

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: <https://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, February 27, 2022 | Meatfare Sunday

Tone 3 – Sunday of the Last Judgement
+ Repose of Saint Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn (1915)
Venerable Procopius the Confessor of Decapolis (8th c.)

Weekly Schedule

Today: Annual Roast Beef and Pork Luncheon after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement

Saturday: March 5 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: March 6 – Forgiveness Sunday | Cheesefare Sunday
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: March 6 – Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately to be served after Divine Liturgy

The 2022 Lenten Schedule will be made available in the bulletin, posted in the vestibule, on the bulletin boards in the church basement, on the parish website, and on the parish social media platforms once they are finalized and by next Sunday

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 1 – Saint Raphael)

Thy proclamation has gone out through North America, / calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the Church. / Hearing thy voice, they respond to thy teaching, / and through thy writings thou didst instruct them in piety. / Now guided by thine example, O Father Raphael, / we sing hymns of praise to Christ our God: / “Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted thee a ^crown! // Glory to Him Who, through thee, grants healing to all!

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Saint Raphael)

Thou wast a guardian and a defender of the Church’s teaching, / thou didst protect thy flock from false doctrines and confirmed them in the true faith! / O holy Father Raphael, son of Syria and glory of North America, // always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

Kontakion (Tone 1 – Lenten Triodion)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble, / and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; / the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Great is our Lord and abundant in power; / His understanding is beyond measure!
v. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 1 – Saint Raphael)

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

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgement. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 2]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?' 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

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 Raphael of Brooklyn are as follows:
Epistle – Hebrews 13:17-21 and Gospel –John 10:9-16]*

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

Chandelier Cleaning – Saturday, March 26, 2022 – 9:00AM!

We are asking for parishioners to assist with the cleaning and polishing of the chandelier. The chandelier has been cleaned only three times over the past 50 years with the last time occurring around 20 years ago (in preparation for the parish's 90th Anniversary). We need as many of our parishioners to assist with this project in order to perform the task effectively, efficiently, and within a timely matter on that date...essentially, the more hands we have, the quicker the job will be performed. Also, this cleaning will occur during Lent, where we as Orthodox Christian should be giving of our time and talents to worthy causes such as caring for our Lord's house.

A sign up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board above the food utensil table in the church basement so we know how many parishioners to expect and plan accordingly. We will also require some to provide plastic dishwashing pans, terrycloth towels, containers of glass cleaner, bottles of brass cleaner, and polishing rags. Hope you can join us and see you on Saturday, March 26 beginning at **9:00AM!**

In case of inclement weather on that Saturday, the cleaning date will then be rescheduled on a Saturday AFTER Pascha due to scheduling conflicts during Lent!

Pascha Basket Candy Sale – Fundraiser for the HVAC Project

Orders for handmade chocolate candy bars for your Pascha baskets have begun and the final day for orders to be taken is Sunday, April 3, 2022. These orders will be filled and delivered on the following dates: March 13, April 3rd and 10th. The price for each bar is \$5.00. Each bar is approximately 4 ounces. There are four different designs of chocolate candy bars to choose from: two rabbits, Noah's ark, hydrangea, or love birds.

Please see Matushka Janine for samples and for ordering
Remember, homemade chocolate candy bars for sale will be by Pre-Orders Only!!!

CARDS FOR OUR TROOPS! BRING IN YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS!

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!

Final House Blessing date is tomorrow February 28!!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Walker Family offered by David Pellack
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Helen Herbert, Reader Leonty Macalush offered by M/M Herbert
Archpriest John Bohush offered by M/M Herbert
Emelie Albrecht, Mary Spack offered by Nina Patterson

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 2/20/22:

One Small Votive Vigil Cross – Helen Herbert and Reader Leonty Macalush offered by M/M Herbert

One Small Votive Vigil Cross – Archpriest John Bohush offered by M/M Herbert

#####

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!

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!

#####

Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of February 20)

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

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – SmSgt Andrew and Tracy DeVito

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 (February)

Week of Sun Feb 13 to Sat Feb 20

February Month to Date

Attendance:	36	35 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,623.00	\$ 3,458.87
Funds Out:	\$ 2,450.00	\$ 8,530.19
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 827.00)	(\$ 5,071.32)

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 (Feb 27)</u>	<u>Next Week (Mar 6)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Anthony Colona	Michael Wanenchak
6 th Hour:	Dr. David Albrecht	David Pellack
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus and Daniel Herbert	Sbdcn Daniel Kavalkovich and Michael 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 February/March 2022.

Saturday, March 5 - The Blessed Mother Olga of Alaska Book Club will meet on Saturday afternoons “BEFORE” Vespers from **2:30PM to 3:15PM**. They will be discussing the book: *Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* by Father Alexander Schmemmann.

Sunday, March 6 - **Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately following the Divine Liturgy.** The parish traditionally serves this vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading “Vouchsafe, O Lord”) that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!

Monday, March 7 – Beginning of Great Lenten Fast

Sunday, March 13 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, March 15 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement and on the ZOOM Media platform. Social distancing will be adhered to.
[PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE TO THIRD TUESDAY DUE TO LENT]

Sunday, April 3 – Our parish will be hosting the Lenten Mission Service!!



Sunday of the Last Judgement, Meatfare Sunday [February 27th]

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also

expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

