

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

Sunday, August 30, 2020 | 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Afterfeast of the Beheading of the Forerunner and Baptist John
Saint Alexander (340), Saint John (595), and Saint Paul the New (784),
Patriarchs of Constantinople.

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney Choir Director – Nina Patterson
Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich Reader – Mark Klus
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

- Tuesday: September 1 – **Church New Year** (*Indiction*)
- Tuesday: September 1 – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting to be held
at 6:30PM via ZOOM! [*Rescheduled from Sunday, August 30*]
- Saturday: September 5 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**
- Sunday: September 6 – Miracle of Archangel Michael at Colossae
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
- Monday: September 7 - Vespersal Divine Liturgy at **6:30pm** for the
Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary.

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 2 – Saint John the Baptist)

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, / but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. / Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, / for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the steams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. / Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, / thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, / Who takes away the sin of the world, // and grants us great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4–Saints Alexander, John & Paul the New)

O God of our Fathers, / always act with kindness towards us; / take not Thy mercy from us, / but guide our lives in peace // through the prayers of the Patriarchs Alexander, John, and Paul!

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 5 – Saint John the Baptist)

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner / became an act of divine dispensation, / for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. / Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, / loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life, // but that which is false and temporal.

Kontakion (Tone 8–Saints Alexander John & Paul the New)

Set a flame by the love of Christ, O glorious ones, / ye took up the yoke of His precious Cross, revealing yourselves as followers in His footsteps by your way of life, / and ye became partakers of His divine glory, / divinely-wise Alexander, with wonderful John and glorious Paul. // As ye stand before His throne, earnestly pray for our souls!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v. Clap your hands, all ye people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

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 3)

v. In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame. Alleluia (3x's)
v. Be Thou a God of protection of me, a house of refuge in order to save me. Alleluia (3x's)

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."

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

Heating, Ventilation and Cooling Units Project!

The parish is beginning a campaign to raise \$40,000 to replace the old HVAC units. We will be offering the following as a fundraiser:

- 1) the commissioning of crocheted afghans and crocheted baby items;
- 2) accepting monetary donations;
- 3) the offering and scheduling of silent auctions; and
- 4) the offering of icons and rare hard to find icons for sale.

Proceeds will go to the HVAC project. All items will be preorders. If you are interested in purchasing commissioned afghans, baby items, or rare icons, please contact Matushka Janine for a full catalogue of items. Thank you for your support.

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!

RECYCLING AND TRASH AT THE PARISH

The following items are to be placed in the blue recycling can (lined with a clear plastic trash bag):

- * Plastic Bottles and Plastic Jugs (please remove caps and place in trash);
- * Paper, Cardboard and Cartons (please flatten cardboard and cartons);
- * Glass Bottles and Glass Jars (please remove tops and place in trash); and
- * All Metal Cans

Reminder, Styrofoam cups, cardboard coffee cups, empty sugar packets, straws, empty food wrappers, and plastic bags are to be placed in the green trash can (lined with a black plastic trash bag).

Also, please empty out any liquid in an open container or cup **BEFORE** tossing it out in either the trash can or recycling can. Having liquid leak from the bag as one is cleaning up the church basement and taking out the trash is not a fun experience, especially when one brings the recycling home with them in their vehicle.

THANK YOU very much for your attention regarding this matter!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Barbara Andrews offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Edward Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Barbara Andrews offered by David Pellack
Barbara Andrews offered by Sandra Hourahan

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Christine Mackiewicz offered by Barbara Andrews

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 8/23/20:

One Large Votive Cross – Memory of Albert Kavalkovich on his 40th Day
(Aug 16) offered by Catherine Kavalkovich.

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Please remember in your prayers:

The newly baptized Owen Brown (August 29) and his parents Micah & Danielle and siblings Lydia, Everet & Thaddeus. May God Grant Owen and the Brown Family Many Blessed Years!

Infant child Theodore Charles Parsells (born August 23) and his parents Peter & Heather and big brother Luke. May God Grant Theodore and the Parsells Family Many Blessed Years!

Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); 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 (August)

Week of Sun Aug 16 to Sat Aug 22		August Month-to-Date
Attendance:	43	37 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 2,048.00	\$ 6,503.91
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$11,392.44
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 2,048.00	(\$ 4,888.53)

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** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	Today (Aug 30)	Next Week (Sep 6)
3rd Hour :	Michael Wanenchak	David Albrecht
6th Hour:	Lena Helen	Simon Herbert
Epistle:	Matthew Andrews	David Albrecht

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Aug 30): Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre
(John Spack, Debbie Kavalkovich, David Pellack).

Next Week (Sep 6): Saint Juvenaly
(Jennifer Cantrell & Family, Ronald & Cherly Homa).

(NOTE: The parish has now resumed the Fellowship Coffee Hour in its normal fashion and is continuing with the Team cycle).

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services in September.

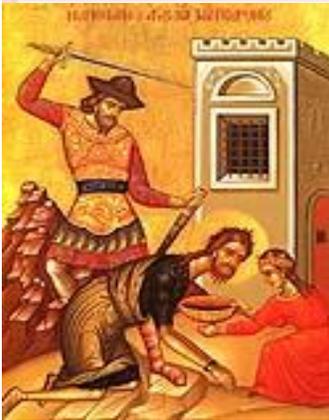
Tuesday, September 1 – Church New Year!

Tuesday, September 1 - Quarterly PARISH COUNCIL Meeting at 6:30PM via ZOOM! [Rescheduled from Sunday, August 30]

Monday, September 7 – Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos – Time: 6:30PM.

Tuesday, September 8 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement AND is planned to be shown via ZOOM!

Monday, September 14 – Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM for the Elevation of the Precious Cross.



The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John [August 29th]

Yesterday, the Church remembered The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, St John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of St John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of St John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated (February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of St John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12). The judgement of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of St John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of St John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.