

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, November 15, 2020 | 23rd Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 6– Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, & Abibus of Edessa (299-306). Martyrs Elpidius, Marcellus, and Eustochius, who suffered under Julian (4th c.). Martyr Demtrius of Thrace (ca 307).

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

- Today: Beginning of Advent (The Nativity Fast!!!)
- Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement school room.
- Today: Deacon's Turkey for the Food Pantry Project
- Saturday: November 21 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos in to the Temple.
- Saturday: November 21 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**
- Sunday: November 22 – Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the 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 5 – Martyrs)

O Christ our God, Thou hast granted us the miracles of Thy holy martyrs / Gúrias, Samónas, and Abíbas, / as a stronghold and protection. / Through their prayers, strengthen those in authority in ev'ry good deed, // for Thou alone art merciful and lovest mankind!

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 2 – Martyrs)

Ye received grace from on high, O all-praised martyrs, / and ye intercede for those in the midst of temptations. / Therefore, O saints, ye freed a young woman from bitter death, // and are indeed the glory of Edessa and the joy of the world.

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: Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 6)

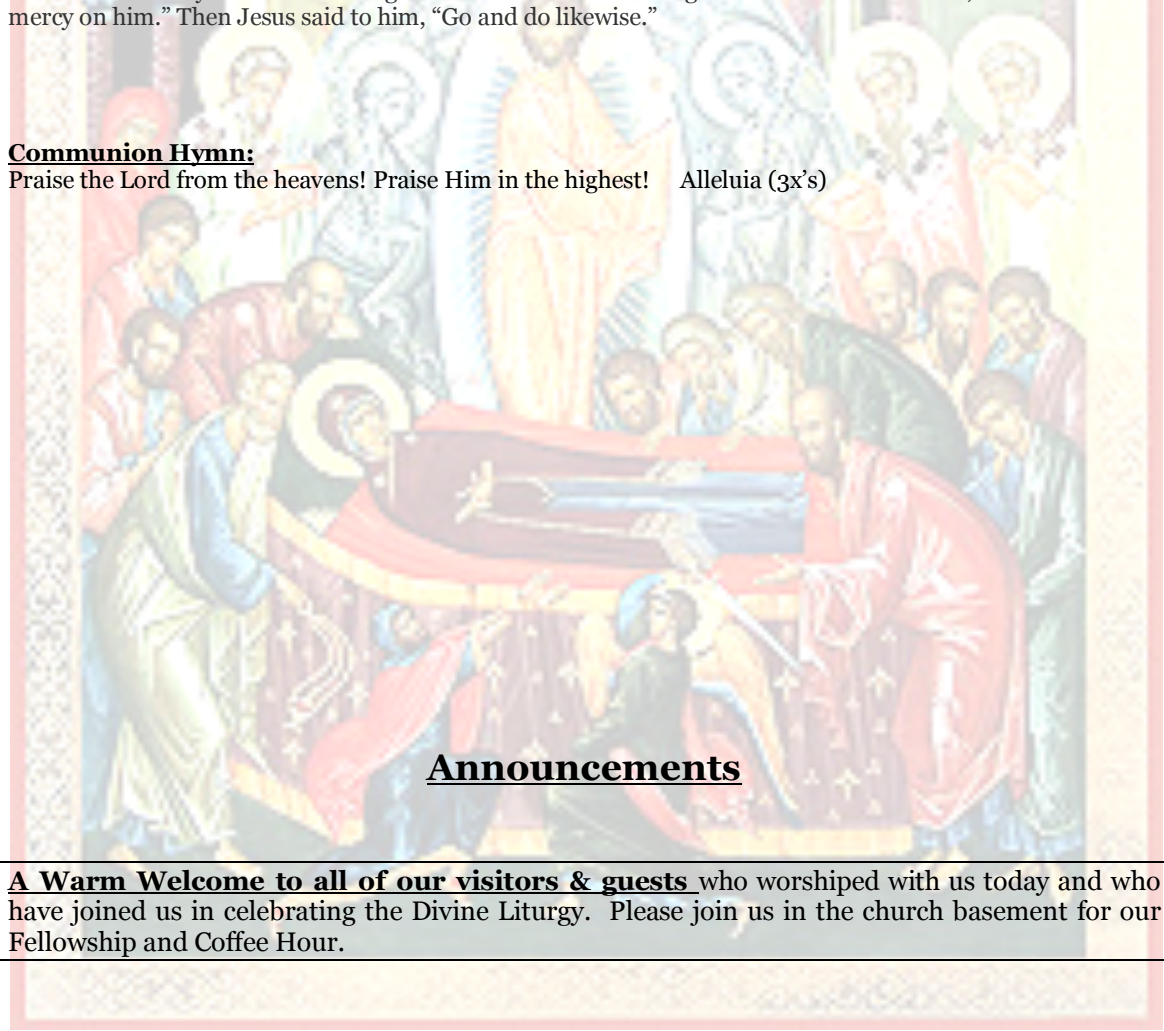
- v. He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven.
Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves? And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

A special **Thank You** to all of you for your prayers and those who donated to Michelle and Astrid after the passing away of Michelle's husband's father, Stan Heleva. Your donations of food were very much appreciated.

Thank you to all who attended and supported the Silent Auction on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020. It was a wonderful event!!! We hope you had a great time and found some items that you will use and give to others. A special thanks to Tanya, Catherine Kavalkovich, Barbara Andrews, Sandra Hourahan and Deacon Michael for taking the time to bake and donate their delicious baked goods as well as work at the auction. A special thank you to all who gave donations and donations in kind for the silent auction. Thank you to Tanya and Brett, Emily Gerasimoff, Mother Catherine, David Pellack, Subdeacon Ken & Debbie Kavalkovich, Catherine Kavalkovich for her handmade afghans, and Kim and Eric Anderson who donated items in kind for the auction and sale. My apologies if I missed anyone. All the proceeds will be given to the church for the Holy Assumption HVAC project.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Sidewalk Project. We have collected \$3,850!

Thank you to all who gave turkeys and money for Deacon's Turkey for Needy Families. It was a great success. We have collected \$400 and some turkeys given to Mother Catherine today.

New Community Advent Project: Deacon's Advent Project - Coats for the Homeless and Needy – December 2020! Due date to bring in coat to Deacon Michael & Matushka Janine is December 15, 2020!

Holy Assumption will be collecting used coats in good condition for Adults who are homeless and needy families. The coats will be going to Touch NJ Food Pantry and the St. Paul's Soup and Song Food Pantry for the Homeless.

If you are able to donate any coats, the adult coats for the Homeless should be Adult sizes, women and men. The coats for the needy families should be Men and Women Adult sizes and coats for children should be children and toddler sizes. Please ensure that the coats are in good condition. We thank you for your generosity in advance. We will be distributing the coats to Mother Catherine on December 15, 2020. Deacon Michael would like you to donate used coats that you have in your closet and are not using anymore for this project. The giving action is to give any extra you have to the poor, needy and homeless. Thank you once again!

Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of November 8):

In Memory of Albert Kavalkovich: Small Block – Barbara Andrews

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Friends offered by Nancy Rabik
Kenneth, Barbara, Patricia, Catherine, Sharon, James, Family and Friends offered by Debbie Kavalkovich
James and Sharon Orr (15th Anniversary) offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
All Veterans who served this great country of ours offered by David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Marc Ferguson Sr offered by Debbie Kavalkovich
Marc Ferguson and Albert Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
All Veterans who gave their lives for this country offered by David Pellack

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 11/8/20:

Two Small Votive Crosses – Thanksgiving for all that God has given us offered by David Pellack

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, October 19.
May His Memory Be Eternal! Vetchnaya Pamyat!

His Eminence Archbishop David of Sitka and Alaska, who has been diagnosis with renal cancer.
Archbishop David served as a priest in our diocese in Old Forge, Pottstown, and Bethlehem; and
also served as Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery.

The newly baptized Theodore Charles Parsells (October 17) and his parents Peter & Heather and
big brother Luke. May God Grant Theodore, the Parsells Family, and Godparents Matthew
Andrews and Tanya Krawchuk Many Blessed Years!

Debbie Kavalkovich and the Ferguson Family on the falling asleep of her brother Marc; Grace
Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous
recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Darcy Stafford and her unborn child;
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 (October/November)

Week of Sun Nov 1 to Sat Nov 7

October Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	47	40 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 2,165.87	\$14,875.09
Funds Out:	\$ 2,345.00	\$11,585.34
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 179.13)	\$ 3,289.75

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:

	<u>Today (Nov 15)</u>	<u>Next Week (Nov 22)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Reader Mark Klus	John Spack
6 th Hour:	Michael Wanenchak	Matthew Andrews
Epistle:	Lena Helen	Michael Wanenchak

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Nov 15): Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre
(John Spack, Debbie Kavalkovich, David Pellack).

Next Week (Nov 22): Saint Juvenaly
(Jennifer Cantrell & Family, Ronald & Cherly Homa).

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

Today – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy

Today – Deacon's Turkey for the Food Pantry Project
(Frozen Turkey Donations to be accepted on this day)

Monday, November 16 – Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

Saturday, November 21 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Feast Day
(Entrance of Holy Theotokos into the Temple)

Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 29 – Parish Council Meeting (5th Sunday of Month)

Monday, November 30 – Holy Apostle Andrew, the First-Called

Saturday, December 5 – Indoor Parish Cleaning & Christmas Decorating

Sunday, December 6 – Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker



Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas and Abibas of Edessa [November 15th]

The Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas and Habibus: during the persecution against Christians under the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). The two friends Gurias and Samonas, preachers of the Word of God, were arrested in the city of Edessa.

The saints refused to offer sacrifice to the gods, and boldly confessed their faith in Christ. For this they were subjected to cruel tortures: they were beaten, hung up by their hands, heavy weights were tied to their feet, and they were cast into a stifling prison.

The martyrs endured everything with firmness and Samonas uttered a prayer to the Lord, which one of the witnesses to their death wrote down: "O Lord my God, against Whose will not a single sparrow falls into the snare. It was You Who made room for David in his sorrow (Ps. 4:1), Who proved the Prophet David stronger than lions (Dan. ch. 6), and granted a child of Abraham to be victor over torture and flames (Dan. ch. 3, ch. 14). You know also, Lord, the infirmity of our nature, You see the struggle set before us. Our foe strives to snatch us, the work of Your right hand, away from You and to deprive us of the glory which is in You. With Your compassionate eye watching over us, preserve in us the inextinguishable light of Your Commandments. Guide our steps by Your light, and make us worthy of Your Kingdom, for You are blessed unto ages of ages." By night, they took the martyrs out beyond the city and beheaded them (+ 299-306). Christians buried their holy bodies with reverence.

After some years, the last pagan emperor, Licinius (311-324), began a persecution against Christians. Habibus, a deacon of the Church of Edessa whom the emperor ordered to be arrested for his zealous spreading of the true Faith, presented himself before the executioners when he learned they were searching for him. The saint confessed his faith in Christ and was sentenced to be burned alive. The martyr went willingly into the fire and with a prayer surrendered his soul to the Lord. When the fire went out, the mother and relatives of the saint found his body unharmed. They buried the martyr next to Sts Gurias and Samonas.

After the death of the saints, numerous miracles were wrought by them for those who entreated their help with faith and love. Once, a certain Gothic soldier, sent to serve at Edessa, took the pious virgin Euphemia as his wife. Before this the barbarian vowed to her mother Sophia at the graves of the Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus that he would do his spouse no harm, and would never insult her, but would always love and cherish her.

At the completion of his service in Edessa, he took Euphemia with him back to his native land. It turned out that he had deceived her, for he already had a wife at home, and Euphemia became her slave. Her evil husband threatened to kill her if she revealed to anyone that they were married. Euphemia suffered much abuse and humiliation. When she gave birth to a son, the jealous Gothic woman poisoned him. Euphemia turned with prayer to the holy Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus, the witnesses to the perjurer's oath, and the Lord delivered Euphemia from her suffering and miraculously returned her to Edessa, where she was welcomed by her mother.

After a certain while the Goth was again sent to serve in Edessa. The whole city learned of his misdeeds after he was denounced by Sophia. The Goth was executed by order of the prefect of the city. In an Akathist, the Holy Church addresses the martyrs: "Rejoice, Gurias, Samonas and Habibus, Heavenly Patrons of honorable marriage." We pray to them for deliverance from family turmoil, and from marital difficulties, especially where one spouse hates the other without cause.