

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, September 3, 2023 | 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him:
Martyrs Theophilus the Deacon; Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter,
Indes, Gorgonius, Zenos; the Virgin Domna (302).

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952
Email: 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

Today: FINAL SUNDAY OF SUMMER HOURS THIS SEASON!

Today: Ukraine Orphanage Giving Project Collection to be held

Thursday: September 7 – Vespers Divine Liturgy at **6:00pm!**
for the Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos
And Ever Virgin Mary (Feast Day = September 8)

Saturday: September 9 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: September 10 – Sunday Before the Elevation of Cross
Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Tuesday: September 12 – Bible Study - 6:30PM on ZOOM platform!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 4 – Hieromartyr Anthimus)

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / thou didst become a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. // O Hieromartyr Anthimus, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

Troparion (Tone 8 – Hieromartyr Theoctistus)

By a flood of tears thou didst make the desert fertile, / and thy longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles thou didst illumine the whole universe. // Our holy Father Theoctistus, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Hieromartyr Anthimus)

Living hon'rably as a priest, / thou didst complete the course of martyrdom; / thou didst extinguish the worship of idols / and didst become a champion of thy flock, O divinely wise one. / Therefore, we honor thee, / mystically crying out: // “Through thy prayers deliver us from calamity, ever-memorable Anthimus.”

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works / in wisdom hast Thou made them all!
v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! Alleluia (3x's)

v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-42

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! 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

Parish Giving Project - Ukrainian Orphanage – September 3rd and 10th

The parish will be collecting monetary donations both today, September 3rd and on Sunday, September 10th as our parish giving project for a Ukrainian Orphanage. This project is in connection with Matushka Maggie Zlatkowski from Saint Stephens Cathedral in Northeast Philadelphia

For any donations, please make the checks payable to Holy Assumption and put the Ukrainian Orphanage project in the subject line. Please hand all checks to Matushka Janine so she can keep track of the accounting or please place your donation in the special collection basket located on the tetrapod for those two Sundays.

On Sunday, September 10th, our parish will generate a check for all our donations received to St. Stephens Cathedral, and their Ukrainian Orphanage Project. From there, the donations will be handed directly to the IOCC and they will disburse the funds to the institute for the children with mental disabilities from Uzhhorod (the center's name is Road of Life). The Center serves in total 277 children with mental disabilities. Currently, 30 children from the families displaced by the conflict are getting treatment at this Center. Due to IOCC's project, 20 new displaced families will be hosted.

Please continue to pray for all in the Ukraine, especially the innocent children who are caught up in the war. Thank You!

Blessed John “the Hairy” and Fool-For-Christ at Rostov

Blessed John the Merciful of Rostov (also known as “the Hairy”) struggled at Rostov in the exploit of holy foolishness, enduring much deprivation and sorrow. He did not have a permanent shelter, and at times took his rest at the house of his spiritual Father, a priest at the church of the All-Holy, or with one of the aged widows.

Living in humility, patience and unceasing prayer, he spiritually nourished many people, among them Saint Irenarchus, Hermit of Rostov (January 13). After a long life of pursuing asceticism, he died on September 3, 1580 and was buried, according to his final wishes, beside the church of Saint Blaise beyond the altar.

He had “hair upon his head abundantly,” therefore he was called “Hairy.” The title “Merciful” was given to Blessed John because of the many healings that occurred at his grave, and also in connection with the memory of the holy Patriarch John the Merciful (November 12), whose name he shared.

Please keep in your prayers those who lost everything in the devastation fires on the island of Maui in Hawaii, especially those in the historic area of Lahaina.

Please keep in your prayers those who lost everything in the devastation of Hurricane Hillary and the 5.1 magnitude earthquake that effected parts of Southern California.

Please keep in your prayers those who lost their lives and property in the devastation of Hurrican Idalia which effected the State of Florida this past week.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Mary Herbert offered by Nina Patterson
Peter Witiak, Ann (Homa) Killoran offered by Ron Homa
Cheryl Homa, Catherine Kavalkovich offered by Ron Homa
Alexander and Selena, Emily, Sharon, Levi offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Anne Ashmore offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 8/27/23

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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 (August)

<u>Week of Sun Aug 20 to Sat Aug 26</u>	<u>August Month to date</u>
Attendance: 34	34 (average)
Funds In: \$ 2,232.00	\$ 7,424.00
Funds Out: \$ 172.91	\$ 5,643.40
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 2,059.09	\$ 1,780.60

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

2023 Monthly/Quarterly Schedule

- 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.
- 4th 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:

Today (Sep 3)
3rd Hour: Reader Mark Klus
6th Hour: Michael Wanenchak
Epistle: Reader Mark Klus

Next Week (Sep 10)
Dr David Albrecht
Matthew Andrews
Sbdcn Daniel Kavalkovich
and Dr David Albrecht

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 September 2023.

Tuesday, September 12 – Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!

Wednesday, September 13 – Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 6:00PM for the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross!

Thursday, September 28 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at 6:30PM on the ZOOM media platform ONLY!

Friday, September 22 – The 6th Annual Golf Tournament of the “Two Holies and a Saint” (sponsored by Orthodox Church of the HOLY Cross in Medford, NJ; Assumption of the HOLY Virgin Orthodox Church in Philiadelphia, PA; and SAINT Stephen Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA). at Ron Jaworski’s Ramblewood Country Club in Mount Laurel, NJ. Golf Registration deadline has passed! **Proceeds from the tournament will benefit special needs children in Uzhhorod, Ukrainian!**

**** Sunday November 5 – Visitation of Archbishop MARK to our parish! ****



Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia and those with him

[September 3rd]

The Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him suffered during the persecution against Christians under the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). The persecution became particularly intense after a fire at the imperial court at Nicomedia. The pagans accused the Christians of setting the fire and reacted against them with terrible ferocity.

In Nicomedia alone, on the day of the Nativity of Christ as many as twenty thousand Christians were burned inside a church. However, this monstrous

inhumanity did not frighten the Christians, who firmly confessed their faith and endured martyrdom for Christ.

Saints Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter, Indes and Gorgonius died during this period. One of them was beheaded by the sword, others perished by burning, or being buried alive, or by drowning in the sea. The soldier Zeno boldly denounced the emperor Maximian, for which he was stoned, and then beheaded.

Then the holy Virgin Martyr Domna, a former pagan priestess, perished at the hands of the pagans, and also Saint Euthymius, because of their concern that the bodies of the holy martyrs should be buried. Bishop Anthimus, who headed the Church of Nicomedia, hid himself in a village not far from Nicomedia at the request of his flock. From there he sent letters to the Christians, urging them to cleave firmly to the holy Faith and not to fear tortures.

One of his letters, sent with Deacon Theophilus, was intercepted and given to the emperor Maximian. Theophilus was interrogated and died under torture, without revealing to his torturers the whereabouts of Bishop Anthimus. After a while Maximian managed to learn where Saint Anthimus was, and sent a detachment of soldiers after him.

The bishop met them along the way, but the soldiers did not recognize the saint. He invited them to join him and provided a meal, after which he revealed that he was the one they sought. The soldiers did not know what to do. They wanted to leave him and tell the emperor that they had not found him. Bishop Anthimus was not one to tolerate a lie, and so he would not consent to this.

The soldiers came to believe in Christ and received holy Baptism. The saint ordered them to carry out the emperor's instructions. When Bishop Anthimus was brought before the emperor, the emperor ordered that the instruments of execution be brought out and placed before him. "Do you think, emperor, to frighten me with these tools of execution?" asked the saint. "No indeed, you cannot frighten one who wishes to die for Christ! Execution is frightening only for the cowardly, for whom the present life is most precious." The emperor then directed that the saint be fiercely tortured and beheaded by the sword.

Bishop Anthimus joyfully glorified God with his last breath, and received the crown of martyrdom. (See December 28 for another account of the Nicomedian martyrs.)