

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, October 1, 2023 | 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – The Protection of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Venerable Romanus the Melodist (5th c.) | Apostles of the Seventy Ananias (1st c.)
Martyr Domninus of Thessalonica

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

- Friday: October 6 - Glorification of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, and Apostle to the Americas. Also, Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas.
- Saturday: October 7 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: October 8 – Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service
- Monday: October 9 - Glorification of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Enlightener of North America. Also, Holy Apostle James.
- Tuesday: October 10 – Bible Study - 6:30PM on ZOOM platform!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Troparion (Tone 4 – The Protection)

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy, / illumined by your coming, O Mother of God. / Beholding your pure image, we fervently cry to you: / “Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection; / deliver us from every form of evil / by entreating Christ, your Son and our God, // that He may save our souls.”

Troparion (Tone 4 – Saint Romanus)

Thou didst gladden Christ’s Church by thy melodies / like an inspired heavenly trumpet. / Thou wast enlightened by the Mother of God / and didst shine on the world as God’s poet. // We lovingly honor thee, O righteous Romanus.

Kontakion (Tone 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Saint Romanus)

Thou wast adorned from childhood with the godly virtues of the Spirit; / thou wast a precious adornment of the Church of Christ, all-wise Romanus, / for thou didst make it lovely with beautiful hymnody. / Therefore we entreat thee, grant thy divine gift to those who desire it, // that we may cry out to thee: “Rejoice, all-blessed Father, beauty of the Church!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 – The Protection)

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, / and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us. / Angels and bishops worship, / Apostles and Prophets rejoice together, // since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

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 6:16-7:1

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” Therefore Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.” Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:31-36

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

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 Protection of the Ever-Virgin Mary are as follows:
Epistle – Hebrews 9:1-7 and Gospel – Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28]*

#####

2024 Saint Tikhon's Monastery Calendar - Taking orders now:

The parish will once again be ordering 2024 calendars from Saint Tikhon's Monastery. As a result from a generous benefactor, a donation was made to the church to cover the cost of one calendar per household for parishioners of the church.

If you wish to order additional calendars besides the one that will be ordered for your household, there is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board downstairs to do so.

The cost of the 2024 St Tikhon's calendars is \$8 per calendar. The deadline for ordering these calendars will be: **Sunday, November 5, 2023!**

#####

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

[...continued from the last page on the life of the Protection...]

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor also notes the miraculous deliverance followed an all-night Vigil and the dipping of the garment of the Mother of God into the waters of the sea at the Blachernae church, but does not mention Saints Andrew and Epiphanius and their vision of the Mother of God at prayer. These latter elements, and the beginnings of the celebrating of the Feast of the Protection, seem to postdate Saint Nestor and the Chronicle. A further historical complication might be noted under (October 2) dating Saint Andrew's death to the year 936.

The year of death might not be quite reliable, or the assertion that he survived to a ripe old age after the vision of his youth, or that his vision involved some later pagan Russian raid which met with the same fate. The suggestion that Saint Andrew was a Slav (or a Scythian according to other sources, such as S. V. Bulgakov) is interesting, but not necessarily accurate. The extent of Slavic expansion and repopulation into Greece is the topic of scholarly disputes.

In the *PROLOGUE*, a Russian book of the twelfth century, a description of the establishment of the special Feast marking this event states, "For when we heard, we realized how wondrous and merciful was the vision... and it transpired that Your holy Protection should not remain without festal celebration, O Ever-Blessed One!"

Therefore, in the festal celebration of the Protection of the Mother of God, the Russian Church sings, "With the choirs of the Angels, O Sovereign Lady, with the venerable and glorious prophets, with the First-Ranked Apostles and with the Hieromartyrs and Hierarchs, pray for us sinners, glorifying the Feast of your Protection in the Russian Land." Moreover, it would seem that Saint Andrew, contemplating the miraculous vision was a Slav, was taken captive, and became the slave of the local inhabitant of Constantinople named Theognostus.

Churches in honor of the Protection of the Mother of God began to appear in Russia in the twelfth century. Widely known for its architectural merit is the temple of the Protection at Nerl, which was built in the year 1165 by holy Prince Andrew Bogoliubsky. The efforts of this holy prince also established in the Russian Church the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, about the year 1164.

At Novgorod in the twelfth century there was a monastery of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (the so-called Zverin monastery) In Moscow also under Tsar Ivan the Terrible the cathedral of the Protection of the Mother of God was built at the church of the Holy Trinity (known as the church of Saint Basil the Blessed).

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and Friends offered by Nina Patterson
Emily Gerasimoff, Sharon Orr, Cheryl Homa offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 9/24/23

Two Small Vigil Crosses – Health of Emily Gerasimoff offered by Anonymous

#####

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!

#####

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 17 to Sat Sep 23</u>	<u>September Month To Date</u>
Attendance: 35	30 (average)
Funds In: \$ 2,605.00	\$ 6,274.00
Funds Out: \$ 7,369.47	\$10,807.20
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$ 4,764.47)	(\$ 4,533.20)

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 (Oct 1)</u>	<u>Next Week (Oct 8)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Michael Spack	Matthew Andrews
6 th Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	Sbdcn Daniel Kavalkovich
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and Michael Spack	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 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



The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary [October 1st]

Today the Church celebrated the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos: “Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of Saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and Bishops venerate Her, Apostles and prophets rejoice together, Since for our sake she prays to the Eternal God!”

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ St Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. St John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop’s Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed “more than the rays of the sun.” St Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, “Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” Epiphanius answered, “I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe.”

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, “O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them not go away from my icon unheard.”

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and “for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation.”

At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting Saint Andrew in contemplation of her.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867 or according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860. Ironically, this Feast is considered important by the Slavic Churches but not by the Greeks.

[...continue the life of the Protection on page 4...]