

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> 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

\* Serving the Orthodox Community in South Philadelphia for 110 years! \*

### Sunday, January 15, 2023 | 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Venerable Paul of Thebes (341) and  
Venerable John Calabytes (“the Hut-dweller”) (5<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Venerable Monk-Martyr Pansophius of Alexandria (ca. 249-251)

#### V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020  
Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952  
Email: [mwkoczak@gmail.com](mailto:mwkoczak@gmail.com)

Deacon – Michael McCartney      Choir Director – Nina Patterson  
Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich      Reader – Mark Klus  
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

### Weekly Schedule

Thursday: January 19 – Blessed Olga of Alaska Book Club at **6:30PM**  
on the ZOOM media platform **ONLY!!!**  
*RESCHEDULED from Thursday, Jan. 26 due to Diocesan Assembly*

Saturday: January 21 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: January 22 – New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**  
*Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Thursday: January 26 – 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Assembly at Saint Nicholas Church  
in Bethlehem, PA

Friday: January 27 – 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Assembly at Saint Nicholas Church  
in Bethlehem, PA

## 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 – Saints)**

O God of our Fathers, / always act with kindness towards us; / take not Thy mercy from us, / but guide our lives in peace // through the prayers of the venerable Paul and John!

### **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 2 - Saint John)**

Longing for poverty in imitation of Christ, / thou didst abandon thy parents' wealth, O wise Father John; / grasping the Gospel in thy hands, thou didst follow Christ God, // unceasingly praying for us all.

### **Kontakion (Tone 3 – Saint Paul)**

Today we gather and praise thee with hymns / as an unwaning ray of the spiritual Sun; / for thou dost shine on those in the darkness of ignorance, / leading all ^mankind to the heights, // venerable Paul, adornment of Thebes and firm foundation of the fathers and ascetics.

### **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!

### **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)



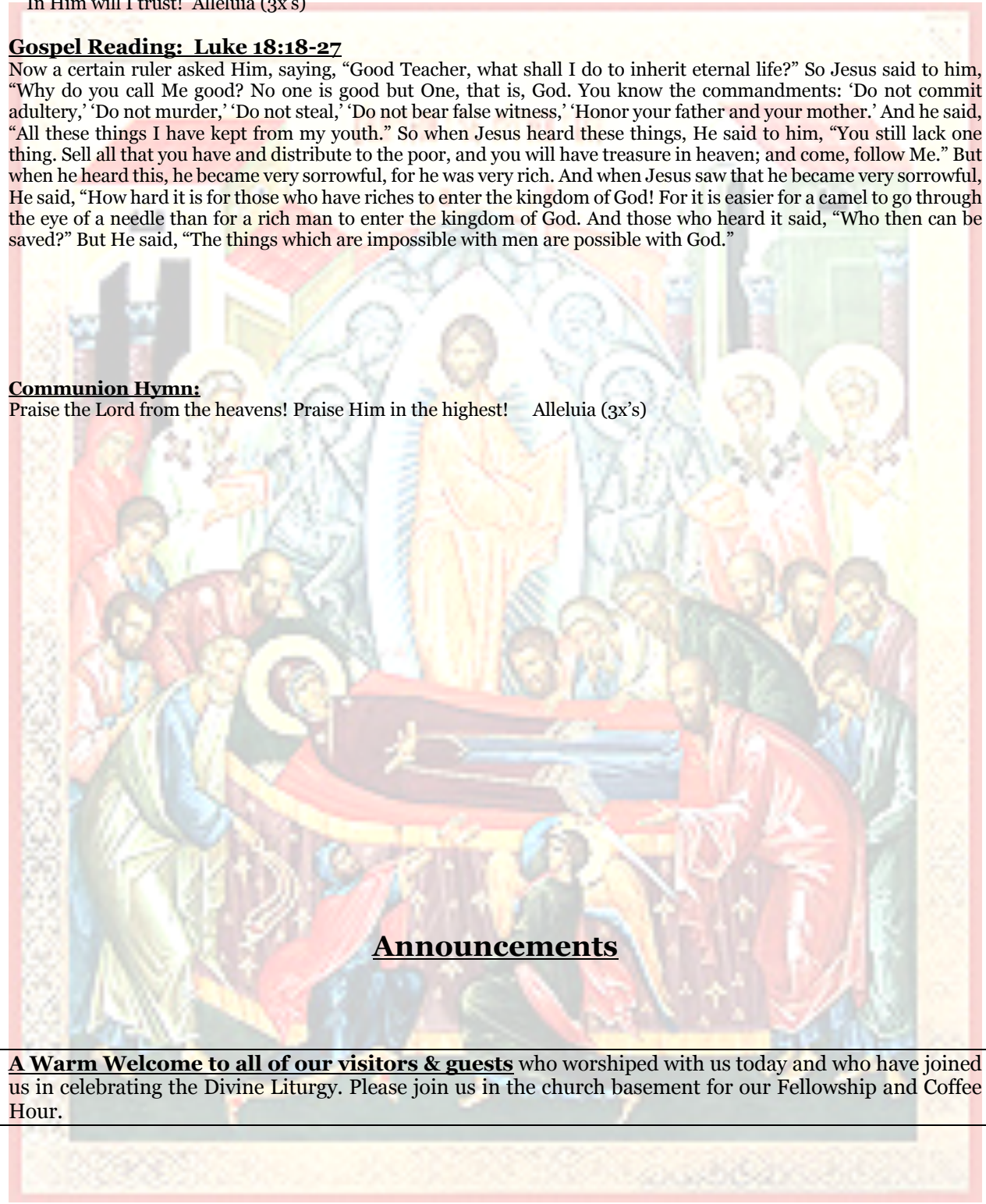
- v. He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust! Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27**

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)



**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

### **2023 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 Friday, 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.

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### **Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #2 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 2023 budget, along with any other business that needs to be discussed. The election of the 2023 parish council officers took place during the Fall Parish meeting back in October 2022.

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### **Cards for Our Troops! Save your Christmas Cards!**

Please save your Christmas cards from this past year. Matushka Janine is collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for this upcoming year. We 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!

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### **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!

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**Please Note:** If you brought items for the Saint Nicholas Fair last month & they were unsold, **Please...Please**, pick them up & bring them back with you. The parish is not collecting these items and the parish no longer has available space to store your items. We need to organize the church basement for future 2023 activities. 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:**

Anna and Michael Zuzulock offered by David Pellack

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 1/8/23**

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Margaret Perzsel offered by  
Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine McCartney

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Steven Perzsel offered by  
Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine McCartney

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Justine Anna and her unborn child; 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/January)**

Week of Sun Jan 1 to Sat Jan 7

December Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	23	40 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,290.00	\$15,703.17
Funds Out:	\$ 9,942.10	\$10,392.04
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	<b>(\$ 8,652.10)</b>	\$ 5,311.13

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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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- Last Thursday of each month** – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

### **Readers Schedule:**

	<u>Today (Jan 15)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 22)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	Matthew Andrews	Michael Wanenchak
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Michael Spack	Daniel Herbert
Epistle:	Matthew Andrews	Reader Mark Klus and Michael Wanenchak

### **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.

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**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.**

**Sunday, January 29** – Annual Parish Meeting scheduled.

**Sunday, January 29** – The Installation of the 2023 parish council will be conducted immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

**Sunday, February 5** – Soup N’ Bowl VII Challenge will be held in the church basement after Divine Liturgy.

We have two electric burners to be used to keep Soup warm and the remaining dishes we will use the Sterno heating trays to keep the dishes hot! Again, we will try to limit the number of food entrants between 4 to 6 dishes.

**Sunday, February 19** – Meatfare Sunday and Annual Roast Pork / Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

The planning of organizing this luncheon will begin on Sunday, January 29. We will need volunteers to assist in providing dishes along with setting up before and cleaning up after the luncheon. Please see a parish council member for more details on how you can assist in this event!

**Sunday, February 26** – Forgiveness Sunday



## **Venerable Paul of Thebes** [January 15<sup>th</sup>]

Saint Paul of Thebes was born in Egypt around 227 in the Thebaid of Egypt. Left orphaned, he suffered many things from a greedy relative over his inheritance. During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Decius (249-251), Saint Paul learned of his brother-in-law's insidious plan to deliver him into the hands of the persecutors, and so he fled the city and fled into the wilderness.

Settling into a mountain cave, Saint Paul dwelt there for ninety-one years, praying incessantly to God both day and night. He sustained himself on dates and bread, which a raven brought him, and he clothed himself with palm leaves.

Saint Anthony the Great (January 17), who also lived as an ascetic in the Thebaid desert, had a revelation from God concerning Saint Paul. Saint Anthony thought that there was no other desert dweller such as he. Then God said to him, "Anthony, there is a servant of God more excellent than you, and you should go and see him."

Saint Anthony went into the desert and came to Saint Paul's cave. Falling to the ground before the entrance to the cave, he asked to be admitted. The Elders introduced themselves, and then embraced one another. They conversed through the night, and Saint Anthony revealed how he had been led there by God. Saint Paul disclosed to Saint Anthony that for sixty years a bird had brought him half a loaf of bread each day. Now the Lord had sent a double portion in honor of Saint Anthony's visit. The next morning, Saint Paul spoke to Anthony of his approaching death, and instructed him to bury him. He also asked Saint Anthony to return to his monastery and bring back the cloak he had received from Saint Athanasius. He did not really need a garment, but wished to depart from his body while Saint Anthony was absent.

As he was returning with the cloak, Saint Anthony beheld the soul of Saint Paul surrounded by angels, prophets, and apostles, shining like the sun and ascending to God. He entered the cave and found Abba Paul on his knees with his arms outstretched. Saint Anthony mourned for him, and wrapped him in the cloak. He wondered how he would bury the body, for he had not remembered to bring a shovel. Two lions came running from the wilderness and dug a grave with their claws.

Saint Anthony buried the holy Elder, and took his garment of palm leaves, then he returned to his own monastery. Saint Anthony kept this garb as a precious inheritance, and wore it only twice a year, on Pascha and Pentecost.

Saint Paul of Thebes died in the year 341, when he was 113 years old. He did not establish a single monastery, but soon after his end there were many imitators of his life, and they filled the desert with monasteries. Saint Paul is honored as the first desert-dweller and hermit.

In the twelfth century Saint Paul's relics were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the Peribleptos monastery of the Mother of God, on orders of the emperor Manuel (1143-1180). Later, they were taken to Venice, and finally to Hungary, at Ofa. Part of his head is in Rome.