

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19145 \* Church Phone: (215) 468-3535  
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### Sunday, September 8, 2019 | 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Nativity of Our Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross

Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos

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

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*Parish President - Matthew Andrews*

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### Weekly Schedule

Today: First Day of Sunday School

Tuesday: September 10 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement.

Friday: September 13 – Great Vespers with Litya at **6:00PM!**

Saturday: September 14 – Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross at **10:00AM!**

Saturday: September 14 – Joint Picnic Luncheon with our neighbors God House after the Divine Liturgy

Saturday: September 14 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: September 15 – Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: September 15 – Property Committee Meeting in church basement.  
Please Note the Change in Date for this meeting

## **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 – 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.

### **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 – 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.”

### **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 – Theotokos)**

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

### **Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:16-26**

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

**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! /  
Virginitly 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 the Nativity of the Theotokos are as follows:  
Epistle – Philippians 2:5-11 and Gospel – Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28*

*[Note: Today's readings for Sunday before the Elevation are as follows:  
Epistle – Galatians 6:11-18 and Gospel – John 3:13-17*

**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 of this bulletin)\*\*\***

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

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**Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Luncheon Picnic with our neighbors next door – Gods House by any means Necessary Ministries!**

We will be having a joint luncheon picnic with Gods House after the Divine Liturgy for The Elevation of the Cross Feast Day. Please speak to Lena Helen or Martha Palubniak if you wish to help with this event. The parish is asking for 2 or 3 more volunteers to assist in organizing this event. The event will be held in the Hall Yard (or our church basement in the event of rain) Flyer and Information is posted on the parish Bulletin Boards.

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**AMAZON SMILE!**

When ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

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**Wool Donations:**

The Parish is now accepting either actual donations of wool or monetary donations to purchase wool to knit blankets and hats. Please see Dr. Janine McCartney for more details on this project!

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**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Banquet – Sunday, October 27, 2019!**

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.

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Gary Race offered by the Pellack Family  
Irene Torpey offered by Nina Patterson  
Sharon Orr (on her birthday) offered by her loving mother Emily Gerasimoff

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

John Rabik offered by brother Joseph Rabik  
Annamae Witiak offered by her husband Pete Witiak  
Father John Udics offered by Pete Witiak  
John & Anna Homa (on their 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary) offered by Ron Homa

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 9/1/19:**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Sheba Patton; Margaret Pellack; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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**Cookbook Sale:**

The parish cookout, *At Our Table*, is for sale in the church basement and also on Amazon.com website. Please speak with Dr. Janine McCartney for more information on the parish cookbooks.

**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 26 to September 1</u>	<u>August Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	32	39 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,318.65	\$ 7,297.87
Funds Out:	\$ 2,928.67	\$ 5,108.67
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,610.02)	\$ 2,189.20

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 - Sunday School Classes Resume:**

Today, next Sunday (Sep 15) and on September 22 for approximately 20 minutes, class will be held during the time between right after communion and before coffee hour begins. The facilitators will be Father Mark Kozak, Lena Helen, and Jennifer Cantrell.

### **Bible Study – Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30pm in the church basement.**

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will be readings and discussing the section in the Bible – The Books of **Kings**.

**Friday, September 13 – Vespers with Litya on the Eve of the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross. Time: 6:00PM!**

**Saturday, September 14 – Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross. Time: 10:00AM!**

### **Saturday, Sep 14 – Fellowship Potluck Luncheon Picnic with Gods House**

Our parish along with Gods House's congregation will be having a joint picnic on Saturday, September 14 following the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross. Please RSVP Martha Palubniak if you plan to attend. This is an opportunity to get to meet and know our neighbors.

### **Sunday, September 22 - Church Life Discussion class (The 4<sup>th</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.

**Quarterly Parish Council Meeting to be held in late September or early October. Date: TBD.** When a date has been determined, it will be noted in bulletin.

### **Fall Parish Meeting to be held in late September or October.**

General Parish Meeting to be held AFTER Parish Council has had their meeting.

### **Cleaning Teams:**

Today (Sep 8): Saint Raphael of Brooklyn  
(Mark Klus, Tish Berchtold, Barbara Andrews, Sheba Patton).

Next Week (Sep 15): Saint Herman of Alaska  
(Heather & Peter Parsells, Dr Gale Rutan & Joseph Francis).



## **The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary [September 8<sup>th</sup>]**

Before The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

**\*\*\* (Continue the Life of the Nativity of the Theotokos on page 4 of this bulletin)\*\*\***