

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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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 15, 2019 | 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross

Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Greatmartyr Nicetas (Nikita) the Goth (ca. 372)

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

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Parish President - Matthew Andrews

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### Weekly Schedule

Today: Sunday School Class

Today: Property Committee Meeting in church basement.  
Please Note Rescheduled from last week.

Saturday: September 21 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: September 22 – Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: September 22 – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.  
Topic: Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Tones!

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 4)**

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

### **Troparion (Tone 1 – Elevation of the Cross)**

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

### **Troparion (Tone 3 – Greatmartyr Nicetas)**

Thou didst defeat error and didst triumph in martyrdom, / Nicetas, namesake of victory; / for thou didst conquer the ranks of the enemy / and ended thy contest by fire. // Pray to Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

### **Kontakion (Tone 4)**

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

### **Kontakion (Tone 2 – Greatmartyr Nicetas)**

Thou didst stand firm and didst defeat delusion / and hast received thy martyr’s crown, Nicetas, namesake of victory; / thou art rejoicing with the Angels, / together with them thou art praying unceasingly to Christ God for us all.

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Elevation of the Cross)**

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy power, / granting them victories over their adversaries // by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 7)**

Extol the Lord our God, / worship at His footstool for He is holy!  
v. The Lord reigns; let the people tremble!

### **Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24**

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 1)

v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast gotten of old! Alleluia (3x's)  
v. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.  
Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-42**

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

**Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing Irmos of Ode 9:**

Magnify, O my soul, / the most precious Cross of the Lord! / Thou art a mystical paradise, O Theotokos / who, though untilled, hast brought forth Christ; / through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. / Now at its Exaltation, // as we bow in worship before it, we magnify thee.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
The light of Thy countenance has been signed upon us, O Lord. Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross are as follows:  
Epistle – Galatians 2:16-20 and Gospel – Mark 8:34-9:1*

**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

### **40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Fall Season:**

The 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign will begin (from September 25 to November 3). This campaign of peaceful vigils will occur in ALL 50 states at the same time!

#### **Information:**

- \* Contacts: Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084
- \* Email: roobearoo@hotmail.com
- \* Website: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/philadelphia>
- \* Prayer vigil located at 12<sup>th</sup> & Locust St, Philadelphia – Planned Parenthood
- \* Prayer vigil located at 777 Appletree Street, Philadelphia – Phila. Women Center
- \* Vigils open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.

The 40 Days For Life is not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a peaceful physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves.

Other peaceful vigils located in the surrounding areas include:

New Jersey – Cherry Hill & Galloway Twp    Delaware - Dover & Wilmington  
Pennsylvania – Northeast Philadelphia, Bryn Mawr, Norristown, and West Chester

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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: [iocc.org/Philadelphia](http://iocc.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:**

Tammy Cairns offered by Nina Patterson  
All nieces & nephews offered by Uncle Joseph Rabik  
John Herbert, Mildred O'Shura offered by M/M Herbert  
Gavula Family, Polinski Family & relatives offered by Joe Polinski  
Family and Friends offered by Pellack Family  
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy  
Matthew, Christina, Anastasia, Colin, Stephanie, Adam, Alex, Selena (safe trip), Albert, Catherine offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

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

#### **Memory for the Departed:**

Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Julia Gavula offered by her son Walter Gavula  
Gavula Family, Polinski Family & relatives offered by Joe Polinski  
Helen Gerasimoff, John Rabik offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Helen Gerasimoff offered by Emily Gerasimoff

#### **May Their Memories Be Eternal**

### **Vigil Cross Candles – 9/8/19:**

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#### **Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Sheba Patton; Margaret Pellack; Father John Bohush (retired); Father Gregory Winsky (on his upcoming retirement); 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 (September)**

Week of September 2 to September 8	September Month-to-date
Attendance: 39	36 (average)
<i>Fri Vespers (9/13)</i> 13	
<i>Sat Liturgy (9/14)</i> 24	
Funds In: \$ 1,821.92	\$ 3,132.92
Funds Out: \$ 0.00	\$ 2,724.77
Net Surplus/ <b>(Deficit)</b> : \$ 1,821.92	\$ 408.15

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 - Sunday School Class:**

Today, and next Sunday (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 Koczak, Lena Helen, and Jennifer Cantrell.  
October's schedule will be announced when the dates have been confirmed

### **Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – International Food / Fall Festival – Medford, NJ Saturday, September 21 – 11AM to 7PM**

Flyer & Further Information on this event is posted on the basement Bulletin Board

### **Sunday, September 22 - Church Life Discussion class (The 4th Sunday of the month)**

The Topic: Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Arrangements and Beauty of the Eight Tones during all Liturgical Services.

### **The 3rd Annual Two Hollies and a Saint Golf Tournament – Friday, September 27, 2019 at Ron Jaworski's Ramblewood Country Club in Mount Laurel, NJ.**

Golf registration has passed, but anyone wishing to volunteer during the day to assist in setting up or cleaning up, please speak with Father Mark.  
Our parish is one of the sponsors for this event with the proceeds benefitting St Tikhon's Seminary.

### **St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church 43rd Annual Russian Festival 4th St & Fairmount Avenue – Philadelphia, PA October 4 to 6 2019.**

The parish's popular and festive event will be held the first full weekend of October (this year from Friday, October 4 to Sunday, October 6). 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.

### **Quarterly Parish Council Meeting to be held on Sunday, October 6 after the Fellowship Coffee Hour in the church basement.**

**Fall General Parish Meeting to be held on Sunday, October 20  
after the Fellowship Coffee Hour in the church basement.**

**Cleaning Teams:** Today (Sep 15): Saint Herman of Alaska  
(Heather & Peter Parsells, Dr Gale Rutan & Joseph Francis).  
Next Week (Sep 22): Saint John of Kronstadt  
(Lena Helen, Paul Filanowski, Matthew Andres, Martha Palubniak).

## **Greatmartyr Nicetas the Goth** [September 15<sup>th</sup>]



The Holy Great Martyr Nicetas was a Goth (a Germanic tribe). He was born and lived on the banks of the Danube River, and suffered for Christ in the year 372. The Christian Faith was then already widely spread throughout the territory of the Goths. Saint Nicetas believed in Christ and accepted Baptism from the Gothic bishop Theophilus, a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. Pagan Goths began to oppose the spread of Christianity, which resulted in internecine strife.

After the victory of Fritigern, heading a Christian army and inflicting defeat on the pagan Athanaric, the Christian Faith began to spread increasingly among the Goths. The Arian bishop Ulfilas, the successor to Bishop Theophilus, created a Gothic alphabet and translated into the Gothic language many priestly books. Saint Nicetas worked intensely among his fellow Goths at spreading Christianity. By his personal example and inspired words he brought many pagans to the Christian Faith.

However, after his defeat Athanaric again contrived to gather his own forces, return to his own country and regain his former power. Since he remained a pagan, he continued to hate Christians and persecute them.

Saint Nicetas endured many tortures, and died after being thrown into a fire. His body remained unharmed by the fire and was illumined by a miraculous light. By night, a friend of the martyr, a Christian named Marianus, retrieved the body of Saint Nicetas, and buried it in Cilicia. Afterwards, it was transferred to Constantinople. Part of the relics of the Great Martyr Nicetas were later transferred to the monastery of Vysokie Dechani in Serbia. Saint Nicetas received an unfading crown of glory from Christ in the year 372.

We pray to Saint Nicetas for the preservation of children from birth defects.

