

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, September 10, 2023 | 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross.

Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Most-Holy Lady Theotokos

Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora at Nicomedia (305)

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: Ukraine Orphanage Giving Project Collection to be held

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

Wednesday: September 13 – Vespers Divine Liturgy at **6:00pm!**
for the Universal Exaltation (Elevation) of the Precious
and Life-Giving Cross (Holy Day = September 14)

Strict Fast Day on September 14!

Saturday: September 16 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: September 17 – Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross and
the Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

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 4 – Nativity of the Theotokos)

Thy nativity, O Virgin, / has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! / The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, / has shone from thee, O Theotokos. / By annulling the curse, / He bestowed a blessing. // By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Troparion (Tone 1 – Martyrs)

Let all who rejoice at their triumph honor those three virgin martyrs, / who are united to God as sisters / and who pour forth fair streams of grace: / Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, / who were in all things courageous; // they ever pray to the Trinity for us.

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 4 – Martyrs)

Invincible in your struggles for the Holy Trinity, / and through your love for each other as sisters, / you defeated the foe of the spiritual life, / and with the five virgins, entered victoriously into the heavenly mansions // where you ever rejoice with the angels in the presence of the King of all!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Nativity of the Theotokos)

By thy nativity, most pure Virgin, / Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, / Adam and Eve – from the corruption of death. / And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: // "The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

Prokeimenon (Tone 6 – Sunday Before Elevation of the Cross)

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 3 – Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Watch, Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For My hand shall defend him, and My arm shall strengthen him. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Instead of "It is truly meet ..." we sing Irmos of Ode 9:

Magnify, O my soul, / the most glorious birth of the Mother of God! / Virginitly is foreign to mothers; / childbearing is strange for virgins. / But in thee, O Theotokos, / both were accomplished. / Therefore all we nations // of the earth unceasingly magnify thee.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Alleluia (3x's)

[Note: Today's readings for the Sunday before Elevation of the Cross are as follows: Epistle – Galatians 6:11-18 and Gospel – John 3:13-17]

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!

Tomorrow is September 11th!

Remember, tomorrow is September 11th and the 22nd Anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, DC and on United Airlines Flight 93. We remember those victims who perished on that tragic morning and the first response heroes who sacrifice their lives to save others. May their memories be eternal!

Never Forget!

God Bless America!

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:

Justine McCann offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

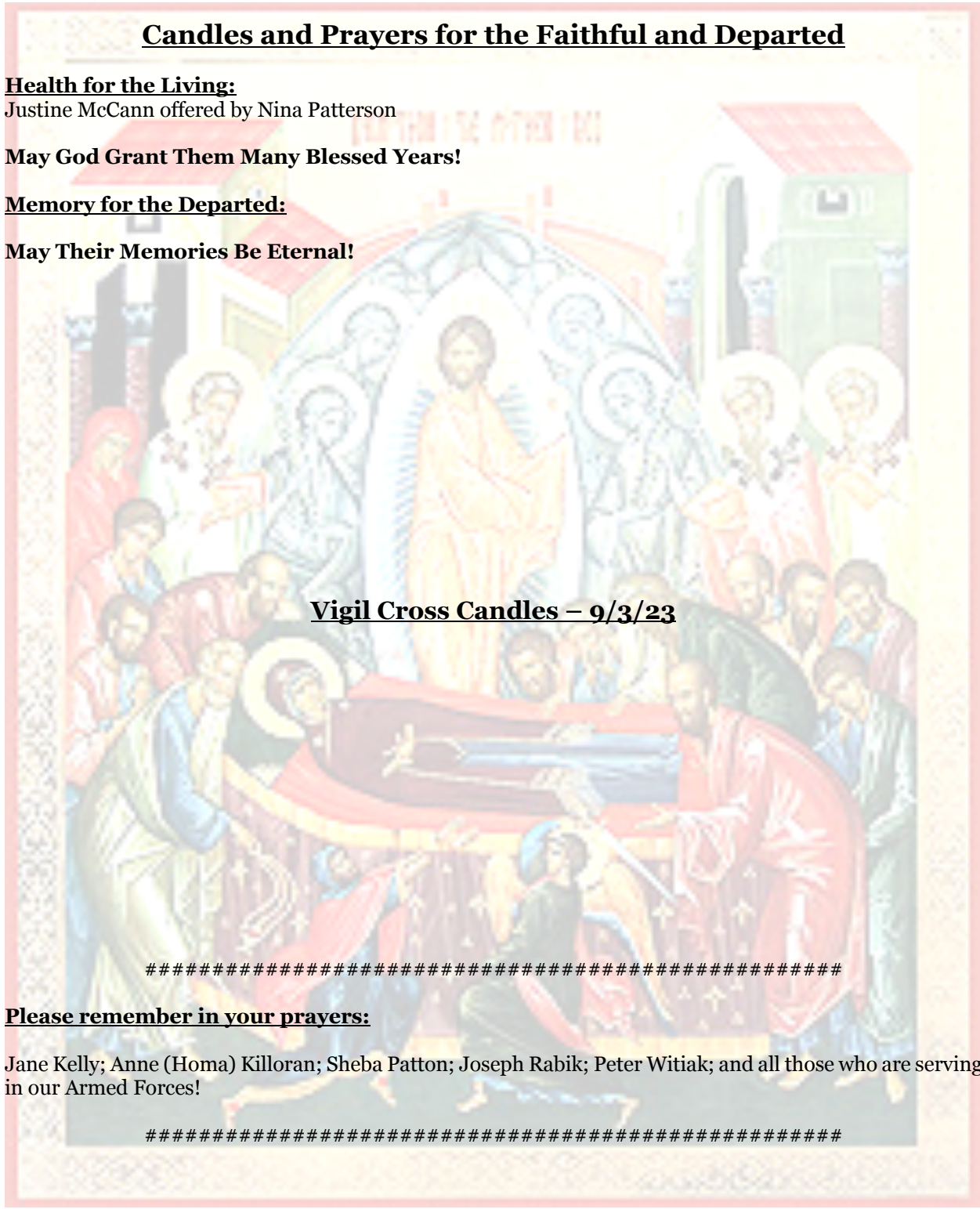
Vigil Cross Candles – 9/3/23

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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/September)

	<u>Week of Sun Aug 27 to Sat Sep 2</u>	<u>August Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	34	34 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,061.00	\$ 8,485.00
Funds Out:	\$ 4,509.79	\$ 7,788.40
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 3,448.79)	\$ 696.60

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:

	<u>Today (Sep 10)</u>	<u>Next Week (Sep 17)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Dr David Albrecht	Matthew Andrews
6 th Hour:	Matthew Andrews	Daniel S Herebert
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and Dr David Albrecht	Reader Mark Klus and 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.

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 – Vespers 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 Philadelphia, 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! ****



Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, at Nicomedia [September 10th]

The Holy Virgins Menodora, Nymphodora, and Metrodora (305-311), were sisters from Bithynia (Asia Minor). Distinguished for their special piety, they wanted to preserve their virginity and avoid worldly associations. They chose a solitary place for themselves in the wilderness and spent their lives in deeds of fasting and prayer.

Reports of the holy life of the virgins soon spread, since healing of the sick began to occur through their prayers. The Bithynia region was governed at that time by a man named

Frontonus, who ordered that the sisters be arrested and brought before him.

At first he tried to persuade them to renounce Christ, promising great honors and rewards. But the holy sisters steadfastly confessed their faith before him, rejecting all his suggestions. They told him that they did not value the temporal things of this world, and that they were prepared to die for their Heavenly Bridegroom, for death would be their gateway to eternal life.

Flying into a rage, the governor took out his wrath on Saint Menodora, the eldest sister. She was stripped of her clothes and beaten by four men, while a herald urged her to offer sacrifice to the gods. The saint bravely endured the torments and cried out, "Sacrifice? Can't you see that I am offering myself as a sacrifice to my God?" Then they renewed their torments with even greater severity. Then the martyr cried out, "Lord Jesus Christ, joy of my heart, my hope, receive my soul in peace." With these words she gave up her soul to God, and went to her Heavenly Bridegroom.

Four days later, they brought the two younger sisters Metrodora and Nymphodora to the court. They showed them the battered body of their older sister to frighten them. The virgins wept over her, but remained steadfast.

Then Saint Metrodora was tortured. She died, crying out to her beloved Lord Jesus Christ with her last breath. Then they turned to the third sister, Nymphodora. Before her lay the bruised bodies of her sisters. Frontonus hoped that this sight would intimidate the young virgin.

Pretending that he was charmed by her youth and beauty, he urged her to worship the pagan gods, promising great rewards and honors. Saint Nymphodora scoffed at his words, and shared the fate of her older sisters. She was tortured and beaten to death with iron rods.

The bodies of the holy martyrs were to be burned in a fire, but a heavy rain extinguished the blazing fire, and lightning struck down Frontonus and his servant. Christians took up the bodies of the holy sisters and reverently buried them at the so-called Warm Springs at Pythias (Bithynia).

Part of the relics of the holy martyrs are preserved on Mt. Athos in the Protection cathedral of the Saint Panteleimon Russian monastery, and the hand of Saint Metrodora is on the Holy Mountain in the monastery of the Pantocrator.

