

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, January 2, 2022 | 28th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Sunday Before the Theophany

Forefeast of the Theophany

+Repose of Venerable Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov (1833)

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!

Wednesday: Eve of Theophany (Great Complines & Matins) with the
Blessing of Water Service at **6:00PM**
[STRICT FAST DAY]

Thursday: Feast of Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM**
CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN!

Saturday: January 8 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

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

Tuesday: January 11 - Bible Study at **6:30PM** in the church basement and
on the ZOOM media platform. Social Distancing will be followed.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Forefeast)

Prepare, O Zebulon, / and adorn thyself, O Naphthali! / River Jordan, cease flowing, / and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! / Adam, rejoice with our first Mother, / and do not hide yourselves as ye did of old in Paradise; / for having seen you naked, / He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. // Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Saint Seraphim)

Thou didst love Christ from thy youth, O blessed one, / and, longing to work for Him alone, thou didst struggle in the wilderness in constant prayer and labor. / With penitent heart and great love for Christ thou wast favored by the Mother of God. / Therefore we cry to thee: // “Save us by thy prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father!”

Kontakion (Tone 3)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Saint Seraphim)

Forsaking the beauty as well as the corruption of this world, / thou didst settle in the monastery of Saróv, O Saint. / There thou didst live an angelic life, / becoming for many the way to salvation. / Therefore, Christ has glorified thee, O Father Seraphim, enriching thee with abundant healing and miracles. // So we cry to thee: Save us by thy prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Forefeast)

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: / “Do not be afraid to baptize me. // For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

Prokeimenon (Tone 6 – Sunday Before)

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 7 – Saint Seraphim)

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints

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

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. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 6]

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

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."

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: Today's readings for Saint Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov are:
Epistle – Galatians 5:22-6:2 and Gospel – Luke 6:17-23]*

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

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!

2022 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 Thursday, 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 increase in Covid Omicron & Delta variants!

AMAZON SMILE!

When ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

2022 Calendar Dates to Start Remembering

Sunday, January 30 – Synaxis of the Three Great Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom.

Sunday, February 13 – Publican and Pharisee (Lenten Triodion Begins)

Sunday, February 27 – Meatfare Sunday

Sunday, March 6 - Cheesefare Sunday (Forgiveness Sunday)

Monday, March 7 – Great Lent Begins

Sunday, April 17 – Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 24 – PASCHA

Sunday, June 12 – Pentecost

Monday, June 20 – Saints Peter and Paul Fast Begins (Length of Fast = 9 days)

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Daniel Witiak offered by Peter Witiak

Offered on Christmas Day (Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ)

Anastasia and her unborn child, Catherine, Patricia, Lucas, Scarlet, Elton, Gabriel, Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Family and Friends offered by M/M R LeRoy

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Offered on Christmas Day (Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ)

Koran Family offered by David Pellack
Peter and Helen Zuzulock offered by David Pellack
Family, Friends and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Angelo, Marc, Albert, Patrick, Marion, Helen, Anne Andrew offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/25 & 26/21:

One Large Votive Cross – Memory of Pellack & Zuzulock Families offered by Pellack & Walker Families

One Large Votive Cross – Memory of Sophie Herbert; Herbert Family; Macalush Family;
O’Shura Family; Ovington Family offered by M/M S Herbert

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed Handmaiden of God Grace Corba (Dec 14)

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 26)

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

Memory of Patricia Gerasimoff: Large Block – Edward Gerasimoff

Memory of Albert Kavalkovich: Large Block – Edward Gerasimoff

Memory of Richard Coan: Large Block – Edward Gerasimoff

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 19 to Sat Dec 25

December Month to Date

Attendance:	12/19=45 12/25=35	41 (average)
<i>Eve of the Nativity Fri Dec 24: 16</i>		
<i>Feast of the Nativity Sat Dec 25: 35</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 4,954.32 (& 12/25=\$2,089)	\$13,392.02
Funds Out:	\$ 229.89	\$ 5,686.40
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 4,724.43	\$ 7,705.62

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 2)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 9)</u>
3 rd Hour:	David Pellack	Michael Spack
6 th Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	Anthony Colona
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and Matthew Andrews	John Spack

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 in the white/clear 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**

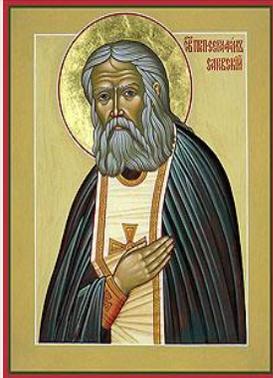
Thursday, January 6 – Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM**

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

End of January – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting! Date & Time TBA

Sunday, January 30 - Annual Parish Meeting to be held after Liturgy.

The Saint Blessed Olga of Alaska Book Club will resume meeting to discuss the book *Winter Pascha* this month. The first meeting back will take place on a Sunday after Liturgy and then future gathering will take place on Saturdays “BEFORE” Vespers. Please listen to the announcements today for the exact Dates and Times when the book club is meeting. Thank You!



Repose of Venerable Seraphim, Wonderworker or Sarov [January 2nd]

[Just a small excerpt of St. Seraphim's life]

Saint Seraphim of Sarov, a great ascetic of the Russian Church, was born on July 19, 1754. His parents, Isidore and Agathia Moshnin, were inhabitants of Kursk. Isidore was a merchant. Toward the end of his life, he began construction of a cathedral in Kursk, but he died before the completion of the work. His little son Prochorus, the future Seraphim, remained in the care of his widowed mother, who raised her son in piety.

After the death of her husband, Agathia Moshnina continued with the construction of the cathedral. Once she took the seven-year-old Prochorus there with her, and he fell from the scaffolding around the seven-storey bell tower. He should have been killed, but the Lord preserved the life of the future luminary of the Church. The terrified mother ran to him and found her son unharmed.

Young Prochorus, endowed with an excellent memory, soon mastered reading and writing. From his childhood he loved to attend church services, and to read both the Holy Scripture and the Lives of the Saints with his fellow students. Most of all, he loved to pray or to read the Holy Gospel in private.

At one point Prochorus fell grievously ill, and his life was in danger. In a dream the boy saw the Mother of God, promising to visit and heal him. Soon past the courtyard of the Moshnin home came a church procession with the Kursk Root Icon of the Sign (November 27). His mother carried Prochorus in her arms, and he kissed the holy icon, after which he speedily recovered.

While still in his youth Prochorus made his plans to devote his life entirely to God and to go to a monastery. His devout mother did not object to this and she blessed him on his monastic path with a copper cross, which he wore on his chest for the rest of his life. Prochorus set off on foot with pilgrims going from Kursk to Kiev to venerate the Saints of the Caves.

The Elder Dositheus (actually a woman, Daria Tyapkina), whom Prochorus visited, blessed him to go to the Sarov wilderness monastery, and there seek his salvation. Returning briefly to his parental home, Prochorus bid a final farewell to his mother and family. On November 20, 1778 he arrived at Sarov, where the monastery then was headed by a wise Elder, Father Pachomius. He accepted him and put him under the spiritual guidance of the Elder Joseph. Under his direction Prochorus passed through many obediences at the monastery: he was the Elder's cell-attendant, he toiled at making bread and prosphora, and at carpentry. He fulfilled all his obediences with zeal and fervor, as though serving the Lord Himself. By constant work he guarded himself against despondency (accidie), this being, as he later said, "the most dangerous temptation for new monks. It is treated by prayer, by abstaining from idle chatter, by strenuous work, by reading the Word of God and by patience, since it is engendered by pettiness of soul, negligence, and idle talk."