

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



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

Sunday, January 5, 2020 | 29th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Sunday Before the Theophany | Eve of the Theophany
Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia,
and Martyr Theonas (303) | Ven Syncletica of Alexandria (ca. 350)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com

Deacon – Michael McCartney

Parish President - Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856.217.8075

Weekly Schedule

[Strick Fast Day!]

Today: Eve of Theophany! Great Vespers | Great Complines |
Matins (Condensed Version) | Blessing of Water!
Time: After Fellowship coffee hour, around **12:30PM**

Monday: January 6 – Feast of Holy Theophany!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am Spraznikom!
CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN

Saturday: January 11 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: January 12 – Martyr Tatiana of Rome
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: January 12 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine
Liturgy in the church basement schoolroom.

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 4 – Forefeast)

The river Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha, / after Elijah had been taken up to heaven. / The waters were parted in two, / and the stream became a dry path. / This was truly a type of baptism, / by which we pass over the stream of life. // Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

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 – Forefeast)

O Christ, in Thy compassion and infinite mercy, / Thou art coming as a man to be baptized in the Jordan, / in order to take away the many transgressions of us all, clothing me in the garment of ancient glory / of which I was cruelly stripped bare.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Forefeast)

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: / “Do not be afraid to baptize me, // for I come to save Adam, the first-formed man!”

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!

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday Before)

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8) (Sunday Before)

- v. O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday Before)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' " John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

Cards for Our Troops! Save your Christmas Cards!

Please save your Christmas cards this year. Matushka Janine is collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for next year. We will use the front cover and paste it on a new card, write an appropriate verse on the inside of the card, and address the card to our soldiers. Please consider donating your cards you received this year. Please see Matushka Janine as to where to drop off your Christmas cards at a designated area in the church basement, or whether she will collect them directly. As always, thank you for your generosity!

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

Advent Season Tutelage - 2019

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 - Saint Alexander Hotovitzky. So let's continue...

By a decision of a special meeting of the administration of the Department of State Political Management, the New Martyr Alexander was exiled to the Turuhan region for a period of three years. His already failing health was further weakened by his sojourn in the far north.

Following his return from exile, Father Alexander was raised to the rank of protopresbyter and became one of the closest assistants of the Deputy Locum Tenens of the Patriarchal Throne, Metropolitan (later Patriarch) Sergius, who knew him well since the time of his service in Finland.

In the 1930s, Protopresbyter Alexander served as rector of the Church of the Deposition of the Robe on Donskoy Street. One of the parishioners of this church recalls, "In 1936, Father Alexander did not preach, as he was apparently forbidden to do so. In 1936-7, I was present many times when Father Alexander served. He was a tall, gray-haired priest with gentle facial features, who looked extremely intelligent. Gray, trimmed hair, a small beard, very kind gray eyes, a high-pitched, loud tenor...pronounced exclamations distinctly and with inspiration...His appearance reminded me of many priests who were exiles from the western regions...Father Alexander had many parishioners who greatly revered him...Even today, I remember Father Alexander's eyes. It seemed as if his glance penetrated your heart and embraced it with affection. I had the same feeling when I saw the holy Patriarch Tikhon...The same light also shining in Father Alexander's eyes was testimony of his sanctity."

In the fall of 1937, the New Martyr Alexander was arrested again. The documentary evidence about him at our disposal ends with this; however, a majority of oral reports testify to his death as a martyr. The Orthodox Church in America, on whose territory Protopresbyter Alexander served as a priest until 1914, venerates him as a passion-bearer, whose life as a confessor ended with sufferings for Christ. The place of his burial is unknown.

The Church of Russia also commemorates Saint Alexander on August 7, along with the Archpriests Alexei Vorobiev, Michael Plishevsky, John Voronets, the priests Demetrius Milovidov, and Peter Tokarev, the deacon Elisha Sholder, and Igumen Athanasius Egorov.

****** This Concludes the Life of Saint Alexander Hotovitzky's ******

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Peace, Love, Joy and Happiness To All offered by Alex Soroka
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Christina Velez and Matthew Andrews offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Anastasia, Alexander, Catherine, Albert offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Sharon, Stephanie, Marc Sr. offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Family and Parishioners offered by Pellack Family
Nieces and Nephews offered by Joseph Rabik

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Anna and Michael Pellack offered by Pellack Family
Jean Hourahan offered by Hourahan Family
John Rabik Sr on his birthday (Dec 25) offered by Joseph Rabik

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/5/20:

Two Small Votive Cross – Health of newlyweds Matthew Andrews and his bride Christina Velez Andrews on their wedding day offered by grandparents Albert and Catherine Kavalkovich.
Mnohaya I Blahaya L'yta!

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Kathy Gerty and her unborn child; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; 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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Announcements (cont.)

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

*******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
- 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 (December)

<u>Week of December 23 to December 29</u>	<u>December Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance: 33	43 (average)
Funds In: \$ 3,491.00	\$12,750.49
Funds Out: (\$ 423.24) reimbursement	\$ 8,611.62
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 3,914.24	\$ 4,138.87

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 either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich 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.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	Today (Jan 5)	Next Week (Jan 12)
3rd Hour :	Michael Wanenchak	Michael Spack
6th Hour:	John Spack	David Albrecht
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	David Pellack

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Jan 5): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).

Next Week (Jan 12): Saint Elizabeth - New Martyr
(Emily Gerasimoff and Sandra Hourahan).

**Today – Services for the Eve of Theophany with Great Vespers |
Great Complines | Matins (modified) | Blessing of the Water.
Time: After Fellowship Coffee Hour - Approximately 12:30PM.
[Strick Fast Day]**

**Monday, January 6th – Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – Time:
10:00AM.**

CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN!

**Sunday, January 12th – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the
church basement Sunday school room**

Tuesday, January 14th – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2020 after Divine Liturgy in
the church basement**



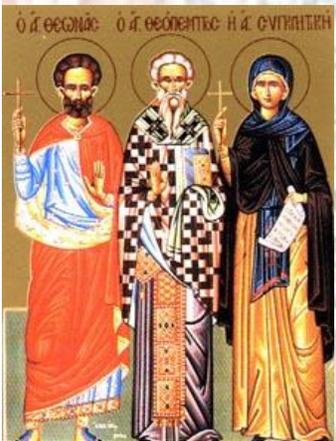
Baptism of Our Lord

Eve of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [January 5th]

The fourth day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 5. If January 5th falls on a Sunday, the following order is observed:

The Royal Hours are read on Friday, but there is no Liturgy. Vigil is served on Saturday evening, and the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is celebrated on Sunday.

There are thirteen readings at Vespers on the Eve of Theophany, and the entrance is made with the Gospel. There is fasting today, no matter what day of the week it may be.



Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas [January 5th]

The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas suffered in Nicomedia in the year 303. Saint Theopemptus was bishop in Nicomedia in the time of Diocletian. Speaking out against idolatry, he defended the faith in Christ. Because of this, he became one of the first victims of the Diocletian persecution.

The saint refused to obey the emperor's order to worship an idol of Apollo. Saint Theopemptus was thrown into a red-hot furnace, but by the power of God he remained alive. The emperor came to the furnace by night with a

detachment of soldiers, and there he saw the saint alive and praying to God. Ascribing the miracle to magic, Diocletian thought to exhaust Saint Theopemptus by depriving him of food and drink for twenty-two days, but the martyr was preserved by the will of God.

The emperor brought the famous sorcerer Theonas to overcome Bishop Theopemptus' supposed magical power. Theonas prepared a poison for Saint Theopemptus, put it into a little cake, and offered it to him to eat. The poison did no harm at all to Saint Theopemptus. Then Theonas tried an even stronger poison on the martyr. Seeing that Saint Theopemptus remained unharmed, he came to believe in Christ. They threw him into prison together with the holy bishop, who taught and baptized him, giving him the name Synesios (which means "full of understanding").

At dawn Diocletian summoned Saint Theopemptus, and again tried to turn him to pagan impiety. Seeing that the bishop remained firm in his faith, he subjected him to many grievous tortures, after which the saint was beheaded. The holy martyr Theonas refused to offer sacrifice to idols, so he was buried alive in a deep ditch. This occurred at Nicomedia in the year 303.