

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 23, 2022 | 31st Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Synaxis of the Holy Martyrs and Confessors of Russia
Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra, and Martyr Agathangelus
Venerable Mausimas the Syrian (4th 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: After Divine Liturgy at **12:00PM**, the 40th Day Panikhda service for William Koran.
- Thurs & Friday: The 58th Diocesan Assembly in Wilkes-Barre, PA
- Saturday: January 29 – Saint Blessed Olga book club to meet before Vespers at **2:30PM** and will continue discussing the book *Winter Pascha* by Father Thomas Hopko.
- Saturday: January 29 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: January 30 – Synaxis of the Three Great Hierarchs:
Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian & John Chrysostom
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
- Sunday: January 30 – Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy!

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 – 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 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 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 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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – New Martyrs of Russia)

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

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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)
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 are as follows:
Epistle – Romans 8:28-39 and Gospel – Luke 21:8-19]*

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 30, 2022 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 2022 budget, along with any other business that needs to be discussed. The election of the 2022 parish council officers took place during the Fall Parish meeting back in October 2021.

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!

Check your emails from January 3 and January 4 regarding the new Mask policy for our parish during services: Basically the only change is, **"All parishioners will wear Mask in church for the entire service, except when receiving communion!"** until further notice.

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!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/16/22:

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ The Archpriest John D. Bohush who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, January 21.
May His Memory Be Eternal! Vetchnaya Pamyat!

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

The newly baptized Elton David Andrews (January 22) and his parents David & Allison and his godparents.
May God Grant Elton and the Andrews Family Many Blessed Years!

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; and
all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of January 16)

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

Memory of Grace Corba: Block Donation – Vincent & Eleanor Avallone

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 (January)

<u>Week of Sun Jan 9 to Sat Jan 15</u>	<u>January Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 27	28 (average)
Funds In: \$ 4,920.66	\$ 8,418.53
Funds Out: \$ 1,814.34	\$11,882.82
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 3,106.32	(\$ 3,464.29)

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 23)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 30)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Dr. David Albrecht	John Spack
6 th Hour:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Matthew Andrews
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus and Michael Wanenchak	Sbdcn Daniel Kavalkovich and Daniel Herbert

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.

The Saint Blessed Olga of Alaska Book Club will now be meeting on Saturday afternoons “BEFORE” Vespers to continue discussing the book *Winter Pascha* by Father Thomas Hopko. The next book club meetings will take place on Saturdays from 2:30PM to 3:15PM on the following dates: January 29th, February 5th, and February 12th.

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

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

At this year’s Annual Parish Meeting, we will decide whether Soup ‘N Bowl VI Challenge will be held on Sunday, February 13, 2022. This will depend on the further outbreak of the Covid variant in our region and any restrictions from our local and state government authorities. If the event is held, we will try to limit the number of food entrants around 4 dishes and we will use the Sterno heating trays to keep the dishes hot!



New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia [January 23rd]

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 Mausimas the Syrian [January 23rd]

Saint Mausimas the Syrian lived in Syria, near the city of Cyrrhus. He voluntarily embraced poverty and devoted his life to the service of his neighbor. The doors of his hut were always open to anyone who had need of him.

In his hut there were two vessels: one with bread, and the other with oil. Anyone in need came to him and received the food from his hand. These vessels never became empty. The saint died at the end of the fourth century.

Commemoration of Holy Fathers of the 6th Ecumenical Council [Jan 23rd]

The Sixth Ecumenical Council was convened by the emperor Constantine Pogonatos (668-685) at Constantinople in the year 681 to combat the Monothelite heresy. At it 171 holy Fathers were present, who affirmed the doctrine of two wills in Jesus Christ, the divine and the human.

This Council was followed by another Council in the year 691, called the Council in Trullo. This Council addressed certain practical matters, and 102 canons were promulgated.