

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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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, December 26, 2021 | 27th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity | Sunday After the
Nativity | Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the
King, and James the Brother of the Lord | Synaxis of the Theotokos

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

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

From Christmas Day until January 4, inclusive, there is a general dispensation from all fasting!

Saturday: January 1 – The Circumcision of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!
Saint Basil the Great! Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM**

Saturday: January 1 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: January 2 – Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Wednesday: January 5 - Eve of Theophany (Great Complines & Matins) with the
Blessing of Water Service at **6:00PM**

Thursday: January 6 – Feast of Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM**

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion (Tone 4 – Nativity)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shown to the world the light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

Troparion (Tone 2 – Righteous Ones)

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; / and thou gavest glory with the shepherds; / thou didst worship with the magi, / and didst receive the news from the angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Righteous Ones)

Today godly David is filled with joy; / Joseph and James offer praise. / The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. / They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, // and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Nativity)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. / Angels with shepherds glorify Him; / the Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Prokeimenon (Tone 2)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.
v. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Righteous Ones)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

Epistle Reading: Galatians 1:11-19 (Sunday After)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 2)

- v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Remember David, O Lord, and all his meekness. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

Gospel Reading: Matthews 2:13-23 (Sunday After)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

[Instead of "It is truly meet.." we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
 more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!
 I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:
 Heaven—the cave!
 The cherubic throne—the Virgin!
 The manger—the place where Christ lay,
 the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song!

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: Today's readings for this Sunday are:
 Epistle – Ephesians 6:10-17 and Gospel – Luke 18:18-27]*

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

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PARISHIONERS AND PARISH FRIENDS

The parish had a very successful *Saint Nicholas Fair* over the past few Sundays. Through your donations and purchases of crafts, baked goods, and handmade natural scented soaps, the Fair raised over \$2,200 as of last Sunday. In addition, the parish is grateful for your support of the *2021 Parish Christmas Card* which raised over \$275. Thank You all for your support towards the parish HVAC Project.

Also, because of your food and cleaning supply donations during the Advent Season, the Soap and Song Homeless Group and Food Pantry is well stocked for the Christmas and New Year Season. See pic below



Tonight, Sunday, December 26 at 7:00pm – Virtual Christmas Concert

Join other Orthodox Christians for an evening of song and celebration as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with a “Virtual” Christmas Concert.

Featuring Nativity Greetings, Hymns & Carols sung by Orthodox choirs from across the United States. Sponsored by The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America!

JOIN US on YOUTUBE – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t70ozTyk6ow>

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Newborn Zija Sabato offered by Robert Wanenchak
Melanie Albrecht on her birthday offered by Nina Patterson
Family, Friends and Melanie Albrecht offered by Daria LeRoy
Daniel Witiak offered by Peter Witiak
Safe travel for Anastasia and her unborn child along with Colin, Alex and Selena, Kenneth, Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Grace Corba offered by Robert Wanenchak
Grace Corba offered by David Pellack
Roger Currier offered by Melanie Albrecht
Grace Corba, Angelo, Lisa offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Grace Corba, Angelo Amorso, Lisa Colona offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/19/21:

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Please remember in your prayers:

- + Newly Departed Handmaiden of God Grace Corba (Dec 14)
- + Newly Departed Handmaiden of God Lisa Colona (Nov 23)

Anthony Colona; 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 December 19)

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$5 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 (December)

Week of Sun Dec 12 to Sat Dec 18

December Month to Date

Attendance:	45	44 (average)
<i>Eve of the Nativity Fri Dec 24: 16</i>		
<i>Feast of the Nativity Sat Dec 25: 35</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 1,716.00	\$ 6,348.70
Funds Out:	\$ 2,999.25	\$ 5,456.51
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,283.25)	\$ 892.19

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 26)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 2)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Michael Spack	To Be Determined
6 th Hour:	Simon Herbert	To Be Determined
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus and John Spack	To Be Determined

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Dec 26): No Team Scheduled (Christmas Weekend)
[Please Note: Coffee will be made & available...just no food]

Next Week (Jan 2): To Be Determined - No Team Scheduled as of this morning
[Please Note: Coffee will be made & available if no Team scheduled]

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning next Sunday, the Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams will no longer be listed in the bulletin. With Teams changing the week they're scheduled to host coffee hour, and in some cases, Teams not even available when scheduled, it's not the responsibility of this Bulletin to monitor the schedule changes or even schedule hosting Teams. If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour in the red 3 ring binder which is located on the display case outside of the office room.

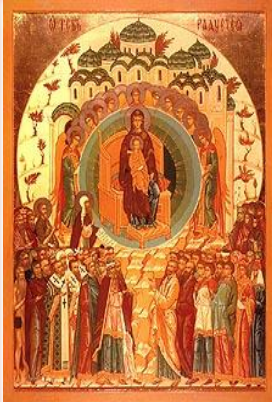
Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services & events in January 2022.

Wednesday, January 5 – Eve of Theophany Service - Great Complines | Matins (modified)
| Blessing of the Water at **6:00PM**

Thursday, January 6 – Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM**

Tuesday, January 11 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement and on the ZOOM Media platform. Social distancing will be adhered to.

The Date of the Annual Parish Meeting is still To Be Determined, but mostly likely it will be held on Sunday, January 30.



Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God [December 26th]

On the second day of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Church has established the celebration of the Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God. The name of today's festival signifies the gathering of the faithful in order to praise and glorify the All-Holy Virgin, who gave birth to our Savior.

On the first day of the Nativity of the Lord, the Church glorifies the Redeemer of the human race, and the blessed deliverance which freed the sinful world from the snares of the Enemy. On the second day of the Nativity of the Lord, manner, which was such a great event for our salvation, the Church calls upon us to honor the Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord, in an appropriate manner.

The day after many of the Church's Feast Days is called the Synaxis - such as the day after the Nativity of the Theotokos, when the righteous Joachim and Anna are commemorated; or the day following the Feast of Theophany, when we honor Saint John the Baptist, etc.

The Feast of the Synaxis of the Mother of God dates back to very ancient times. In the IV century, some Holy Fathers, such as Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus (May 12), were already preaching about it.

In the ancient Menaia, the Feast of the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos was called "the Nativity Gifts." This refers to the gifts which the Magi from the East brought to the newborn King of the Jews - the Divine Child Jesus. The Feast of the Synaxis of the Mother of God was also called "the Flight into Egypt."

On December 26, the early Church commemorated the Wise Men who came to worship the Savior, and the flight into Egypt, as well as the Synaxis of the Mother of God. That is why some icons of the Nativity of the Lord depict His Birth, the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, as well as the Flight into Egypt. Sometimes the inscription reads "The Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos."

Now, however, we commemorate "the Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthasar, and also the shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord" on the first day of the Nativity (December 25), but the Flight into Egypt is commemorated separately on December 26, the second day of the Nativity.

Before the massacre of the 14,000 Holy Innocents (December 29), an Angel warned Saint Joseph to take the Child and His Mother and flee to Egypt and to remain there until the Angel brought him word that it was safe for him to return to Nazareth, "for Herod will seek the child to destroy him" (Matthew 2:13).

In the icon of the Flight into Egypt there are mountains. The Virgin sits on a donkey with her Child, looking back at Joseph. He holds a staff, and his cloak is thrown over his shoulder. A young man (Tradition says this was Saint Joseph's son James, the Brother of the Lord) leads the donkey carrying a rush basket, and looks back at the Virgin. Behind them is a fortified town with idols toppling from the walls. This event was prophesied by Isaiah: "Behold, the Lord sits on a swift cloud, and shall come to Egypt, and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at His presence, and their heart shall faint within them" (Isaiah 19:1); and the Prophet Hosea alludes to it: "Out of Egypt have I called my Son" (Hosea 11:1). This is also mentioned in the Church's hymns.