

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, November 12, 2023 | 23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Saint John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria (612-620)

Venerable Nilus the Faster, of Sinai (5th c.)

Blessed John “the Hairy”, Fool-for-Christ, in Rostov (1580)

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

Reader – David Pellack

Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

Today: Fall General Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

Tuesday: November 14 - Holy Apostle Philip

Tuesday: November 14 - Bible Study - 6:30PM on ZOOM platform!

Wednesday: November 15 – Beginning of the Nativity (St Philips) Fast!

ADVENT FAST BEGINS!

Thursday: November 16 - Holy Apostle Matthew

Saturday: November 18 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: November 19 – Prophet Obadiah (Abdias)

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell / not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 8 – St John the Merciful)

By endurance thou didst gain thy reward, venerable Father; / thou didst persevere in prayer unceasingly; / thou didst love the poor and provide for them in all things. // Blessed John the Merciful, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Troparion (Tone 8 – Venerable Nilus)

By a flood of tears thou didst make the desert fertile, / and thy longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles thou didst illumine the whole universe. / Our Father Nilus, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 6)

When Christ God the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – St John the Merciful)

Thou didst distribute thy wealth to the poor / and in return obtained wealth from heaven, John the Merciful. / Therefore, we honor thee and celebrate thy memory, // O namesake of mercy.

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Venerable Nilus)

By thy vigilant prayer thou didst cut away the undergrowth of the body's insurgent passions. / As thou hast boldness before the Lord, free me from every danger so that I may cry to thee: / "Rejoice, universal father Nilus!"

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 6)

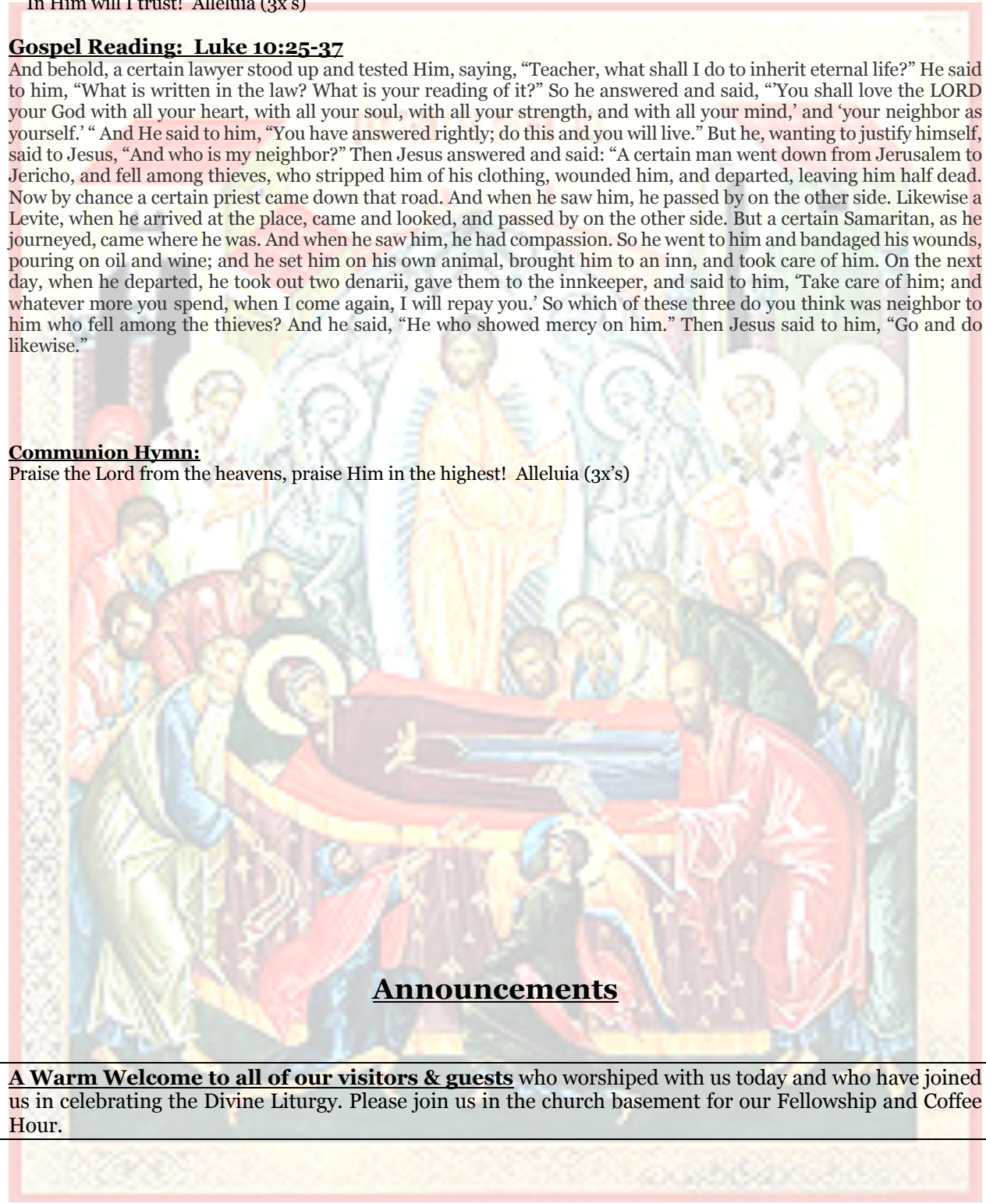
- v. He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves? And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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 TODAY, November 12, 2023 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #3 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!

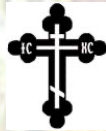
Veterans Day:

Veterans Day is an official United States federal public holiday (not a national holiday), observed annually on November 11, that honors military veterans; that is, persons who served in the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with other holidays, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I; major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. The United States previously observed Armistice Day. The U.S. holiday was renamed Veterans Day on June 1, 1954.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day, a U.S. federal public holiday in May; as Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who died while in military service. It is also not to be confused with Armed Forces Day, a minor U.S. remembrance that also occurs in May, which specifically honors those currently serving in the U.S. military.

In 1971, in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. Then in 1978, it was moved back to its original celebration on November 11.

While the holiday is commonly printed as Veteran's Day or Veterans' Day in calendars and advertisements (spellings that are grammatically acceptable), the United States Department of Veterans Affairs website states that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling "because it is not a day that 'belongs' to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans."



GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS!!!



Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Assumption Parish & Parishioners offered by Peggy Walker
Norman and Barbara Andrews offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
David Pellack (on his being tonsured a Reader) offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Catherine, Patricia, Sharon, James, Diane, Marissa, Dominic offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Levi, Barbara, Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
David Pellack offered by Nina Patterson
Family Members offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Emily Gerasimoff offered by the Hourahan Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Anne Ashmore, Vito Maturo, Paul Anthony offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Albert Kavalkovich, Ronald Kavalkovich Sr. offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Margie Hourahan Ryan offered by the Hourahan Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Vigil Cross Candles – 11/5/23

One Large Vigil Cross – Health of David Pellack offered by
Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine McCartney

One Large Vigil Cross – Health of Mother Catherine offered by
Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine McCartney

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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!

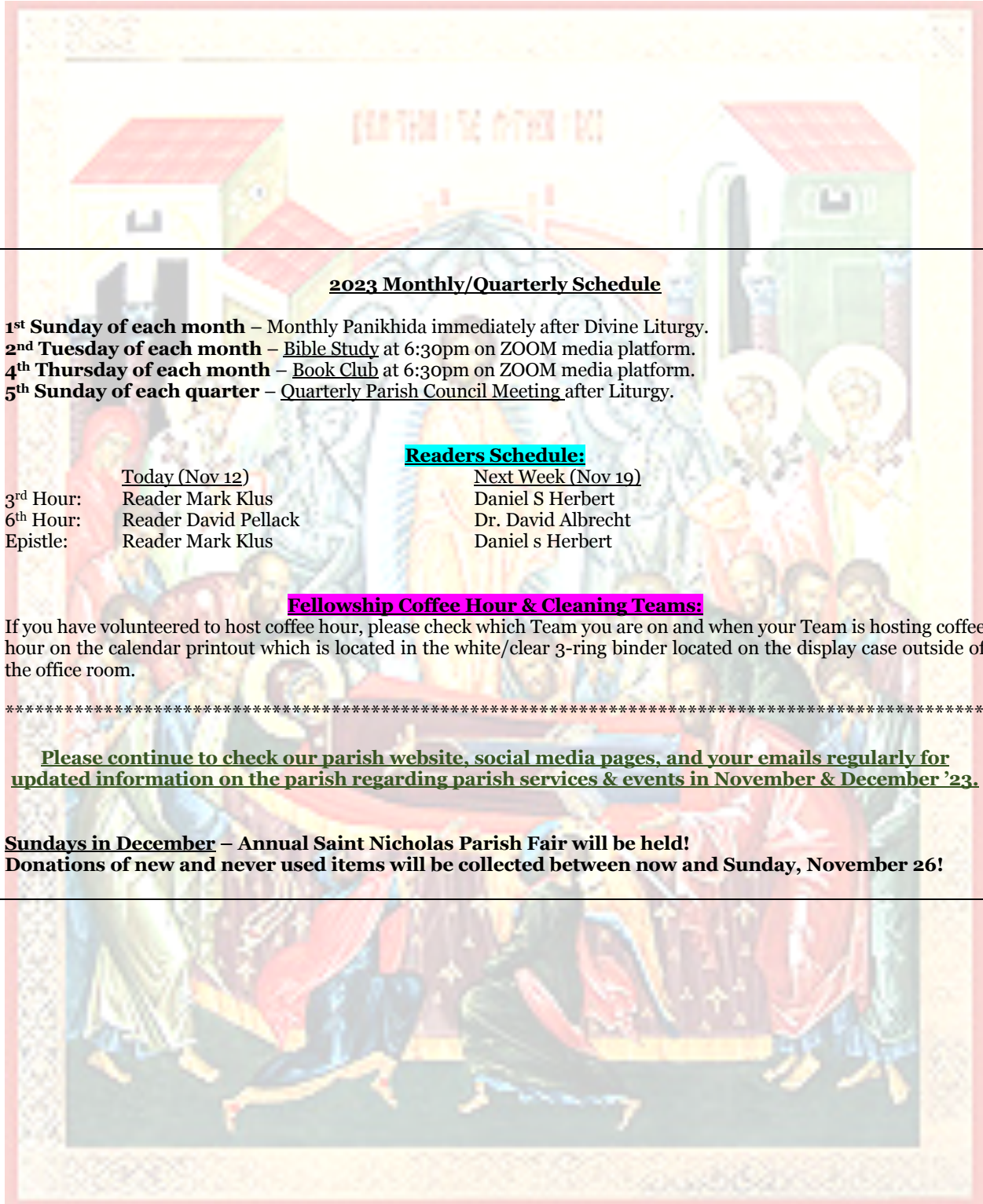
Cash Flow Activity (October/November)

<u>Week of Sun Oct 29 to Sat Nov 4</u>	<u>October Month (Unaudited)</u>	
Attendance:	39	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 9,718.92	\$18,084.92
Funds Out:	\$ 1,937.44	\$12,943.07
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 7,781.48	\$ 5,141.85

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 (Nov 12)
3rd Hour: Reader Mark Klus
6th Hour: Reader David Pellack
Epistle: Reader Mark Klus

Next Week (Nov 19)
Daniel S Herbert
Dr. David Albrecht
Daniel s Herbert

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 November & December '23.

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 Nilus the Faster, of Sinai [November 12th]

Saint Nilus the Faster of Sinai, a native of Constantinople. He lived during the fifth century and was a disciple of Saint John Chrysostom. Having received a fine education, the saint was appointed to the important post of prefect of the capital while still a young man. During this period, Nilus was married and had children, but the pomp of courtly life bothered the couple. Saint John Chrysostom exerted a tremendous influence upon their lives and their spiritual strivings.¹ The spouses decided to separate and devote themselves to the monastic life.

The wife and daughter of Nilus went to one of the women's monasteries in Egypt, and Saint Nilus and his son Theodulus went to Sinai, where they settled in a cave dug out by their own hands. For forty years this cave served as the dwelling of Saint Nilus. By fasting, prayer and works, the monk attained a high degree of spiritual perfection. People began to come to him from every occupation and social rank from the emperor down to the farmer, and each found counsel and comfort from the saint.

At Sinai, Saint Nilus wrote many soul-profitting works to guide Christians on the path of salvation. In one of his letters there is an angry denunciation of the emperor Arcadius, who had exiled Saint John Chrysostom. The ascetic works of the venerable Nilus are widely known: they are perfectly executed in form, profoundly Orthodox in content, and are clear and lucid in expression. His Ascetic Discourse is found in Volume I of the English *PHILOKALIA*.

Saint Nilus suffered many misfortunes in the wilderness. Once, Saracens captured his son Theodulus, whom they intended to offer as a sacrifice to their pagan gods. Through the prayers of the saint the Lord saved Theodulus, and his father found him with the Bishop of Emessa, who had ransomed the young man from the barbarians. This bishop ordained both of them as presbyters. After ordination they returned to Sinai, where they lived as ascetics together until the death of Saint Nilus.

¹ In earlier editions of the Synaxaristes and the Menaion, it was erroneously stated that Saint Neilos lived during the reign of Emperor Maurikios (582-602). This was corrected in later editions, since he was a disciple of Saint John Chrysostom, and was esteemed by Emperor Arkadios because of his virtues.



The Proclamation of the Holy Synod of Bishops on the Glorification of the Righteous Matushka Olga

The Proclamation of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America on the Glorification of the Righteous Servant of God Matushka Olga

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

To the beloved Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America

God is wondrous in His Saints

November 8, 2023

Chicago, IL

The [Holy Synod of Bishops](#) of the Orthodox Church in America has heard the petition of The Right Reverend ALEXEI, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska, expressed in his November 2, 2023 letter to His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, concerning the glorification of the Servant of God, the Righteous Matushka Olga.

In this letter, His Grace Bishop ALEXEI states: “I am writing to Your Beatitude with respect to the departed handmaiden of God and faithful Orthodox Christian, Matushka Olga Nicholai of Kwethluk, known by the pious peoples of the Kuskokwim as *Arrsamquq*. Her humility, her generosity, her piety, her patience, and her selfless love for God and neighbor were well-known in the Kuskokwim villages during her earthly life. Her care for comforting the suffering and the grieving has also been revealed after her life by grace-filled manifestations to the faithful throughout not only Alaska, but all of North America. The first peoples of Alaska are convinced of her sanctity and the great efficacy of her prayers. For this reason, after prayerful consideration, I, Alexei, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska, am hereby making the formal request to Your Beatitude as the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America to begin the process that, if it be in accord with God’s will, would lead to her glorification.”

The Holy Synod, having prayerfully reflected upon this petition and having observed and acknowledged the sincere devotion among the faithful of Alaska and beyond, has unanimously determined that the time for the glorification of Matushka Olga has arrived, fulfilling the hopes and prayers of pious Orthodox Christians throughout Alaska and the entire world.

THEREFORE, meeting in Solemn Assembly in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois, under the Presidency of The Most Blessed TIKHON, Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada, We, the Members of The Holy Synod of The Orthodox Church in America, do hereby decide and decree that the ever-memorable Servant of God MATUSHKA OLGA be numbered among the saints. With one mind and one heart, we also resolve that her honorable remains be considered as holy relics; that a special service be composed in her honor; that her feast be celebrated on November 10 (October 28, old style) and the Feast of All Saints of North America, the Second Sunday after Pentecost; that holy icons be prepared to honor the newly-glorified saint in accordance with the Canons of the Sacred Ecumenical and Regional Councils; that her life be published for the edification of the Faithful, that the name of the new saint be communicated to the Primates of all Sister Churches for inclusion in their calendars; and that the date and location of the Rite of Glorification be communicated to the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of our Church in due time.

FURTHER, we entrust to the Canonization Commission of The Orthodox Church in America, under the Chairmanship of The Most Reverend DANIEL, Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest, with the honorable task of assisting The Right Reverend ALEXEI, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska, in preparing for the celebration of the glorification by providing an authorized *Life* of Matushka Olga for the education and edification of the Faithful, with overseeing the painting of holy icons of her, in keeping with the canonical iconographical tradition of the Church, with the composition of liturgical texts to be sung at the Divine Services in which she will be commemorated, and with assisting in the uncovering and recognition of her holy relics, and in promoting her veneration among all the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of our Church.

We call upon the faithful to remember Matushka Olga at Memorial Services or Litanies for the Departed when appropriate until the day of her glorification.

Through the prayers of Matushka Olga and of all the Saints who have shone forth in North America, may the Lord grant His mercies and blessings to all who seek her heavenly intercession with faith and love. Amen.

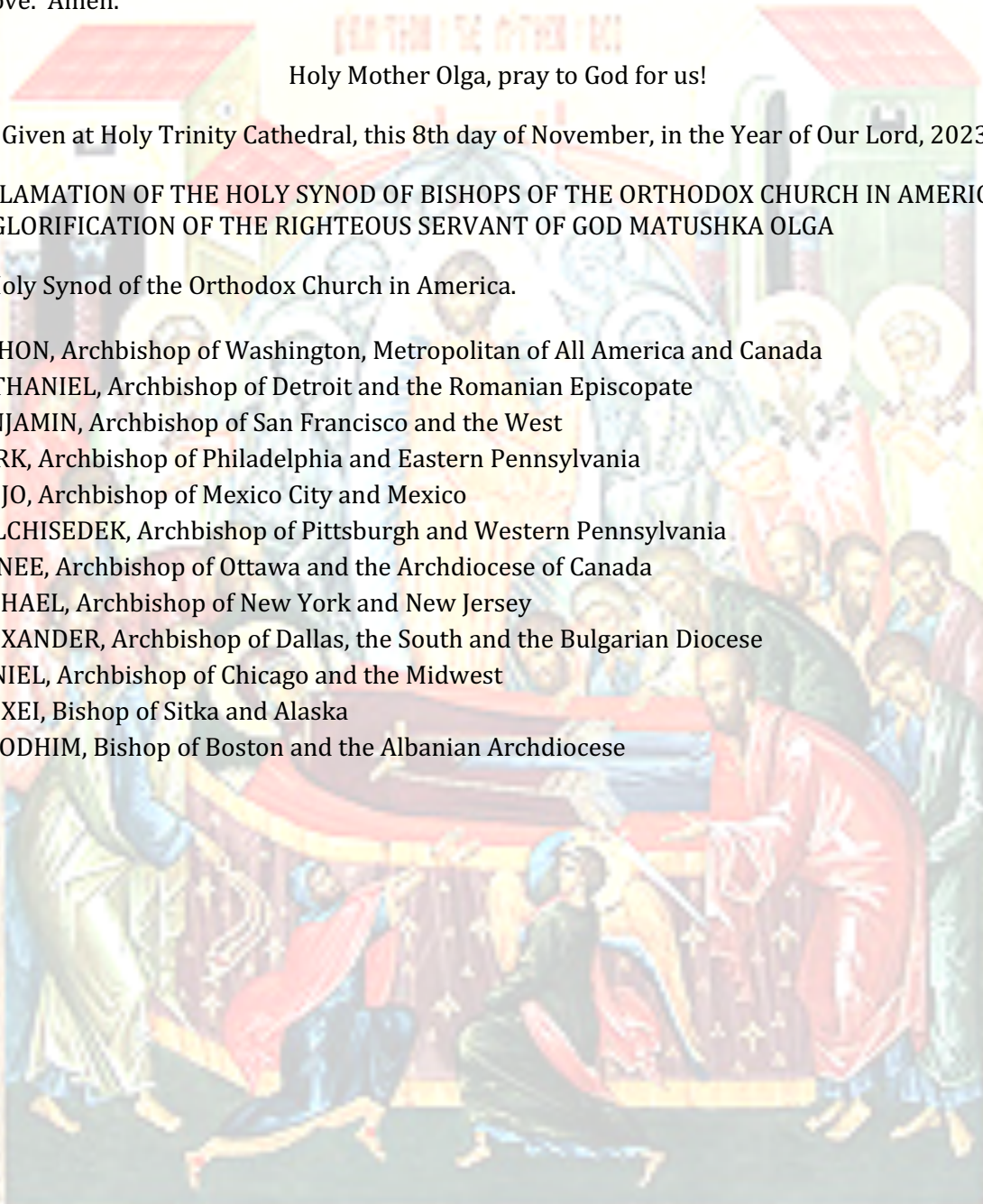
Holy Mother Olga, pray to God for us!

Given at Holy Trinity Cathedral, this 8th day of November, in the Year of Our Lord, 2023.

PROCLAMATION OF THE HOLY SYNOD OF BISHOPS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA ON THE GLORIFICATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS SERVANT OF GOD MATUSHKA OLGA

The Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America.

- + TIKHON, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada
- + NATHANIEL, Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate
- + BENJAMIN, Archbishop of San Francisco and the West
- + MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
- + ALEJO, Archbishop of Mexico City and Mexico
- + MELCHISEDEK, Archbishop of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania
- + IRENEE, Archbishop of Ottawa and the Archdiocese of Canada
- + MICHAEL, Archbishop of New York and New Jersey
- + ALEXANDER, Archbishop of Dallas, the South and the Bulgarian Diocese
- + DANIEL, Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest
- + ALEXEI, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska
- + NIKODHIM, Bishop of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese



The Glorification of the Saints in the Orthodox Church

This article was written by Fr. Joseph Frawley, a member of the Orthodox Church in America's Canonization Commission. It was originally published in the April-May 2000 issue of *The Orthodox Church Newspaper*.

While the glorification of saints in the Orthodox Church has been taking place for nearly 2000 years, few people today are certain about how this really happens. Does the Church "make" a saint? Are there special panels which decide who can be considered for sainthood? Are saints "elected" by a majority vote? Does a person have to perform a certain number of miracles in order to qualify as a saint? The answers to these questions may be surprising to some.

We know that there are several categories of saints: prophets, evangelists, martyrs, ascetics, holy bishops and priests, and those who live a righteous life "in the world." What they all have in common is holiness of life. Three times in the Book of Leviticus (Ch 11, 19 and 20) God tells us to be holy, because He is holy. We must consecrate ourselves, for we are His people. Saint Peter reiterates this commandment in the new testament, challenging us to obey God's commandments and submit our will to His will (1 Pet 1:16). Everyone is challenged to manifest holiness in their lives, for we all must become saints! This is our special - and common - calling from God. It is not something reserved for the clergy, monastics, or those who are "more pious." Everyone who has been baptized into Christ must live in such a way that Christ lives within us. "Do you not know," Saint Paul asks, "that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Cor 3:16).

So, the glorification of saints in the Orthodox Church is a recognition that God's holiness is manifested in the Church through these grace-filled men and women whose lives were pleasing to God. Very early on, the Church recognized the righteous ancestors of Christ (**Forefathers**), those who predicted His coming (**Prophets**), and those who proclaimed the Gospel (**Apostles** and **Evangelists**). Then those who risked their lives and shed their blood to bear witness to Christ (**Martyrs** and **Confessors**) were also recognized by the Church as saints. There was no special canonization process, but their relics were treasured and the annual anniversaries of their martyrdoms were celebrated. Later, the **ascetics**, who followed Christ through self denial, were numbered among the saints. **Bishops and priests** who proclaimed the True Faith and fought against heresy were added to the list. Finally, those in other walks of life who **manifested holiness** were recognized as saints.

While the glorification of a saint may be initiated because of miracles, it is not an absolute necessity for canonization. The Roman Catholic Church requires three verified miracles in order to recognize someone as a saint; the Orthodox Church does not require this. There are some saints, including Saint Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) and Saint Innocent of Moscow (commemorated March 31), who have not performed any miracles, as far as we know. What is required is a virtuous life of obvious holiness. And a saint's writings and preaching must be "fully Orthodox," in agreement with the pure faith that we have received from Christ and the Apostles and taught by the Fathers and the Ecumenical Councils.

Can the Church "make" a saint? The answer is no. Only God can do that. We glorify those whom God Himself has glorified, seeing in their lives true love for God and their neighbors. The Church merely recognizes that such a person has cooperated with God's grace to the extent that his or her holiness is beyond doubt.

Are saints "elected" by special panels or by majority vote? Again, the answer is no. Long before an official inquiry into a person's life is made, that person is venerated by the people where he or she lived and died. His or her memory is kept alive by the people who pray for his or her soul or who ask him or her for intercession. Sometimes people will visit his or her grave or have icons painted through their love for the person. Then a request is made, usually through the diocesan bishop, for the Church to recognize that person as a saint. A committee, such as the Orthodox Church in America's Canonization Commission, is formed to research the life of the person who is being considered for glorification and to submit a report to the Holy Synod stating its reasons why the person should or should not be recognized as a saint. Then the Holy Synod decides to number that person among the saints and have icons painted and liturgical services composed.

The formal Rite of Glorification begins with a final Memorial Service for the person about to be canonized, after which Vespers and Matins with special hymns to the saint are chanted and the saint's icon is unveiled. The saint's life is published and the date of his or her commemoration is established. The other Orthodox Churches are notified of the glorification so that they can place the new saint's name on their calendars.

Through the prayers of all the saints, may we be encouraged to follow their example of virtue and holiness.