

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, January 24, 2021 | 33rd Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 8 – Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia
Venerable Xenia of Rome and her two female slaves (5th c.)
Martyrs Babylas (Vavila) of Sicily, and his two disciples (3rd c.)

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: Sanctity of Life Sunday Observed
- Friday: January 29 - The 57th Diocesan Assembly via ZOOM!
- Saturday: January 30 – Saturday Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM!**
- Saturday: January 30 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**
- Sunday: January 31 – Holy Wonderworkers Cyrus and John
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
~~*Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*~~
(CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!!!)
- Sunday: January 31 – Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy!
- Tuesday: February 2 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord into the Temple.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to thee!

Troparion (Tone 4 – New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, / praising her new martyrs and confessors; / hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, / venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. / Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, / they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. // By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Kontakion (Tone 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion (Tone 3 – New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, / and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: / "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, / and power, and strength be to our God // unto the ages of ages. Amen."

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – New Martyrs of Russia)

God is our refuge and strength, / our help in afflictions that severely befall us.

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

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!
Rejoice in the Lord. O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: The readings for the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia is as follows:
Epistle – Romans 8:28-39 and Gospel – Luke 21:8-19]*

PLEASE NOTE: With Covid health restrictions and for everyone's safety, the Great Blessing of the Water, which is sponsored by the Pan-Orthodox Christian Brotherhood of Greater Philadelphia, has been cancelled for this year.

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

Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2021 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #3 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 2021 budget, along with any other business that needs to be discussed. The election of the 2021 parish council officers took place during the Fall Parish meeting back in October 2020.

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 February 2021:

- * 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.

CARDS FOR OUR TROOPS! SAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS!

Please save your Christmas cards this year. Matushka Janine and the Charity Committee are collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for next year. They 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!

This year we collected and sent out just under **600** cards for our troops!

2021 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 Wednesday, 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.

Please Note: House blessing schedule will also be based upon the current State and Local Civil Authority's travel and social gathering restrictions due to the Covid virus!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

David Albrecht Jr offered by Melanie Albrecht
Fania Wanenchak offered by Robert Wanenchak
David Albrecht Jr offered by Nina Patterson
Thomas Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Thomas Herbert offered by Daniel S Herbert

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Anna, Alex, & Butch Mackiewicz offered by David Pellack
William and Anna Zuzulock offered by David Pellack
Edwin “Buddy” Ovington offered by Hourahan Family
Michael Spack Sr. offered by M/M Herbert
Edwin “Buddy” Ovington offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/17/21:

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Archpriest Ernesto Rios (Dec 15); + Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar (Jan 20); Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Catherine Kavalkovich (recovery); Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich (treatment); 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 January 17):

The **57th Diocesan Assembly** will be held this Friday, January 29 via the ZOOM media platform. Along with Father Mark, our parish president Matthew Andrews and Deacon Michael McCartney will be in attendance (in front of their computer monitors). Keep them in your prayers that day & May God Grant them a blessed day!

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)

Week of Sun Jan 10 to Sat Jan 16

January Month-to-Date

Attendance:	22	28 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 9,118.00	\$10,847.00
Funds Out:	(\$ 387.21) reimbursements	\$ 3,399.27
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 9,505.21	\$ 7,447.73

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 (Jan 24)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 31)</u>
3 rd Hour :	William Filanowski	Lena Helen
6 th Hour:	John Spack	Michael Spack
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus and Matthew Andrews	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 February 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 January/February 2021.

Saturdays in JANUARY 2021 – Divine Liturgy @ 10:00AM

Week of January 24 – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting! The Council members will be notified of the Date & Time when it is finalized.

Saturday, January 30 – Synaxis of the 3 Hierarchs. Liturgy at 10:00AM!

Sunday, January 31 – Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy!

Tuesday, February 2 – Meeting of the Lord into the Temple.
Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM!

Soup N^o Bowl VI Challenge which is scheduled for Sunday, February 7 is now **CANCELLED!!**



New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia [January 24th]

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth.

Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy & laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

Venerable Xenia of Rome, and her two female servants [January 24th]

Saint Xenia of Rome, in the world Eusebia, was the only daughter of an eminent Roman senator. From her youth she loved God, and wished to avoid the marriage arranged for her. She secretly left her parental home with two servants devoted to her, and set sail upon a ship. Through the Providence of God she met the head of the monastery of the holy Apostle Andrew in Milassa, a town of Caria (Asia Minor). She besought him to take her and her companions to Milassa. She also changed her name, calling herself Xenia [which means “stranger” or “foreigner” in Greek].

At Milassa she bought land, built a church dedicated to Saint Stephen, and founded a woman’s monastery. Soon after this, Bishop Paul of Milassa made Xenia a deaconess, because of her virtuous life. The saint helped everyone: for the destitute, she was a benefactress; for the grief-stricken, a comforter; for sinners, a guide to repentance. She possessed a deep humility, accounting herself the worst and most sinful of all.

In her ascetic deeds she was guided by the counsels of the Palestinian ascetic, Saint Euthymius. The sublime life of Saint Xenia drew many souls to Christ. The holy virgin died in 450 while she was praying. During her funeral, a luminous wreath of stars surrounding a radiant cross appeared over the monastery in the heavens. This sign accompanied the body of the saint when it was carried into the city, and remained until the saint’s burial. Many of the sick received healing after touching the relics of the saint.

Following the death of Saint Xenia, first one of her former servants died, then the other. They were buried at the saint’s feet.