

## 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, June 25, 2023 | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 2 – Afterfeast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Virgin Martyr Febronia of Nisibis (ca. 304)

All Saints of Britain and Ireland

### **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**

Thursday: June 29 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Feast of the Holy Glorious Leaders of the Apostles Peter and Paul

Thursday: June 29 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at **6:30PM** on the ZOOM media platform **ONLY!!!**

Saturday: July 1 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: July 2 – Placing of the Honorable Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos at Blachernae  
Reading of Hours – 8:30am  
Divine Liturgy – **9:00am [SUMMER HOURS!]**  
*Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Tuesday: July 4 – Independence Day!! God Bless America!!!

## 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!”

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – Saint John the Baptist)**

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, / although we cannot praise thee worthily, / we honor thee in love at thy nativity, / for by it thou hast ended thy father’s silence and thy mother’s barrenness, // proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – Virgin Martyr Febronia)**

Thy lamb Febronia calls out to Thee, O Jesus, in a loud voice: / “I love Thee, my Bridegroom, and in seeking Thee I endure suffering. / In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in Thee, / and I died so that I might live with Thee. / Accept me as a pure sacrifice, / for I have offered myself in love.” // Through her prayers save our souls, since Thou art merciful!

### **Kontakion (Tone 2)**

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

### **Kontakion (Tone 3 – Saint John the Baptist)**

Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ’s Forerunner, / who is the fulfillment of every prophecy; / for in the Jordan, / when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the Prophets, // he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.

### **Kontakion (Tone 6 – Virgin Martyr Febronia)**

“Most sweet Jesus, my Bridegroom, / it is not hard for me to follow Thee,” cried Febronia, / “the sweetness of Thy love gives wings of hope to my soul, / the beauty of Thy mercy has sweetened my heart; / may I drain the cup of sufferings in imitation of Thee, / so that Thou mayest count me worthy to be among the wise virgins: those who dance with Thee in Thy bridal chamber.” / Therefore, venerable passion-bearer, as we honor the struggles of thy labors, we entreat thee: // “Pray that we not find the doors of the bridal chamber locked to us!”

### **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: Romans 5:1-10**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

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)

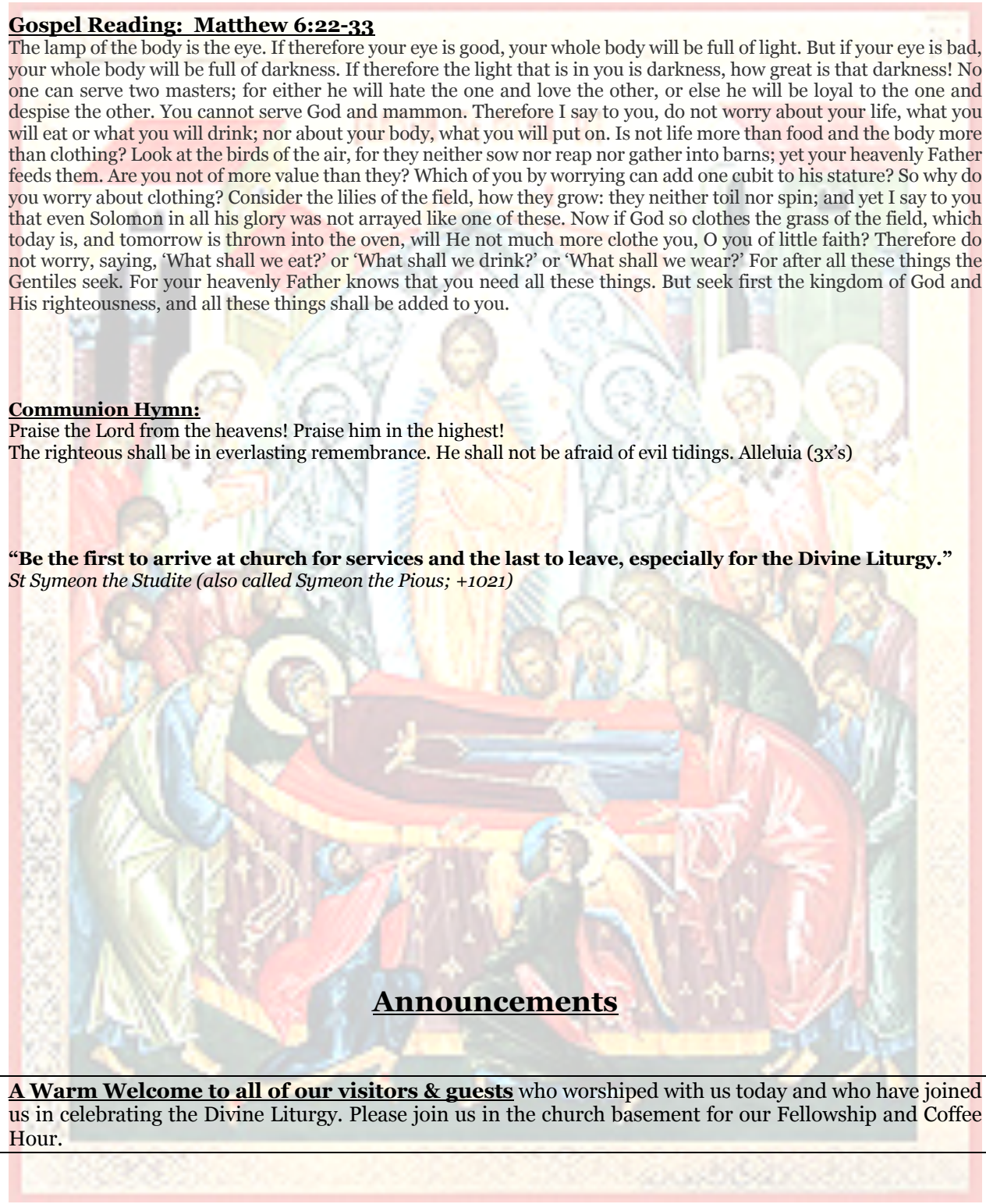
**Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:22-33**

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings. Alleluia (3x's)

**“Be the first to arrive at church for services and the last to leave, especially for the Divine Liturgy.”**  
*St Symeon the Studite (also called Symeon the Pious; +1021)*



**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

### **Votive Vigil Cross Candles Scheduling**

We are scheduling to have the votive vigil cross candles lit for the major feast day services and federal designated government holidays during the spring/summer season. There will be a sign-up sheet located at the candle desk in the Vestibule. Either 1 Large or 2 Small candles per each votive vigil cross candles can be reserved. As of this morning, the following dates and cross sizes are available:

- \* Independence Day (Sunday, July 2 Liturgy) = Both crosses are available
- \* Transfiguration of our Lord (Sunday, August 6) = Both crosses are available
- \* Dormition of the Holy Theotokos (Tuesday, August 15) = Both crosses are available

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### ***[...continued from last page - Virgin Martyr Febronia of Nisibis...]***

Among the crowd was the nun Thomais, who afterwards recorded Saint Febronia's martyrdom in detail, and also her student Hieria. She came forth out of the crowd and in the hearing of all reproached Selinus for his boundless cruelty. He gave orders to arrest her, but learning that Hieria was of illustrious standing whom he could not readily subject to torture, he said, "By your speech you have brought on Febronia even greater torment." Finally, they beheaded the holy Martyr Febronia.

Departing the place of execution, Lysimachus wept and withdrew to his quarters. Selinus made ready to eat, but he was not able to take food, and went off to the quiet of his own chambers. Suddenly, he became like one deranged. Looking up to the heavens, he raved and bellowed like a bull, then fell down and struck his head on a marble column and died. When Lysimachus learned of this, he said, "Great is the God of the Christians, Who has avenged Febronia's blood, so unrighteously shed!" He prepared a coffin, placed the martyr's body in it, and took it to the convent.

Abbess Bryaena fell senseless, seeing the mutilated remains of Saint Febronia. Later, she recovered her senses and gave orders to open the convent gates so that all would be able to come and venerate the holy martyr and glorify God Who had given her such endurance in suffering for Christ. Lysimachus and Primus renounced their idol worship and accepted both Baptism and monasticism. Hieria gave her wealth to the convent and petitioned Abbess Bryaena to accept her at the convent in place of Saint Febronia.

Every year, on the day of the martyric death of Saint Febronia, a solemn feast was celebrated at the convent. During the time of the all-night Vigil the nuns always saw Saint Febronia, at her usual place in church. From the relics of Saint Febronia occurred numerous miracles and healings. The Life of Saint Febronia was recorded by the nun Thomais, an eyewitness to her deeds.

In the year 363 the relics of Saint Febronia were transferred to Constantinople. Soon after the death of Saint Febronia, Saint James the Bishop of Nisibis (January 13) built a church and transferred into it a portion of the of the holy martyr's relics.

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### **Delaware Dining Out – Summer 2023 – Taco Grande in Wilmington, DE**

The parish will resume its parish summer outing with its dining out in Delaware on a Sunday afternoon sometime this summer. If interested in attending and enjoying an afternoon at the Taco Grande with fellow parishioners, please contact Matushka Jan Koczak, who is organizing this outing event for the parish. Thank You!

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Jane H offered by Nina Patterson  
Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich  
Father's Day, Norman, Kenneth, Matthew, Christopher, David, Ronald Jr.  
offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Ronald, Albert, Vito, David, Daniel, William, Charles, John, Marc Sr.  
offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 6/18/23**

Two Small Vigil Crosses – Memory of their father Andrew Gerasimoff  
offered by his children, the Gerasimoff sibilings  
and family members

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Infant child Cuthbert James Stafford (born May 5) and his parents Jerome & Darcy and big brothers Elias, Moses, Basil. May God Grant Cuthbert and the Stafford Family Many Healthy and Blessed Years!

Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; 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 (June)

<u>Week of Sun Jun 11 to Sat Jun 17</u>	<u>June Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 34	37 (average)
Funds In: \$ 2,842.11	\$ 4,202.24
Funds Out: \$ 1,786.52	\$ 4,892.49
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 1,055.59	(\$ 690.25)

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 (June 25)</u>	<u>Next Week (July 2)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	Michael Wanenchak	Daniel Herbert
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Matthew Andrews	Reader Mark Klus
Epistle:	Michael Wanenchak	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 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 June/July 2023.**

**Thursday, June 29** – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Feast of the Holy Glorious Leaders of the Apostles Peter and Paul.

**Thursday, June 29** – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at **6:30PM** on ZOOM media platform **ONLY!**

**Tuesday, July 4** – Independence Day! God Bless America!!

**Sunday, July 9** – Annual School Backpack Program Begins! The parish will begin accepting school supply donations on this date.

**Tuesday, July 11** – Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform **ONLY!**

**Dining Out in Delaware – Summer 2023** – Taco Grande, Wilmington, DE  
Exact Date is Still Yet To Be Determined. Check your emails & the bulletin for further updates and information.

Father Mark will be away on Sunday, July 16 and on Sunday, July 30. A Readers Service will be served by Deacon Michael on both Sundays.



## Virgin Martyr Febronia of Nisibis

[June 25<sup>th</sup>]

The Virgin Martyr Febronia suffered during the reign of Diocletian (284-305). She was raised at a monastery in the city of Sivapolis (Assyria). The head of the women's monastery was the abbess Bryaena, the aunt of Saint Febronia. Being concerned about her niece's salvation, she assigned her a stricter form of life than the other nuns. According to their monastic rule, on Fridays the sisters put aside their other duties and spent the whole day in prayer and the reading of Holy Scripture. The abbess usually assigned the reading to Saint Febronia.

News of her pious life spread throughout the city. The illustrious young widow Hieria, a pagan, began to visit her, and under the influence of her guidance and prayer she accepted holy Baptism, bringing her parents and kinsfolk to the Christian Faith.

Diocletian sent a detachment of soldiers to Assyria under the command of Lysimachus, Selinus and Primus for the destruction of Christians. Selenos, the uncle of Lysimachus, was noted for his fierce attitude against Christians, but Lysimachus was of a different frame of mind from him, since his mother had sought to inspire love for the Christian faith in her son, and she had died a Christian. Lysimachus had discussed with his kinsman Primus how it would be possible to deliver Christians from the hands of the torturer. When the detachment of soldiers approached the convent, its inhabitants hid. There remained only the abbess Bryaena, her helper Thomais and Saint Febronia, who was seriously ill at the time.

It grieved the abbess terribly that her niece might fall into the hands of the torturers, who might defile her. She prayed fervently that the Lord would preserve her and strengthen her in the confession of Christ the Savior. Selinus gave orders to bring him all the nuns of the convent. Primus with the detachment of soldiers found no one, except the two old women and Saint Febronia. He regretted that they had not hidden, and he suggested to the nuns that they flee. But the nuns decided not to leave the place of their labors and they entrusted themselves to the will of the Lord.

Primus told Lysimachus about the particular beauty of Saint Febronia and advised him to take her for himself. Lysimachus said that he would not seduce a virgin dedicated to God, and he asked Primus to hide the other nuns somewhere so that they would not fall into the hands of Selinus. One of the soldiers overheard the conversation and told Selinus. They led Saint Febronia off to the military commander with her hands bound and a chain around her neck. Selinus urged her to deny Christ, promising her honors, rewards, and marriage with Lysimachus. The holy virgin firmly and fearlessly answered that she had an Immortal Bridegroom, and she would not exchange Him for any mortal man. Selinus subjected her to fierce torture. The saint prayed, "My Savior, do not abandon me in this terrible hour!"

They beat the martyr for a long time, and blood flowed from her wounds. In order to intensify the suffering of Saint Febronia, they tied her to a tree and set a fire under it. The tortures were so inhuman, that the people began to demand an end to the torture, since there was no confession of guilt by the girl. Selinus continued to mock and jeer at the martyr, but Saint Febronia became silent. Because of weakness she was unable to utter a word. In a rage Selinus gave orders to tear out her tongue, smash her teeth, and finally, to cut off both hands and feet. The people were unable to bear such a horrid spectacle and they left the scene of the torture, cursing Diocletian and his gods.

***[...continue reading on page 4 of this week's bulletin...]***