine will prepare the roast pork. We do need volunteers to bring or prepare other food items!

**Sunday, February 24 – Youth Outing to the Franklin Institute after the Parish Meatfare Luncheon. The Exhibit – Vikings: Beyond The Legend!**

For those who wish to join our parish youth in experiencing the explorers, warriors, craftspeople, merchants and farmers the Vikings were, please get in contact with Lena Helen regarding the availability of tickets to this exhibit.

**Cleaning Teams:** Today (Feb 3): Saint John of Kronstadt  
(Lean Helen, Paul Filanowski, Matt Andrews, Martha Palubniak).  
Next Week (Feb 10): Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre  
(John (and Michele) Spack, Debbie Kavalkovich, David Pellack).



## **Holy, Righteous Simeon the God-Receiver** [February 3<sup>rd</sup>]

Righteous Simeon the God-Receiver was, according to the testimony of the holy Evangelist Luke, a just and devout man waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him (Luke 2:25). God promised him that he would not die until the promised Messiah, Christ the Lord, came into the world.

Ancient historians tell us that the Egyptian pharaoh Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-247 B.C.) wished to include texts of Holy Scripture in the famous Library at Alexandria. He invited scholars from Jerusalem, and the Sanhedrin sent their wise men. The Righteous Simeon was one of the seventy scholars who came to

Alexandria to translate the Holy Scriptures into Greek. The completed work was called “The Septuagint,” and is the version of the Old Testament used by the Orthodox Church.

Saint Simeon was translating a book of the Prophet Isaiah, and read the words: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a Son” (Is 7:14). He thought that “virgin” was inaccurate, and he wanted to correct the text to read “woman.” At that moment an angel appeared to him and held back his hand saying, “You shall see these words fulfilled. You shall not die until you behold Christ the Lord born of a pure and spotless Virgin.”

From this day, Saint Simeon lived in expectation of the Promised Messiah. One day, the righteous Elder received a revelation from the Holy Spirit, and came to the Temple. It was on the very day (the fortieth after the Birth of Christ) when the All-Pure Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph had come to the Temple in order to perform the ritual prescribed by Jewish Law.

When Saint Simeon beheld their arrival, the Holy Spirit revealed to him that the divine Child held by the All-Pure Virgin Mary was the Promised Messiah, the Savior of the world. The Elder took the Child in his arms and said, “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).

There is a Christian epigram (Number 46) in “The Greek Anthology” which is addressed to Saint Simeon. It tells the righteous Elder to receive the Child Who was born before Adam, and Who will deliver Simeon from this life and bring him to eternal life. A similar idea is expressed in the Aposticha (Slavic use) for the Forefeast of the Nativity of the Lord (December 24). There the Mother of God refers to her Son as “older than ancient Adam.”

Simeon blessed the All-Pure Virgin and Saint Joseph, and turning to the Mother of God he said, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:34-35).

The holy Evangelist continues: “And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Aser. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband for seven years from her virginity; and she was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not leave the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming at that very hour, also gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption at Jerusalem” (Luke 2:36-38).

The holy righteous Simeon the God-Receiver died at a great age (Tradition says he was 360). His holy relics were transferred to Constantinople in the sixth century. His grave was seen by the Russian pilgrim Saint Anthony, the future Archbishop of Novgorod (October 8) in 1200.