

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

### Sunday, July 16, 2023 | 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils  
Hieromartyr Athenogenes, Bishop of Heracleopolis, and his ten disciples (ca. 311).

#### 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: A Readers Service will be held along with the offering of Holy Communion.

Thursday: July 20 – Holy Glorious, Prophet Elijah

Saturday: July 22 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: July 23 – Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and 13 others in Lycia  
Reading of Hours – 8:30am  
Divine Liturgy – **9:00am [SUMMER HOURS!]**  
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Thursday: July 27 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at **6:30PM** on the ZOOM media platform  
**ONLY!!! PLEASE NOTE: POSTPONED TO A FUTURE DATE TO BE DETERMINED! FATHER MARK WILL BE AWAY!**

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 5)**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

### **Troparion (Tone 8 – Holy Fathers)**

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God! / Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. / Through them Thou hast guided us to the true Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

### **Kontakion (Tone 5)**

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, / resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 8 – Holy Fathers)**

The Apostles’ preaching and the Fathers’ doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // it defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 5)**

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!  
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

### **Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Songs of the Three Holy Children)**

Blessed are Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

### **Epistle Reading: Romans 12:6-14**

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its settings. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 1]

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:1-8**

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

**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: Today's readings for the Holy Fathers are as follows:  
Epistle – Hebrews 13:7-16 and Gospel - John 17:1-13]*

**"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

Now that the Fourth of July is upon us, it is time for the next great American event...

### **“Getting ready to go Back to School” – Annual Backpack Program**

The parish will accept monetary donations to purchase school supplies to fulfill **12** backpacks for this upcoming school year. The parish **has already received donations of the backpacks themselves**. It is the school supplies that we are looking for donations. We are looking to raise **\$500** to purchase enough school supplies to fill the backpacks.

Last Date the parish will be accepting monetary donations to purchase school supply items for the backpacks is **Sunday, July, 30**. Please see Matushka Janine McCartney when making a donation to this program or for more information. Thank You!

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

We are scheduling to have the votive vigil cross candles lit for the major feast day services during the 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:

- \* Transfiguration of our Lord (Sunday, August 6) = One Large cross is available
- \* Sunday, August 13 = One Large cross is available
- \* Dormition of the Holy Theotokos (Tuesday, August 15) = Both crosses are available

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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!

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### **Revised Version of “Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs” Released**

The Department of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) has released a partially revised version of “Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs”. As reported earlier, the initial version of Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs, compiled by the Departments of the OCA, was released. The announcement generated thousands of downloads across the English-speaking world. As stated in the document, newer versions supersede older versions. We urge readers and catechists to use the latest versions available in their instructions. The 271 page .pdf file link to the manual is as follows: <https://www.oca.org/cdn/PDFs/2023-0609-EOCB.pdf>

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Cuthbert James Stafford offered by David Pellack  
Mary Herbert offered by the Herbert Family  
Mary Pellack offered by David Pellack  
Daria LeRoy on her birthday offered by her sister Nina Patterson

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Ronald "Buddy" Kavalkovich offered by Emily Gerasimoff and James & Sharon Orr

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 7/9/23**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

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 (July)**

<u>Week of Sun Jul 2 to Sat Jul 8</u>	<u>July Month to date</u>
Attendance: 41	41 (average)
Funds In: \$ 2,092.00	\$ 2,092.00
Funds Out: \$ 1,975.44	\$ 3,517.11
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 116.56	(\$ 1,425.11)

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 (July 16)</u>	<u>Next Week (July 23)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	David Pellack	Matthew Andrews
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Simon Herbert	Daniel Herbert
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich David Pellack	Matthew Andrews

### **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 July 2023.**

**During the Month of July – Annual School Backpack Program!** The parish will begin accepting monetary donations for school supplies. Final Date for accepting donations will be on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>!

**Thursday, July 27 – ~~Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!~~**  
**PLEASE NOTE: POSTPONED TO A FUTURE DATE TO BE DETERMINED!**  
**Father Mark will be away!**

**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 TODAY, Sunday, July 16 and on Sunday, July 30. A Readers Service will be served by Deacon Michael on both Sundays. There will be NO Vespers served on the Saturday evening's before these two July dates.**



## **Hieromartyr Athenogenes the Bishop of Heracleopolis, and his ten disciples [July 16<sup>th</sup>]**

Hieromartyr Athenogenes and his Ten Disciples suffered for Christ during the persecution of Christians in the city of Sebastea in Cappadocia. The governor Philomachos arranged a large festival in honor of the pagan gods and called upon the citizens of Sebastea to offer sacrifice to the idols.

Most of the inhabitants of Sebastea were Christians and refused to participate in the impious celebration. Soldiers were ordered to kill those who resisted, and so many Christians received a martyr's crown.

It came to the governor's attention that Christianity was spreading because of the grace-filled preaching of Bishop Athenogenes. Soldiers were ordered to find the Elder and arrest him. Bishop Athenogenes and ten of his disciples lived in a small monastery not far from the city. The soldiers did not find the bishop there, so they arrested his disciples. The governor ordered that they be bound with chains and thrown into prison.

Saint Athenogenes was arrested when he came to Sebastea to inform the judge that those who had been jailed were innocent. While in prison, Saint Athenogenes encouraged his spiritual children for their impending struggle. Led forth to trial, all the holy martyrs confessed themselves Christians and refused to offer sacrifice to idols.

After undergoing fierce tortures, the disciples of the holy bishop were beheaded. After the execution of the disciples, the executioners were ordered to torture the bishop. Strengthened by the Lord, Saint Athenogenes underwent the tortures with dignity. His only request was that he be executed in the monastery.

Taken to his own monastery, the saint gave thanks to God, and he rejoiced in the sufferings that he had undergone for Him. Saint Athenogenes asked that the Lord would forgive the sins of all those who would remember both him and his disciples.

The Lord granted the saint to hear His Voice before death, announcing the promise given to the penitent thief: "Today you shall be with Me in Paradise." The hieromartyr willingly bent his neck beneath the sword.

