

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> 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, November 28, 2021 | 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Monk Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New  
Martyrs Basil, Stephen, two Gregories, John, Andrew, Peter, Anna, and many others (767)  
Martyr Irenarchus & Seven Women Martyrs

#### 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: Panikhida for Lisa Colona after Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday: November 30 – Holy Apostle Andrew, the First Called.
- Saturday: December 4 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: December 5 – Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**  
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
- Sunday: Saint Nicholas Fair after Divine Liturgy until 2:00PM

## **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 4 – St Stephen the New)**

Trained in asceticism on the mountain, / with the weapon of the Cross thou didst destroy the spiritual assaults of the hostile powers, O all-blessed one. / Again thou didst bravely prepare for combat / and didst slay Coprónymus with the sword of faith; // for both struggles thou hast been crowned by God, monk-martyr Stephen of eternal memory.

### **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 8 – St Stephen the New)**

Lovers of the feasts, from the heart with hymns let us praise in faith / God-like Stephen, the lover of the Trinity, / for he honored the fair icon of the Master and of His Mother. / Now let us rejoice together and cry out to him with love: // “Rejoice, ever-glorious Father!”

### **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 13:10-17**

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath? And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

**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

### **Sundays, December 5, 12, & 19, 2021 - Parish's Saint Nicholas Fair**

The parish will have the Saint Nicholas Fair to support the parish HVAC Project. We are collecting new items and unused items (PLEASE, nothing used!) for sale at the fair. We are also accepting crafts, and baked goods for sale. Please see Matushka Janine if you would like to help to donate. Matushka Janine has a sign-up sheet for baked goods. We had a great time last year and raised a little over \$3,200 for the HVAC project. Please consider joining us!

This year, there will be handmade, natural soaps for sale from **Oct 31 to Dec 19**. The types of soaps include: honey orange, goats milk unscented, shea butter, francenscence, lavender oatmeal, and men's chappareal soap. Soap cost is \$3 to \$4 per bar. Orders are accepted. No supply chain issues with soap orders! These make great Christmas presents. See Matushka Janine for samples and to purchase.

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### ***(Life of Martyr Stephen the New continued from page 8)***

They tried to lure Saint Stephen into the Iconoclast camp, at first with flattery and bribery, then by threats, but in vain. Then they slandered the saint, accusing him of falling into sin with the nun Anna. But his guilt was not proven, since the nun courageously denied any guilt and died under torture and beatings. Finally, the emperor gave orders to lock up the saint in prison, and to destroy his monastery. Iconoclast bishops were sent to Saint Stephen in prison, trying to persuade him of the dogmatic correctness of the Iconoclast position. But the saint easily refuted all the arguments of the heretics and he remained true to Orthodoxy.

Then the emperor ordered that the saint be exiled on one of the islands in the Sea of Marmora. Saint Stephen settled into a cave, and there also his disciples soon gathered. After a certain while the saint left the brethren and took upon himself the exploit of living atop a pillar. News of the stylite Stephen, and the miracles worked by his prayers, spread throughout all the Empire and strengthened the faith and spirit of Orthodoxy in the people.

The emperor gave orders to transfer Saint Stephen to prison on the island of Pharos, and then to bring him to trial. At the trial, the saint refuted the arguments of the heretics sitting in judgment upon him. He explained the dogmatic essence of icon veneration, and he denounced the Iconoclasts because in blaspheming icons, they blasphemed Christ and the Mother of God. As proof, the saint pointed to a golden coin inscribed with the image of the emperor. He asked the judges what would happen to a man who threw the coin to the ground, and then trampled the emperor's image under his feet. They replied that such a man would certainly be punished for dishonoring the image of the emperor. The saint said that an even greater punishment awaited anyone who would dishonor the image of the King of Heaven and His Saints, and with that he spat on the coin, threw it to the ground, and began to trample it underfoot.

The emperor gave orders to take the saint to prison, where already there were languishing 342 Elders, condemned for the veneration of icons. In this prison Saint Stephen spent eleven months, consoling the imprisoned. The prison became like a monastery, where the usual prayers and hymns were chanted according to the Typikon. The people came to the prison in crowds and asked Saint Stephen to pray for them.

When the emperor learned that the saint had organized a monastery in prison, where they prayed and venerated holy icons, he sent two of his own servants, twin-brothers, to beat the saint to death. When these brothers went to the prison and beheld the face of the monk shining with a divine light, they fell down on their knees before him, asking his forgiveness and prayers, then they told the emperor that his command had been carried out. But the emperor learned the truth and he resorted to yet another lie. Informing his soldiers that the saint was plotting to remove him from the throne, he sent them to the prison. The holy confessor himself came out to the furious soldiers, who seized him and dragged him through the streets of the city. They then threw the lacerated body of the martyr into a pit, where they were wont to bury criminals.

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
Jack and Lynn Drimak offered by Sandra Hourahan  
Anastasia and her unborn child offered by M/M K Kavalkovich  
Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

John and Julia Jugan offered by David Pellack  
William Koran offered by David Pellack  
New departed Angelo Amorosso offered by M/M K Kavalkovich  
Barbara Munson offered by M/M Herbert & Family

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 11/21/21:**

One Small Vigil Cross – Health of James and Sharon Orr offered by Emily Gerasimoff

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

+ Newly Departed Handmaiden of God Lisa Colona (Nov 23)

Anthony Colona; Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; Edward Gerasimoff (recovery); The Gerty Family; Anastasia Jones and her unborn child; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Anne (Homa) Killoran (surgery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Joseph Rabik; Dr. Gale Rutan; Peter Witiak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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**Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of November 21)**

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$0 from the Candy Sale

## 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. By the action taken at the Fall General Parish Meeting held on Sunday, October 10, the parish body approved that the special collection for the first three Sundays of the month be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (now known as the Row House Fund).

The fourth Sunday (and fifth, when it occurs) the special collection will be earmarked towards Charity.

This new collection schedule will begin on Sunday, October 17.

Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

### **Cash Flow Activity (November)**

| <u>Week of Sun Nov 14 to Sat Nov 20</u> |             | <u>November Month to Date</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Attendance:                             | 43          | 44 (average)                  |
| Funds In:                               | \$ 1,823.00 | \$ 6,119.00                   |
| Funds Out:                              | \$ 1,945.04 | \$ 4,957.51                   |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit):                  | (\$ 122.04) | \$ 1,161.49                   |

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

### Readers Schedule:

|                        | <u>Today (Nov 28)</u>   | <u>Next Week (Dec 5)</u>                      |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour : | Sbdn Daniel Kavalkovich | David Pellack                                 |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:  | Michael Wanenchak       | Michael Spack                                 |
| Epistle:               | Matthew Andrews         | Sbdn Daniel Kavalkovich<br>and Anthony Colona |

### Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Nov 28): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia  
(John Spack, Michael Spack, Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson)

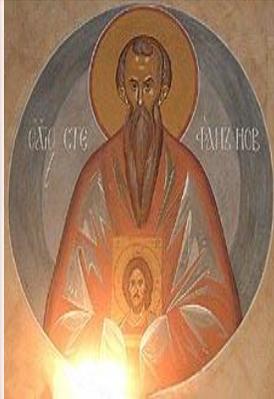
Next Week (Dec 5): Saint Elizabeth the New Martyr  
(Catherine Kavalkovich, Sandra Hourahan, Melanie Albrecht)

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Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services & events in December 2021.

**Advent Giving (October 17 to December 12):** We will be collecting food and cleaning supplies for Soap & Song Homeless group and Food Pantry

**UPDATED DATES** for the Saint Nicholas Fair is now on Sundays on December 5, 12, and 19<sup>th</sup>!!!



## **Monastic Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New** **[November 28<sup>th</sup>]**

The Monk Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New was born in 715 at Constantinople into a pious Christian family. His parents, having two daughters, prayed the Lord for a son. The mother of the new-born Stephen took him to the Blachernae church of the Most Holy Theotokos and dedicated him to God.

During the reign of the emperor Leo the Isaurian (716-741) there was a persecution against the holy icons and against those venerating them. With the support of the emperor, the adherents of the Iconoclast heresy seized control of the supreme positions of authority in the Empire and in the Church.

Persecuted by the powers of this world, Orthodoxy was preserved in monasteries far from the capital, in solitary cells, and in the brave and faithful hearts of its followers.

The Orthodox parents of Saint Stephen, grieved by the prevailing impiety, fled from Constantinople to Bithynia, and they gave over their sixteen-year-old son in obedience to the monk John, who labored in asceticism in a solitary place on the Mount of Saint Auxentius. Saint Stephen dwelt with the venerable monk John for more than fifteen years, devoting himself totally to this spirit-bearing Elder, and learning monastic activity from him. Here Stephen received the news that his father was dead, and his mother and sisters had been tonsured as nuns.

After a certain time his teacher John also died. With deep sorrow Saint Stephen buried his venerable body, and continued with monastic effort in his cave by himself. Soon monks began to come to the ascetic, desiring to learn from him the virtuous and salvific life, and a monastery was established, with Saint Stephen as the igumen. At forty-two years of age Stephen left the monastery he founded, and he went to another mountain, on whose summit he dwelt in deep seclusion in a solitary cell. But here also a community of monks soon gathered, seeking the spiritual guidance of Saint Stephen.

Leo the Isaurian was succeeded by Constantine Copronymos (741-775), a fiercer persecutor of the Orthodox, and an even more zealous iconoclast. The emperor convened an Iconoclast Council, attended by 358 bishops from the Eastern provinces. However, except for Constantine, the Archbishop of Constantinople, illegitimately raised to the patriarchal throne by the power of Copronymos, not one of the other patriarchs participated in the wicked doings of this Council, thus making it less likely to style itself as "ecumenical." This council of heretics, at the instigation of the emperor and the archbishop, described icons as idols, and pronounced an anathema on all who venerated icons in the Orthodox manner, and it described icon veneration as heresy.

Meanwhile, the monastery of Mount Auxentius and its igumen became known in the capital. They told the emperor about the ascetic life of the monks, about their Orthodox piety, about the igumen Stephen's gift of wonderworking, and of how Saint Stephen's fame had spread far beyond the region of the monastery, and that the name of its head was accorded universal respect and love. The saint's open encouragement of icon veneration and the implied rebuff to the persecutors of Orthodoxy within the monastery of Mount Auxentius especially angered the emperor. Archbishop Constantine realized that in the person of Saint Stephen he had a strong and implacable opponent of his iconoclastic intentions, and he plotted how he might draw him over to his side or else destroy him.

*(continue the Life of Martyr Stephen the New on page 4)*