

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

### **Sunday, September 24, 2023 | 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 7 – Holy New Martyrs of Alaska:

Hieromonk Juvenaly (ca 1796) and Peter the Aleut (1815)  
Holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecia (1<sup>st</sup> c.)

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

Saturday: September 30 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: October 1 – The Protection of Our Most Holy Lady  
The Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.  
Hieromonk Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut.  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**  
*Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service*

## **Texts for the Liturgical Service**

### **Troparion (Tone 7)**

By Thy Cross Thou destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst chang weeping into joy. / And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – New Martyrs)**

Today Alaska rejoices and America celebrates, / for the New World has been sanctified by martyrdom. / Kodiak echoes with songs of thanksgiving, / Iliamna and Kenai observe the festival of faith. / The apostle and martyr Juvenaly is glorified, / and Peter the Aleut is exalted by his voluntary sacrifice. / In their devotion and love for the Lord / they willingly endured persecution and death for the truth. // Now in the kingdom of heaven they intercede for our souls.

### **Kontakion (Tone 7)**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / “The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, thou faithful, into the Resurrection!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – New Martyrs)**

Today Valaam joins Alaska in celebrating this joyous feast, / as her spiritual son Juvenaly embraces the New-Martyr Peter with love. / Together they suffered for the Lord in America / and united the Old World with the New by their voluntary sacrifice. // Now forever they stand before the King of glory and intercede for our souls.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – Sunday Before Elevation of the Cross)**

The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!  
v. Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

### **Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – New Martyrs)**

The Lord has shown all the wonders of his will to the saints who are in his land.

### **Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 7)

- v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning and Thy truth by night. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and delivered them out of all their troubles. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

**Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11**

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord O you righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for the New Martyrs of Alaska are on Page 4 of the Bulletin and as follows:  
Epistle – Romans 8:28-39 and Gospel – Luke 21:12-19]*

**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

### THANK YOU!!! - Parish Giving Project - Ukrainian Orphanage

**UPDATE:** The parish would like to thank everyone for their donations over the past Three Sundays for our parish giving project for a Ukrainian Orphanage. This project is in connection with Matushka Maggie Zlatkowski from Saint Stephens Cathedral in Northeast Philadelphia. Our parish received over **\$760** in donations! Thank You!

This past Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Two Holies and a Saint Golf Tournament was held at Ron Jaworski's Ramblewood Country Club in Mount Laurel, NJ. Our parish is one of the tournament sponsors. Proceeds from this tournament benefits the special need children of the Uzhborod Ukrainian Orphanage.

It was a successful day with over 80 golfers playing in this year's tournament. The weather was as perfect as one could wish for to play a round of golf. Our parish had a few golfers playing this year. It was reported that Father Mark was able to find the fairway this year and that Matushka Janine kept her team in contention with her putting game. We are glad that Deacon Michael is with us today since it was reported he got lost in the woods a few times looking for his ball!!!

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### Epistle Reading: Romans 8:28-39 (New Martyrs of Alaska)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Gospel Reading: Luke 21:12-19 (New Martyrs of Alaska)

But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives, and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls.

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Emily, Levi, Elton, Gabriel, Scarlett, Joe, Lucas, Patricia, Catherine, Anna, Edward, Paul, Edward, Veronica, Edith, Joseph, offered by M/M K Kavalkovich  
William, John, Edward, Elisa, Newly Weds Alex and Selena offered by M/M K Kavalkovich  
Family offered by Nina Patterson  
Emily Gerasimoff, Sharon Orr, Cheryl Homa offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Anne Ashmore, Alexander Kavalkovich, offered by M/M K Kavalkovich  
Helen Gerasimoff, Ronald, Albert Kavalkovich offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 9/17/23**

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of John and Margaret Pellack  
offered by David Pellack

One Large Vigil Cross – Health of Emily Gerasimoff  
offered by M/M Herbert

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Emily Gerasimoff; 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 (September)**

<u>Week of Sun Sep 10 to Sat Sep 16</u>	<u>September Month To Date</u>
Attendance: 36	28 (average)
Funds In: \$ 2,043.00	\$ 3,669.00
Funds Out: \$ 1,281.21	\$ 3,437.73
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 761.79	\$ 231.27

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

- 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.  
**4<sup>th</sup> 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 (Sep 24)</u>	<u>Next Week (Oct 1)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	Daniel S Herbert	Michael Spack
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Dr. David Albrecht	Reader Mark Klus
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and Daniel S Herbert	Sbden Daniel Kavalkovich and Michael Spack

### 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 October/November 2023.

**Tuesday, October 10** – Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform  
**ONLY!**

**Thursday, October 26** – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at 6:30PM  
on the ZOOM media platform **ONLY!**

**(PLEASE NOTE:** Beginning in November, the Bible Study and Book Club date reminders will no longer be noted in this section of the bulletin. It is already noted at the top of this page “Every Single Week” under the *Monthly/Quarterly Schedule* and is also noted on the front page of the bulletin under *Weekly Schedule* the week when the event occurs)

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

**Sundays in December** – Annual Saint Nicholas Parish Fair will be held!  
Donations of new and never used items will be collected between now and Sunday, November 26



## **Martyr Peter the Aleut** [September 24<sup>th</sup>]

Saint Peter the Aleut is mentioned in the Life of Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13). Simeon Yanovsky (who ended his life as the schemamonk Sergius in the Saint Tikhon of Kaluga Monastery), has left the following account:

On another occasion I was relating to him how the Spanish in California had imprisoned fourteen Aleuts, and how the Jesuits (actually Franciscans) were forcing all of them to accept the Catholic Faith. But the Aleuts would not agree under any circumstances, saying, 'We are Christians.' The Jesuits argued, 'That's not true, you are heretics and schismatics. If you do not agree to accept our faith then we will torture all of you to death.' Then the Aleuts were placed in prisons two to a cell. That evening, the Jesuits came to the prison with lanterns and lighted candles. Again they tried to persuade two Aleuts in the cell to accept the Catholic Faith. 'We are Christians,' the Aleuts replied, 'and we will not change our Faith.' Then the Jesuits began to torture them, at first the one while his companion was a witness. They cut off one of the joints of his feet, and then the other joint. Then they cut the first joint on the fingers of his hands, and then the other joint. Then they cut off his feet, and his hands. The blood flowed, but the martyr endured all and firmly repeated one thing: "I am a Christian." He died in such suffering, due to a loss of blood. The Jesuit also promised to torture his comrade to death the next day

But that night an order was received from Monterey stating that the imprisoned Aleuts were to be released immediately, and sent there under escort. Therefore, in the morning all were sent to Monterey with the exception of the dead Aleut. This was related to me by a witness, the same Aleut who had escaped torture, and who was the friend of the martyred Aleut. I reported this incident to the authorities in Saint Petersburg. When I finished my story, Father Herman asked, 'What was the name of the martyred Aleut?' I answered, 'Peter. I do not remember his family name.' The Elder stood reverently before an icon, made the Sign of the Cross and said, "Holy New Martyr Peter, pray to God for us!"

We know very little about Saint Peter, except that he was from Kodiak, and was arrested and put to death by the Spaniards in California because he refused to convert to Catholicism. The circumstances of his martyrdom recall the torture of Saint James the Persian (November 27).

Both in his sufferings and in his steadfast confession of the Faith, Saint Peter is the equal of the martyrs of old, and also of the New Martyrs who have shone forth in more recent times. Now he rejoices with them in the heavenly Kingdom, glorifying God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, throughout all ages.