

## 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 19, 2020 | 31st Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Venerable Macarius the Great of Egypt (390-391)  
Virgin-Martyr Euphrasia of Nicomedia (303)  
Venerable Macarius of Alexandria (394-395)

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

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Parish President - Matthew Andrews

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### Weekly Schedule

Today: Sanctity of Life Sunday

Thursday: January 23 - 56th Diocesan Assembly – Harrisburg, PA

Friday: January 24 - 56th Diocesan Assembly – Harrisburg, PA

Friday: January 24 - March for Life – Washington, DC

Saturday: January 25 - Great Vespers at 4:00PM!

Sunday: January 26 – Venerable Xenophon and his wife Mary  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: January 26 – Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy!

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### Troparion (Tone 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

### Troparion (Tone 1 – St Macarius of Egypt)

Dweller of the desert and angel in the body / Thou wast shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father Macarius. / Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer; / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! // Glory to Him Who through thee grants healing to all!

### Kontakion (Tone 6)

When Christ God the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

### Kontakion (Tone 4 – St Macarius of Egypt)

The Lord truly placed thee in the house of abstinence, / as a star enlightening the ends of the earth, // Venerable Macarius, Father of Fathers.

### 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: 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 6)

- v. He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust! Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 18:35-43**

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! 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**

### **2020 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 Monday, 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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### **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!

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The **56th Diocesan Assembly** will be held this week (Thursday, January 23 & Friday, January 24) at Christ our Savior Church in Harrisburg, PA. Father Mark and Deacon Michael will be attending the Assembly both days. Any pertinent information or action taken during the Assembly will be reported by the parish representatives during our Annual Parish Meeting next Sunday (January 26) after Divine Liturgy.

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### **Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #2 of 3.**

According to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A. of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Annual and General Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the Meeting. The Spiritual Advisor's report, the Treasurer's report, the voting on the 2020 budget, along with any other business that needs to be discussed. The election of the 2020 parish council officers took place during the Fall Parish meeting back in October 2019.

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**Sunday, February 2 – Meeting of the Lord into the Temple & Zacchaeus Sunday!**

## **Announcements** (cont.)

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

#### **Health for the Living:**

Peace, Love, Joy to the World offered by Alex Soroka  
Nieces and Nephews offered by Joseph Rabik  
Sister Catherine offered by Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine  
Frank B offered by Pellack Family  
Paul Torpey (Safe Travels) offered by Daria LeRoy  
Kevin Fox offered by Hourahan Family

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

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

Joseph Herbert, Michael Spack Sr, Sarah Amato offered by M/M Herbert  
George Olexa offered by Robert Wanenchak

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

### **Vigil Cross Candles – 1/12/20:**

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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; Fania Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Also, please remember the 176 Ukrainian, Canadian, and Persian passengers who tragically perished in the senseless attack on Ukrainian International Airline Flight 752.

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#### **Annual Pork and/or Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday February 23, 2020 after Divine Liturgy.**

Plans on organizing the luncheon will begin after the Annual Parish Meeting, We will need volunteers to assist in providing dishes along with setting up before and cleaning up after the luncheon. Please see a parish council member for more details on how you can assist in this event!



## 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 (January)

<u>Week of Sun Jan 5 to Sat Jan 11</u>	<u>January Month-to-Date</u>	
Attendance:	40	40 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,014.00	\$ 2,049.83
Funds Out:	\$ 770.93	\$ 2,789.36
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,243.07	(\$ 739.53)

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 19)	Next Week (Jan 26)
3rd Hour :	Kyra Skoog	Simon Herbert
6th Hour:	Mark Klus	Lena Helen
Epistle:	Matthew Andrews	Mark Klus & John Spack (2)

### Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Jan 19): Saint John Kochurov  
(Daria and Rick LeRoy, Michael Wanenchak).

Next Week (Jan 26): Saint Alexander Hotovitzky  
(Brett McKenna, Tanya Krawchuk, Pete Witiak).

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### Great Blessing of Water – Time, Date, and Location TBD

The Pan-Orthodox Christian Brotherhood of Greater Philadelphia has NOT announced as of the printing of the bulletin any information regarding the Great Blessing of Water in Philadelphia. Once information has been confirmed, it will be announced in church, in the bulletin, thru emails, & on our parish’s media platforms.

### Soup N’ Bowl V Challenge – Sunday February 2, 2020 after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)!

- \* We are looking for participants (between 4 to 8 people) to prepare their best soup, stew, or chili and faceoff against each other (no fasting restrictions on that Sunday). Any soup, stew, or chili can be prepared. Any type of crackers or bread can be included as a compliment to the dish.
- \* Participants should make enough soup, stew, or chili for the parishioners and guests (average between 32-36 people).
- \* Parishioners & guests will indulge in each one of the soups, stews, and chili (at least try ½ bowl or cup of each soup) and then cast a ballot for which one they enjoy the most.
- \* The results (“Score”) will be announced by the Commissioner: Fr. Kozzak.
- \* The winner gets to enjoy for the year that their soup, stew or chili was the best and select a charity of their choosing from the coffee hour proceeds from this event.
- \* Donation of “free-will” offering will be accepted for this coffee hour event.
- \* Any other ideas or suggestions, please inform a parish council member.





## Venerable Macarius of Alexandria [January 19<sup>th</sup>]

Saint Macarius of Alexandria was a contemporary and friend of Saint Macarius of Egypt (January 19). He was born in the year 295, and until the age of forty he was occupied in trade. Later, he was baptized and withdrew into the desert, where he spent more than sixty years.

After several years of ascetic life he was ordained to the holy priesthood and made head of the monastery the Cells in the desert between Nitria and Skete, where hermits silently lived in asceticism, each separately in his own cell. There were three deserts in northern Egypt: the first was the Cells (the inner desert), so designated because of the many cells carved into the

rocks. The second was called Skete (utter desert). The third was the Nitrian desert which reached the western bank of the Nile.

Saint Macarius of Alexandria, like Macarius of Egypt, was a great ascetic and monastic head, and he worked many miracles. Learning about some monk's ascetic feat, he attempted to imitate it. Thus, when he heard that someone ate only one pound of bread a day, he would eat only that much or even less. Wishing to shorten his sleep, he stayed for twenty whole days under the open sky, enduring heat by day and cold by night.

Saint Macarius once received a bunch of newly-picked grapes. He very much wanted to eat them, but he conquered this desire in himself and gave the grapes to another monk who was sick. That monk, wanting to preserve his abstinence, gave the grapes to another, and he gave them to a third and so forth. In the end the bunch of grapes returned to Saint Macarius. The ascetic was astonished at the abstinence of his disciples and gave thanks to God.

Once, a proud thought came to the saint to go to Rome and heal the sick. Struggling with the temptation, the saint filled up a sack of sand, loaded it on himself and walked into the desert until he exhausted his body. The proud thought then left him.

By his ascetic life, fasting, and renunciation of earthly things, Saint Macarius acquired the gifts of wonderworking and of discerning the inner thoughts of people, and he also saw many visions. He once saw how one of the ascetics of the holy monastery, Saint Mark, received the Holy Mysteries from the hands of angels, and how during Communion the careless brethren received burning coals from the demons instead of the Body of Christ.

Saint Macarius was glorified by many miracles of healing the sick and casting out devils. Saint Macarius of Alexandria died in about 394-395 at age of one hundred. He wrote a Discourse on the Origin of the Soul included in the text of the Annotated Psalter.