

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29, 2023 | 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 4 – Martyr Anastasia the Roman (3<sup>rd</sup> c.)

Venerable Abramius the Recluse, and his niece, Blessed Mary of Mesopotamia

Righteous Anna of Constantinople (826)

### **V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector**

615 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020

Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952

Email: [mwkoczak@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Saturday: November 4 – Church Cleaning starting around **12:00PM** in preparation of Archbishop MARK's parish visitation.

Saturday: November 4 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: November 5 – Martyr Galacteon and his wife, Epistemis

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Sunday: November 5 – Daylight Savings Time Concludes  
(Change your clocks and move them back One Hour!)

Sunday: November 5 – Visitation of Archbishop MARK to our parish for our 110<sup>th</sup> year celebration.

Sunday: November 12 – Fall General Parish Meeting Scheduled

## 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 – Virgin-martyr Anastasia)**

Thy lamb Anastasia calls out to Thee, O Jesus, in a loud voice: / “I love Thee, my Bridegroom, and in seeking Thee I endure suffering. / In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in Thee, / and I died so that I might live with Thee. Accept me as a pure sacrifice, / for I have offered myself in love!”// Through her prayers save our souls, since Thou art merciful!

### **Troparion (Tone 8 – Venerable Abramius)**

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 didst teach us to disregard the flesh for it passes away / but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal. // Therefore thy spirit, venerable Abramius, rejoices with the Angels.

### **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 3 – Virgin-martyr Anastasia)**

Purified by the waters of virginity, / righteous Anastasia, thou wast crowned by the blood of martyrdom. / Thou dost grant healing and salvation to those in need, / and who call on thee from their hearts, // for Christ gives thee strength, pouring out on thee ever-flowing grace.

### **Kontakion (Tone 3 – Venerable Abramius)**

Thou didst live in the flesh on earth as an angel, / and through thy ascetic life thou didst become like a tree nourished by the waters of abstinence and didst flourish. / Thou hast washed away stains with the streams of thy tears / and so thou hast been revealed, Abramius, // to be a God-like vessel of the Spirit.

### **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: Galatians 2:16-20**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

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: Luke 8:26-39**

Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you. And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

**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!**

#####

**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

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### **The Fall Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2023 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #1 of 3.**

According to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A. of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Annual and General Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the Meeting. This meeting the parish will elect parish council members for the 2024-2025 term for the positions of President (currently Matthew Andrews), Secretary (currently Natalie Patterson-Nedbal), and Trustee (Even Year Term) (currently Tanya Krawchuk). Please make every effort to be in attendance and support the parish!

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### **Greek Orthodox Church of St. Porphyrios in Gaza Bombed**

By Maria Rybachuk on October 20, 2023 in the *Greek Reporter*

A 1,600-year-old Greek Orthodox church in the Gaza Strip which was sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians was hit overnight by an Israeli air strike, the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem said, and Palestinian health officials said 16 people were killed.

Parts of the Saint Porphyrios Greek Orthodox Church compound in the Gaza Strip collapsed as a result.

The Israeli military told *AFP* that its fighter jets had hit a command and control center involved in launching rockets and mortars toward Israel.

"As a result of the IDF [Israeli army] strike, a wall of a church in the area was damaged," it said, adding "we are aware of reports on casualties. The incident is under review."

The church served as a refuge for many people during the region's ongoing conflict, according to the media. About 50 people, mostly women and children, were present during the blast, Greek public media, ERT, reported.

Witnesses told *AFP* the strike appears to have been aimed at a target close to the place of worship where many Gaza residents have taken refuge.

The Israeli airstrikes were condemned by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, who stated: "The Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem expresses its strongest condemnation of the Israeli airstrike that have struck its church compound in the city of Gaza. The Patriarchate emphasizes that targeting churches and their institutions, along with the shelters they provide to protect innocent citizens, especially children and women who have lost their homes due to Israeli airstrikes on residential areas over the past thirteen days, constitutes a war crime that cannot be ignored."



**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Norman Andrews offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Sharon Orr offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Jason & Brooke LeRoy offered by Nina Patterson  
Norman Andrews offered by Nina Patterson  
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Nina Patterson  
Zachary & Tamari offered by David Pellack

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**In Memory of Joseph Rabik** – Kathleen Renzetti & Family

**Vigil Cross Candles – 10/22/23**

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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 15 to Sat Oct 21</u>	<u>October Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 40	36 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,280.00	\$ 7,362.00
Funds Out: \$ 1,818.42	\$12,069.14
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$ 538.42)	(\$ 4,707.14)

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 (Oct 29)</u>	<u>Next Week (Nov 5)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	David Albrecht	Sbdn Daniel Kavalkovich
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Michael Wanenchak	Matthew Andrews
Epistle:	David Albrecht	Sbdn Daniel Kavalkovich

### 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 November & December 2023.

### Upcoming Local Area Church Fall Festivals in November 2023

#### Annual Ethnic Food Festival – St Stephens Orthodox Cathedral

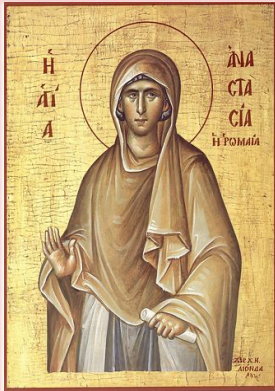
8598 Verree Road – Philadelphia, PA      Website: [www.ststephenscathedral.org](http://www.ststephenscathedral.org)  
Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – 11AM to 5PM, and Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – Noon to 2PM

#### Annual Pierogi Festival – St Nicholas Patriarchal Orthodox Cathedral

817 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street – Philadelphia, PA      Website: [www.stnicholaseoc.org](http://www.stnicholaseoc.org)  
Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – Noon to 9PM, and Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – Noon to 5PM

#### 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!**



## Monastic Martyr Anastasia of Rome [October 29<sup>th</sup>]

The Monastic Martyr Anastasia the Roman lost her parents when she was three years old, and was taken to be raised by the Igoumeness of a women's monastery, whose name was Sophia, a nun who had attained a high degree of spiritual perfection. She raised Anastasia in fervent faith, in the fear of God, and obedience. After seventeen years, Anastasia became known as a great ascetic, and she was very beautiful.

The Emperor Decius (249-251) began his persecution of Christians at that time. The city administrator, Probus, following the Emperor's orders, commanded that Anastasia be brought to him. Blessed by her Igoumeness to suffer for Christ, the young martyr Anastasia went out to meet the armed soldiers. Seeing her youth and beauty, Probus first tried flattery to make her deny Christ.

"Why do you waste your youth deprived of pleasure?" he asked. "What is to be gained by enduring tortures and death for the Crucified? Worship our gods, marry a handsome husband, and live with glory and honor."

While Saint Anastasia stood before the ruler, her mind stood before Christ, and with her spiritual eyes, she beheld the comeliness of her Bridegroom.

The Saint replied, "My spouse, my riches, my life and my happiness are my Lord Jesus Christ, and you cannot turn me away from Him by your deceit!"

Probus had her stripped of her clothing, in order to humiliate her. She told him, "You can have me whipped, beaten, and cut to pieces, and then my nakedness will be hidden by my wounds, and my blood will cover my shame."

Probus subjected Anastasia to horrible tortures. The holy martyr bravely endured all of them, glorifying and praising God. When she became thirsty, she asked for some water, and a Christian named Cyril gave her a drink. She thanked him, but Probus had him beheaded.

Then her tormentors cut off her breasts and ripped out her tongue, while an Angel held her upright. When the people witnessed the inhuman and disgusting treatment the Saint received, they became indignant, and Probus was forced to end the tortures by having her beheaded. In this manner, Saint Anastasia received the unfading crown of martyrdom.

Saint Anastasia's body was thrown outside the city limits to be eaten by wild animals, but the Lord did not permit her holy relics to be dishonored. By the instructions of a holy Angel, Igoumeness Sophia found Saint Anastasia's mutilated body. With the help of two Christians, she buried it in the earth.

Her right tibia with the skin is at Grigoriou Monastery on Mount Athos, and pieces of her relics are at the Saint Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg.