

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
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** Serving the Orthodox Community in South Philadelphia for 110 years! **

Sunday, January 1, 2023 | 29th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Sunday Before the Theophany

The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia

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

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

Happy Civil New Year!

Bless the crown of the year with thy bounty! Glory to God for All Things!

Thursday: January 5 – Eve of Holy Theophany at **6:00PM** with
Great Complines | Matins | Great Blessing of the Water

Friday: January 6 – Holy Theophany at **10:00AM** with Festal Divine Liturgy

Saturday: January 7 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: January 8 – Afterfeast of the Theophany | Sunday After the Theophany.

Venerable George the Chozebite

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 1 – Circumcision)

Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Thy divine Spirit, / O Jesus, Thou didst will to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, thy Mother. / Therefore Thou wast circumcised as an eight-day-old Child. / Glory to Thy most gracious counsel; / glory to Thy dispensation; // glory to Thy condescension, O only Lover of man!

Troparion (Tone 1 – Saint Basil)

Thy proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / which was divinely taught by hearing thy voice. / Thou didst expound the nature of creatures / and didst ennoble the manners of men. / O venerable Father of royal priesthood, // entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 4 - Saint Basil)

Thou wast revealed as the sure foundation of the Church, / granting all mankind a lordship which cannot be taken away, // sealing it with thy precepts, O venerable Basil, revealer of heaven.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Circumcision)

The Lord of all accepts to be circumcised, / thus, as He is good, He excises the sins of mortal men. / Today He grants the world salvation, / while light-bearing Basil, high priest of our Creator, // rejoices in heaven as a divine initiate of Christ.

Prokeimenon (Tone 6 – Sunday Before and Circumcision)

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 1 – Saint Basil)

My mouth shall speak wisdom / the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday Before Theophany)

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us!. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Give ear, O shepherd of Israel, Thou Who leadest Joseph like a flock! Alleluia(3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday Before Theophany)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' " John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

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

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: / the assembly of angels and the race of men. / O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, / the glory of virgins, / from whom God was incarnate and became a Child – / our God before the ages. / He made thy body into a throne, / and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. // Glory to thee!

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 the Circumcision is as follows:
Epistle – Colossians 2:8-12 and Gospel - Luke 2:20-21, 40-52]*

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

Father Mark & Matushka Jan Kozak wish to thank you all for your prayers, kind thoughts, cards, and gifts for Christmas and for Matushka Jan's birthday. We rejoice together in the Birth of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. May God Grant Matushka Jan Many Happy, Healthy, and Blessed Years!

Thank You To The Parishioners of Holy Assumption

On behalf of the Monastery of St Mary Magdalene, Mother Catherine would like to extend their sincere gratitude for the parish's generous donation early last month of an entire pickup truck full of about some 300-400 pounds of various high-quality, non-perishable nutritious food items. These goods will be used to keep us well fed during the upcoming winter when it has already proven difficult to get out and shop. We are very touched by your generosity. Your love touches our hearts and reminds us that loving one another is what Christ has called us to do daily.

Also, please pray for my sister, Samantha Dawana Meyer. She was found unconscious and rushed to the hospital and ended up on life support. Seems she has the same type of cancer that claimed our mother. She is out of the woods for now, but it was touch and go for a few days around Christmas.



2023 Parish Officers

Parish Spiritual Leader: Father Mark Kozak
Parish President: Matthew Andrews (2022-2023) [2nd consecutive term on council]
Parish Vice President: Brett McKenna (2023-2024) [2nd consecutive term on council]
Parish Secretary: Natalie Patterson (2022-2023) [2nd consecutive term on council]
Parish Treasurer: Kenneth Kavalkovich (2023-2024) [3rd consecutive term on council]
Parish Trustee (Even Year): Tanya Krawchuk (2022-2023)
Parish Trustee (Odd Year): Reader Mark Klus (2023-2024)
Parish Immediate Past President: Peter Parsells

We would like to thank out-going council member Ronald Homa (trustee) for his time and work performed while serving on the parish council over the past few years.

Next year at the Fall General Parish Meeting, the positions of Parish President, Parish Secretary, and Parish Trustee (Even-Year) will be the only positions available to elect parish council officers for a two-year term.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and Parishioners offered by David Pellack
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Gerasimoff, Kavalkovich, Andrews, Coan, Jones Families offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Daniel Witiak offered by Peter Witiak
Catherine, Edward, Emily, Anna offered by Barbara Andrews
Patricia, Catherine, Levi, Anastasia, Colin, Alexander, Selena offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Family & Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Family and Friends offered by M/M Rick LeRoy
Michael & Mary Popelak and Mary Ann Brodie offered by DeVito Family
Albert Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Ronald Andrew Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Albert, Ronald, David, Joseph offered by Barbara Andrews
Anna Herbert, Michael Spack Sr. offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/24/22

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Mary Popelak offered by Andrew and Tracey DeVito & Family

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Michael Popelak offered by Andrew and Tracey DeVito & Family

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/25/22

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of John and Margaret Pellack offered by David Pellack

One Large Vigil Cross – Health of all Family Members offered by Anonymous

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Please remember in your prayers:

Elton Andrews; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; Dr. Gale Rutan; Joseph Rabik; Peter Witiak; 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. By the action taken at the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, October 10, 2021, 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 began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021.

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

Cash Flow Activity (December)

<u>Week of Sun Dec 18 to Sat Dec 24</u>		<u>December Month to Date</u>
Attendance:	43	39 (average)
<i>Christmas Eve (12/24)</i>	24	
Funds In:	\$ 5,624.93	\$12,030.93
Funds Out:	\$ 894.22	\$ 5,911.04
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 4,730.71	\$ 6,119.89

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 on ZOOM media platform.
- 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.
- Last Thursday of each month** – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Jan 1)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 8)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Michael Spack	Dr David Albrecht
6 th Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	Michael Wanenchak
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and Michael Spack	Dr David Albrecht

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which Team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside of the office room.

NOTE: The following Sundays are coffee hour bye-weeks where there is no team scheduled. There will be coffee available, just no food or meal:

TODAY, January 1 (New Year's Day)

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 and February 2023.

Tuesday, January 10 – Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform.

Thursday, January 19 - Book Club at 6:30pm on the ZOOM media platform (Please check your email Inbox (or Spam folder) from Monday, November 21 around 8:30PM for more details & viewing information). RESCHEDULED from Thursday January 26 due to the Diocesan Assembly

Thursday, January 26 and Friday January 27 - 59th Annual Diocesan Assembly at St Nicholas Church in Bethlehem PA

Sunday, January 29 – Annual Parish Meeting is tentative scheduled

Sunday, February 5 – Soup N’ Bowl Challenge

Sunday, February 19 – Meatfare Sunday [Roast Pork/Beef Dinner Planned

Sunday, February 26 – Forgiveness Sunday



The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [January 1st]

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 17:10-14 and Leviticus 12:3).

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how

faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics (Docetists) taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Col. 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of the Saint Sava Monastery (October 28 and July 13).

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Mt.1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Phil 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming -- remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

