

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

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

Sunday, February 12, 2023 | 35th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Saint Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381)

Venerable Mary (who was called Marinus), and her father, Venerable Eugene, at Alexandria

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020

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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

Throughout the following week there is a general dispensation
from all fasting! (February 4, 2023 to February 14, 2023)

Tuesday: February 14 – Bible Study at **6:30PM** on
the ZOOM media platform **ONLY!!!**

Saturday: February 18 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: February 19 – Sunday of the Last Judgment

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. / And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; / receive me as a penitent, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 2)

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.
v. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 2)

- v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!' 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

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. Final House Blessing date is Sunday, February 26!!

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!

AMAZON SMILE will be discontinued by Monday, February 20, 2023!

Please pick up and bring back with you any unsold items you brought for the Saint Nicholas Fair in December. The parish is not collecting these items because we no longer has available space to store your items. We need to organize the church basement for future 2023 activities. Thank You!!!

40 Days for Life Spring Vigil – February 22 to April 2

The campaign is a peaceful vigil. They are not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a peaceful physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves. Please visit their website: <https://www.40daysforlife.com> for a campaign location near your area.

Another Successful Soup N' Bowl Event Held Last Sunday

Thank you to the 5 parishioners who prepared and all of those who thoroughly enjoyed the tasty and delicious soups/stews/chili last week during Soup N' Bowl VII. Once again, we had another first-place tie, this time between Christina Andrews and Matushka Janine McCartney. Heading towards the second place voting; Christna just edged out Matushka Janine by a single vote. Congratulations to Christina and the rest of the participants: Catherine Kavalkovich, Natalie Nedbal, & Nina Patterson.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Justine McCann offered by Nina Patterson
Daniel Witiak offered by his father Pete Witiak
Ashley and her baby offered by Daria LeRoy
Bailey Murphy offered by the Herbert Family
Catherine Kavalkovich offered by the Herbert Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Mary Spack offered by Melanie Albrecht
Emelie Albrecht offered by Melanie Albrecht

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 2/5/23

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Please remember in your prayers:

Justine & John McCann; Elton Andrews; Catherine Kavalkovich; 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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2023 Parish Community Projects – Food Drive Donations

Throughout the 2023 calendar year, one of the parish community projects will be accepting donations of both Shop Rite gift cards and food items for our very own Mother Catherine and the nuns at Saint Mary Magdelene Monastery in upstate Pennsylvania. We all go food shopping and throughout the year if you can remember to pick up one or two items each trip for this food drive, it will be much appreciated. Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine will be delivering the food to Mother Catherine once a month. They will also be taking her shopping. Food collection bins will be made available for your donations. Please consider purchasing Shop Rite gift cards from David Pellack and then give them to Matushka Janine so they can be provided to Saint Mary Magdelene Monastery. Please consider a special emphasis on donating protein-based items such as peanut butter, cans of tuna, cans of fruits and vegetables and gluten free items.

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 (January/February)

<u>Week of Sun Jan 29 to Sat Feb 4</u>	<u>January Month (Unaudited)</u>	
Attendance:	43	32 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 5,341.27	\$22,801.27
Funds Out:	\$ 1,299.38	\$12,624.04
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 4,041.89	\$10,177.23

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 (Feb 12)</u>	<u>Next Week (Feb 19)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Daniel Herbert	Simon Herbert
6 th Hour:	Matthew Andrews	Sbdcn Daniel Kavalkovich
Epistle:	Daniel Herbert	Simon 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 on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder 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 2023.

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

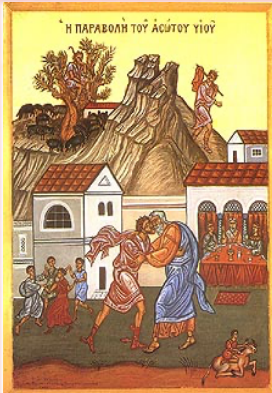
The planning of organizing this luncheon has begun. We will need volunteers to assist in providing dishes along with setting up before and cleaning up after the luncheon. Please see a parish council member for more details on how you can assist in this event! A sign-up sheet is located in the church basement on the utensil/plate table!

Thursday, February 23 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform.

Sunday, February 26 - 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!

Sunday, March 5, 2023 – Vesper Mission Service – Sunday of Orthodoxy

Saint John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church * 237 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1292 * Phone: 215.563.0979 * Vesper Service begins at **4:00PM**



Sunday of the Prodigal Son [February 12th]

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness

We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

