

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, December 6, 2020 | 26th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1– Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker,
Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (ca 345)

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: Bible Study at **6:30PM** in the church basement and via ZOOM.
Social Distancing guidelines will be followed!

Wednesday: Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most-Holy Theotokos

Saturday: December 12 – Saturday Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM**

Saturday: December 12 – “Mini” indoor parish cleaning after Liturgy

Saturday: December 12 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: December 13 – Repose of Saint Herman of Alaska
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: December 13 – Deacon Advent Project – Coats for the Needy
Last Day Coat Donations will be accepted!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Troparion (Tone 4 – Saint Nicholas)

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; / thy humility exalted thee; / and thy poverty enriched thee. / O Hierarch Father Nicholas, / entreat Christ our God // that our souls may be saved!

Kontakion (Tone 1)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Saint Nicholas)

Thou didst appear as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas, / fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, O venerable one; / thou didst lay down thy life for thy people / and didst rescue the innocent from death. // Therefore, thou hast been blest as a great initiate of the grace of God.

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.

v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – Saint Nicholas)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, / and shall hope in Him.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:9-19

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David,
His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Thy priests shall be clothed in righteousness, and Thy saints shall rejoice. [TONE 2] Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:12-19

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings.
Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: The readings for Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker are as follows:
Epistle – Hebrews 13:17-21 and Gospel – Luke 6:17-23]*

**Eve of the Nativity of Christ Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) –
Thursday, December 24th – Time: To Be Determined!**

Once a definite time is finalized, it will be announced in church, printed in the bulletin, and noted on our social media platforms (website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Thank you all for your patience with this scheduling.

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

Christmas Cards for the Troops!

While the COVID orders were in place, elves from our parish were busy making Christmas cards for our troops in their own workshops at home. The cards were made from the generous donations from the parish of their own Christmas cards. A giant “thank you” goes to our own elves: Lisa, Tanya and Deacon Michael for making nearly 600 cards. The cards will be given to Mother Catherine this Sunday and they will be sent overseas shortly to our troops. Thank You all who donated their cards!!!

Please remember to save this year’s Christmas cards and consider donating them after Christmas. There will be a basket in the basement for you to deposit this years cards. Thank you all who helped. ~ Matuska Janine.

As a result of the new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials, the following changes will occur at the parish until at least the end of December 2020:

- * NO coffee hour after services;
- * NO Sunday school in church basement (ZOOM classes to be held instead); and
- * Father will serve a Saturday Divine Liturgy for those who wish to attend Liturgy in a smaller gathering. Now, if the Saturday Divine Liturgy attendance reaches levels near the maximum restriction amount, the parish may...repeat may, split the parishioners into two grouping with one group attending on Saturday and the other attending on Sunday.

ALSO, due to the Saturday Divine Liturgy being held, the parish will have “mini” church cleaning days in the afternoon on Sat. Dec 12, & 19 & on Sun. Dec 13 & 20.

New Community Advent Project: Deacon’s Advent Project - Coats for the Homeless and Needy – December 2020! Due date to bring in coats to Deacon Michael & Matuska Janine is Sunday, December 13, 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 **Sunday, December 13, 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!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Jane Holefelder offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Parishioners offered by David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 11/29/20:

Two Large Votive Crosses – Memory of brother John Wanenchak
offered by Robert Wanenchak

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ His Eminence Archbishop David (Mahaffey) who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, November 27. May His Memory Be Eternal! Vetchnaya Pamyat!

Debbie Kavalkovich and the Ferguson Family on the falling asleep of her brother Marc; Sharon Wanenchak Orr, her husband James, and for Michael, Eugene, Robert, and Timothy Wanenchak on the falling asleep of her father and their brother John; 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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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of November 29):

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 (November)

Week of Sun Nov 22 to Sat Nov 28

November Month to date

| | | |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| Attendance: | 22 | 35 (average) |
| <i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i> | | |
| Funds In: | \$ 4,029.30 | \$24,141.17 |
| Funds Out: | \$ 735.19 | \$34,801.29 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit): | \$ 3,294.11 | (\$10,660.12) |

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 (Dec 6)</u> | <u>Next Week (Dec 13)</u> |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 3 rd Hour : | Michael Spack | Michael Wanenchak |
| 6 th Hour: | Simon Herbert | Reader Mark Klus |
| Epistle: | Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and Reader Mark Klus | Reader Mark Klus and David Pellack |

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

As a result of new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials on Monday, November 16 which went into effect on Friday, November 20, the formal coffee hour event held after Sunday Divine Liturgy has been suspended until further notice.

Once city officials ease restrictions relating to Covid, coffee hour will then resume.

When the coffee hour resumes (currently not until at least January 2021), a new coffee schedule with new team parishioners will be in the rotation as per the action taken during the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, November 1.

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

Saturdays in December 2020 – Divine Liturgy @ 10:00AM

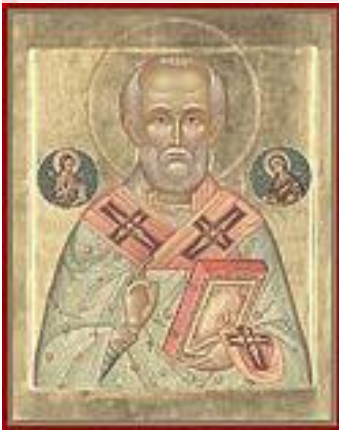
Today – Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker

Tuesday, December 8 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement and via Zoom media platform. We Social Distance

Saturday, December 12 – “Mini” Indoor Parish Cleaning & Decorating

Sunday, December 13 – Saint Herman of Alaska

Sunday, December 13 – Deacon’s Advent Project – Coats for the Needy (Last Day Coat Donations will be accepted)



Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia [December 6th]

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother Nonna after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font,

stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. St Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom St Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. St Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, St Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to St Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. St Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured was also restored to health.

NOTE: As a result of the historical length of St Nicholas' life & the limited space provided in the bulletin, the above excerpt of the early life of St. Nicholas has been printed. To read the full text, of St Nicholas' life, please visit www.oca.org under Feast & Saints section.