

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
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

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

Sunday, October 15, 2023 | 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – Venerable Euthymius the New, of Thessalonica, Monk of Mt. Athos (889) | Martyr
Lucian the Presbyter of Antioch (312) | Martyrs Sarbelius and Bebaia (Barbea) of Edessa (2nd 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

Wednesday: Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

Saturday: October 21 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: October 22 – Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Abercius
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion (Tone 8 – Venerable Euthymius)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Father, / for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. / By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; / but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. // Therefore thy spirit, venerable Euthymius, rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Venerable Euthymius)

Crossing dry-shod through the storms of life, / venerable and divinely wise Euthymius, / thou didst mightily drown the bodiless foe in the streams of thy tears; / thou didst receive the gift of miracles to heal all sufferings. // Unceasingly pray for us all!

Prokeimenon (Tone 2)

The Lord is my strength and my song / He has become my salvation.

v. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 2)

v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x's)
v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 8:5-15

A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold. When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

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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!**

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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

Upcoming Local Area Church Fall Festivals in November 2023

Annual Ethnic Food Festival – St Stephens Orthodox Cathedral

8598 Verree Road – Philadelphia, PA Website: www.ststephenscathedral.org
Saturday, November 4th – 11AM to 5PM, and Sunday, November 5th – Noon to 2PM

Annual Pierogi Festival – St Nicholas Patriarchal Orthodox Cathedral

817 North 7th Street – Philadelphia, PA Website: www.stnicholaseoc.org
Saturday, November 4th – Noon to 9PM, and Sunday, November 5th – Noon to 5PM

Greek Orthodox Church of St. Porphyrios in Gaza “NOT” Bombed

By Maria Rybachuk on October 10, 2023 in the *Greek Reporter*

The 1,600-year-old Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Porphyrios in Gaza Strip is not bombed by Israeli forces and remains untouched amidst the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict. Recently, there have been reports of destruction circulating on social media due to the war in Israel.

However, the church’s curator has stepped forward to debunk these reports, affirming its preservation and role as a sanctuary for those affected by the bombings.

The Church of Saint Porphyrios is an ancient and sizable place of worship in the region. It is believed to be the third oldest church in the world. The original temple at this location dates back to 425 CE. However, the current church was built by the Crusaders around the 1150s. Historical records from the 15th century also mention its dedication to the Virgin Mary. It has been preserved throughout time and was restored in 1856.

While some architectural elements such as cornices and bases can be traced back to the Crusader period, many other parts of the church were added at later dates. The church’s walls, constructed from time-worn limestone, offer a refuge with their ability to provide warmth in the winter and coolness in the summer.

Saint Porphyrios is especially significant for Christians, as he valiantly opposed polytheistic religions that once held sway in Gaza and the broader Levant.

Legend has it that Saint Porphyrios had a severe leg ailment. Despite his affliction, he embarked on a pilgrimage from his meditative spot in the Jordanian wilderness to Jerusalem, seeking divine healing. During his time in this ancient city, it is believed he entered into a transcendent state, encountering Jesus Christ and emerged from it miraculously cured.

After the death of Gaza’s bishop in the year 395, Porphyrios, a priest, was called upon to assume a critical role in safeguarding the local Christian community from harassment by pagan adherents. At that time, Gaza had just three Christian churches amidst a multitude of pagan temples and idols. However, Saint Porphyrios’ presence brought about a significant change. It is believed he oversaw the baptism of 237 men, 35 women, and 14 children.

His strong ties with the Roman Emperor and Empress bore fruit in 401 when an imperial edict ordered the destruction of pagan temples in Gaza and the reinstatement of privileges for Christians. Additionally, Saint Porphyrios received funds from the emperor to construct a new church in Gaza, erected on the very site of the chief pagan temple. The Church of Saint Porphyrios stands as a testament to his enduring legacy.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Emily Gerasimoff, Norman Andrews offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Emily, Choppy, Patricia, Catherine, Levi, Margaret, Jude, Norman, Simone,
Mary, David, John, Susan, Barbara offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
John Spack offered by Nina Patterson
Emily Gerasimoff, Matushka Janine offered by David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Joseph Rabik offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Joseph Rabik offered by Nina Patterson
Dennis, Denise, John offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 10/8/23

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed servant of God Joseph Rabik, who fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, October 5.
May His Memory Be Eternal!

Remember all the victims and the 1,000's more injured in the senseless atrocity against humanity in both
Ukraine and Israel. May we pray for an end to the killings in these regions and that peace may prevail.

Norman Andrews; Emily Gerasimoff; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; 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!

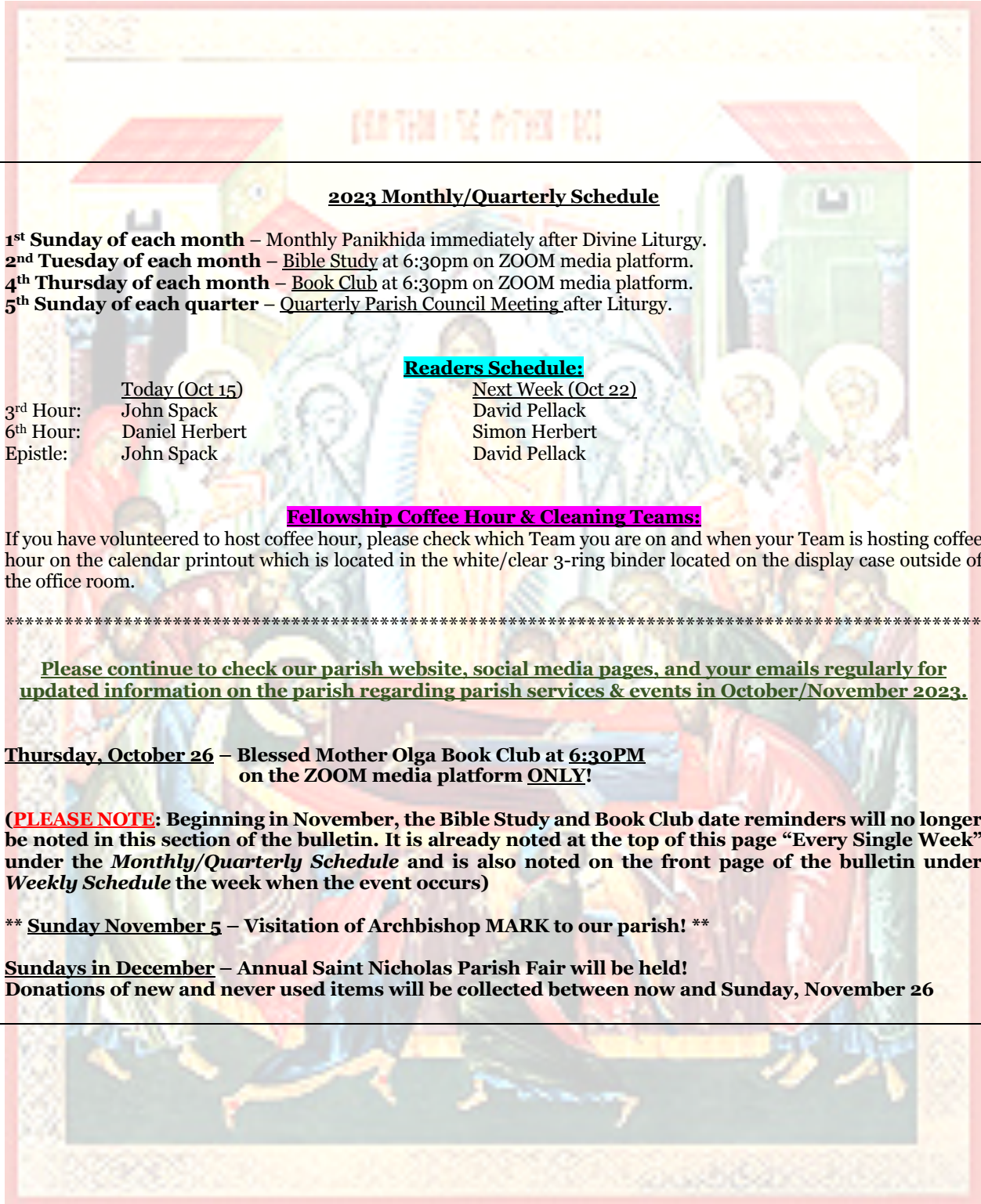
Cash Flow Activity (October)

<u>Week of Sun Oct 1 to Sat Oct 7</u>		<u>October Month to Date</u>
Attendance:	34	34 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 5,060.00	\$ 5,060.00
Funds Out:	\$10,250.72	\$10,250.72
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 5,190.72)	(\$ 5,190.72)

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 (Oct 15)
3rd Hour: John Spack
6th Hour: Daniel Herbert
Epistle: John Spack

Next Week (Oct 22)
David Pellack
Simon Herbert
David Pellack

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.

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



Venerable Euthymius the New of Thessalonica, and Monk of Mount Athos [October 15th]

Saint Euthymius the New of Thessalonica and Mt Athos, in the world was named Nicetas, and he was a native of the city of Ancyra in Galatia. His parents, Epiphanius and Anna, led virtuous Christian lives, and from childhood their son was meek, pious and obedient. At age seven he was left fatherless and he soon became the sole support of his mother in all matters. Having entered military service, Nicetas married, on the insistence of his mother. After the birth of a daughter, he secretly left home

in order to enter a monastery. For fifteen years the venerable Euthymius lived the ascetic life on Mount Olympus, where he learned monastic deeds from the Elders.

The monk went to resettle on Mount Athos. On the way he learned that his mother and wife were in good health. He informed them that he had become a monk, and he sent them a cross, calling on them to follow his example. On Mt Athos he was tonsured into the Great Schema and lived for three years in a cave in total silence, struggling with temptations. Saint Euthymius also lived for a long time as a stylite, not far from Thessalonica, instructing those coming to him for advice and healing the sick.

The monk cleansed his mind and heart to such an extent that he was granted divine visions and revelations. At the command of the Lord, Saint Euthymius founded two monasteries in 863 on Mount Peristeros, not far from Thessalonica, which he guided for 14 years, with the rank of deacon. In one of these his wife and mother received monastic tonsure. Before his death he settled on Hieria, an island of Mt Athos, where he reposed in 898. His relics were transferred to Thessalonica. Saint Euthymius is called “the New” to distinguish him from Saint Euthymius the Great (January 20).

