

## 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, November 5, 2023 | 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 5 – Martyr Galacteon and his wife, Epistemis, at Emesa (3<sup>rd</sup> c.)  
Apostles Patrobus, Hermes, Linus, Gaius, and Philologus, of the 70  
Saint Gregory, Archbishop of Alexandria (9<sup>th</sup> c.)

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

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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**

Today: Visitation of Archbishop MARK to our parish

Tuesday: Election Day! *(Get Out and Vote!)*

Wednesday: Synaxis of the Archangel Michael

Saturday: November 11 – Veterans Day!

Saturday: November 11 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: November 12 – St John the Merciful  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**  
*Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service*

Sunday: November 12 – Fall General Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

Wednesday: November 15 – Nativity (Saint Philips) Fast Begins!

## **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 1 – Martyrs Galacteon and Epistemis)**

Let us the faithful honor these two betrothed athletes: / Galacteon and modest Epistemis. / Their ascetic labors blossomed into martyrdom, / Therefore we cry to them: / “Glory to Him Who has strengthened you! / Glory to Him Who has crowned you! // Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!”

### **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 2 – Martyrs Galacteon and Epistemis)**

Ye are numbered among the hosts of martyrs / for ye were illustrious in mighty contests. / Galacteon, together with Epistemis, thy faithful wife and companion in struggle, // unceasingly intercede to the one God for us all!

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 5)**

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!  
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

### **Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18**

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

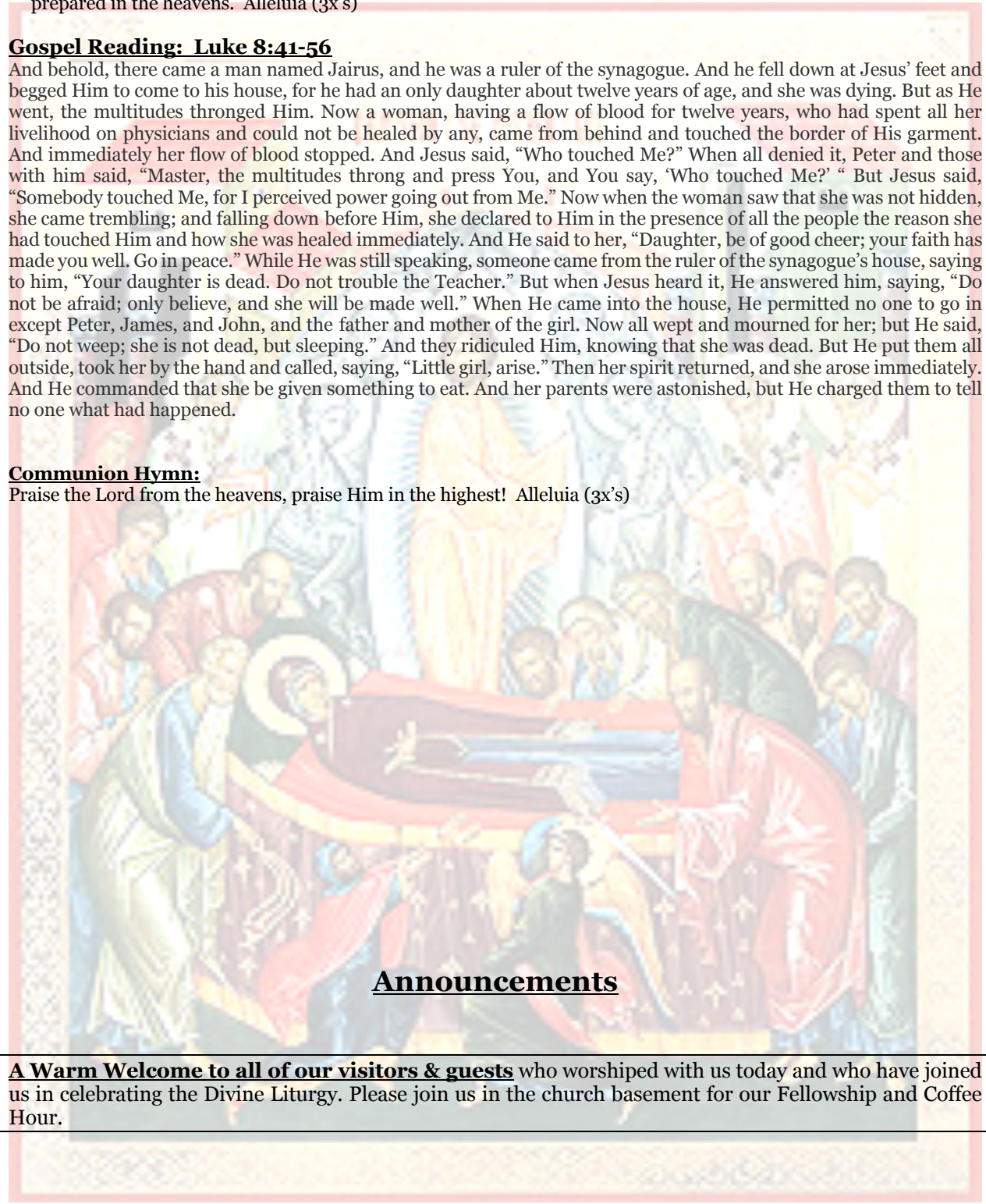
v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim  
Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)  
v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be  
prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 8:41-56**

And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

**Communion Hymn:**

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



**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

**The Fall Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2023 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #2 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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***[...continued from the last page on the life of the Martyrs...]***

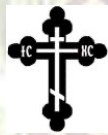
For several years the monastics struggled in work, fasting and prayer. Once, Episteme had a vision in her sleep: she and Galaction stood in a wondrous palace before a radiant King, and the King bestowed golden crowns on them. This was a prefiguring of their impending martyrdom.

The pagans became aware of the existence of the monasteries, and a military detachment was sent to apprehend their inhabitants. But the monks and the nuns succeeded in hiding themselves in the hills. Galaction, however, had no desire to flee and so he remained in his cell, reading Holy Scripture. When Episteme saw that the soldiers were leading Galaction away in chains, she began to implore the Abbess to permit her to go also, since she wanted to accept torture for Christ together with her fiancé and teacher. The Abbess tearfully blessed Episteme to do so.

The saints endured terrible torments, while supplicating and glorifying Christ. Their hands and legs were cut off, their tongues were cut out, and then they were beheaded.

Eutolmius, the former servant of Episteme, and who had become her brother in Christ and fellow ascetic in monastic struggles, secretly buried the bodies of the holy martyrs. He later wrote an account of their virtuous life and their glorious martyrdom, for his contemporaries and for posterity.

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**GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS!!!**



**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

John Spack offered by Nina Patterson  
Norman Andrews offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Sharon Orr offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Nina Patterson  
Emily Gerasimoff offered by the Hourahan Family  
Drimak Family offered by the Hourahan Family  
Parishioners offered by David Pellack  
Norman, Emily, Maryann offered by Barbara Andrews

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 10/29/23**

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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 22 to Sat Oct 28</u>	<u>October Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 34	35 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,004.00	\$ 8,366.00
Funds Out: \$ 950.00	\$13,019.14
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 54.00	(\$ 4,653.14)

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 (Nov 5)</u>	<u>Next Week (Nov 12)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Reader Mark Klus
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Matthew Andrews	Reader David Pellack
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Reader Mark Klus

### 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.

### 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 is **TODAY!**

**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!**



## **Martyrs Galaction and his wife, Epistemis, at Emesa** [November 5<sup>th</sup>]

There was a rich and distinguished couple named Kletophon and Leukippe, who lived in the Syrian city of Emesa, and for a long time they were childless. They gave much gold to the pagan priests, but still they remained childless.

The city of Emesa was governed by a Syrian named Secundus, put there by the Roman Caesars. He was a merciless and zealous persecutor of Christians, and to intimidate them he ordered that the instruments of torture be displayed on the streets. The slightest

suspicion of belonging to “the sect of the Galilean” (as thus Christians were called by the pagans), was enough to get a man arrested and handed over for torture. In spite of this, many Christians voluntarily surrendered themselves into the hands of the executioners, in their desire to suffer for Christ.

A certain old man by the name of Onuphrius concealed his monastic and priestly dignity beneath his beggar’s rags. He walked from house to house in Emesa, begging alms. At the same time, whenever he saw the possibility of turning people away from the pagan error, he preached about Christ.

Once, he came to the magnificent house of Leukippe. Accepting alms from her, he sensed that the woman was in sorrow, and he asked what was the cause of this sadness. She told the Elder about her familial misfortune. In consoling her, Onuphrius began to tell her about the one true God, about His omnipotence and mercy, and how He always grants the prayer of those turning to Him with faith. Hope filled the soul of Leukippe. She believed and accepted Holy Baptism. Soon after this it was revealed to her in a dream that she would give birth to a son, who would be a true follower of Christ. At first, Leukippe concealed her delight from her husband, but after the infant was born, she revealed the secret to her husband and also persuaded him to be baptized.

They named the baby Galaction and his parents raised him in the Christian Faith and provided him a fine education. He could make an illustrious career for himself, but Galaction sought rather an unsullied monastic life in solitude and prayer.

When Galaction turned twenty-four, his father resolved to marry him off and they found him a bride, a beautiful and illustrious girl by the name of Episteme. The son did not oppose the will of his father, but by the will of God, the wedding was postponed for a time. Visiting his betrothed, Galaction gradually revealed his faith to her. Eventually, he converted her to Christ and he secretly baptized her himself.

Besides Episteme he baptized also one of her servants, Eutolmius. The newly-illuminated decided on the initiative of Galaction, to devote themselves to the monastic life. Leaving the city, they hid themselves away on Mount Publion, where there were two monasteries, one for men and the other for women. The new monastics had to take with them all the necessities for physical toil, since the inhabitants of both monasteries were both old and infirm.

*[...continue the life of the Martyrs on page 4...]*