

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, December 3, 2023 | 26th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) (635-605 B.C.)

St. Theodulus, Eparch of Constantinople (ca 440)

Venerable John the Silent of Saint Sabbas' Monastery (558)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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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

Tuesday: December 5 – Vespers Divine Liturgy at **5:30PM** for the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas The Wonderworker (Dec. 6th)

Saturday: December 9 – The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos

Saturday: December 9 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: December 10 – Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, & Eugephus

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Sunday: December 10 – Saint Nicholas Fair after Divine Liturgy

Tuesday: December 12 - Bible Study - 6:30PM on ZOOM platform!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Troparion (Tone 2 – Prophet Zephaniah)

We celebrate the memory / of Thy prophet Zephaniah, O Lord; / through him we beseech Thee: // “Save our souls!”

Kontakion (Tone 1)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Prophet Zephaniah)

Thou hast been revealed by the Spirit of God to be brilliant, O Prophet Zephaniah, / for thou didst proclaim the coming of God: / “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem! // Behold, your King is coming to save mankind!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:9-19

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27 (from the 28th Sunday)

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

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

Parish Christmas Card 2023

This year's Parish Christmas card will be distributed on Christmas Day. Please pick up a form at the parish before you leave after Divine Liturgy today. Or check your email from Monday, November 20th around 12:20PM for a .pdf copy of the form. Please submit your form to Reader David Pellack or Matushka Janine by **TODAY!**

Donation for a one line notation on the card (66 characters (13 words) is \$10.00
Donation for a two line notation on the card (132 characters (26 words) is \$20.00

Parish Christmas Fundraisers 2023

The Parish will have for sale chocolate bars, poppy seed rolls, and nut rolls.

Donation towards purchasing Chocolate bars is \$7.00 each
Donation towards purchasing Poppy Seed Rolls is \$20.00 each
Donation towards purchasing Nut Rolls is \$20.00 each

Chocolate Bars can be picked up from Matushka Janine between December 3 to December 24, 2023. Both Poppy Seed and Nut Rolls will be delivered on Sunday, December 24, 2023 at the Parish.

Please pick up a Christmas Fundraisers 2023 form at the parish when you attend Vespers or Divine Liturgy over the next week. Or check your email from Monday, November 20th around 12:20PM for a .pdf copy of the form. Please submit your form to Reader David Pellack or Matushka Janine by **Sunday, December 10, 2023.** Thank You!

Children's Saint Nicholas Icon coloring Contest

This year, the children of the Parish and their friends are invited to submit a colored icon of Saint Nicholas in a coloring contest by December 10, 2023. All entries will be accepted for children submitting a colored icon that are aged 1-18. Mother Catherine has graciously agreed to be the Judge or at least one of the Judges. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place per age group. Please submit the finished colored icons to Matushka Janine McCartney by the deadline date which is **Sunday, December 10, 2023!**

Please see your email from Monday, November 20 around 1:30PM for a .pdf copy of the Saint Nicholas icon or obtain a copy at the parish when you attend Vespers or Divine Liturgy over the next week. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Parishioners, Family, and Friends offered by David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Building Fund Donation:

In Memory of John Wanenchak from his brother Robert Wanenchak

Vigil Cross Candles – 11/26/23

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Please remember in your prayers:

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 (November)

	<u>Week of Sun Nov 19 to Sat Nov 25</u>	<u>November Month to Date</u>
Attendance:	30	35 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,087.00	\$ 4,588.00
Funds Out:	\$ 294.03	\$ 5,116.88
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 792.97	(\$ 528.88)

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 (Dec 3)</u>	<u>Next Week (Dec 10)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Michael Wanenchak	Dr. David Albrecht
6 th Hour:	John Spack	Reader Mark Klus
Epistle:	Michael Wanenchak	Dr. David Albrecht

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 2023.

Sundays in December – Annual Saint Nicholas Parish Fair will be held between 11:30AM to 2:00PM!

The “Tentative” Schedule for Christmas Eve Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) on Sunday, December 24th is scheduled for between 12:30pm and 1:00pm that afternoon. This is approximately an hour after Divine Liturgy is completed. This should give enough time for parishioners to relax and grab a quick bite (Lenten) during Coffee Fellowship Hour before the Great Complines and Matins begins.

Thursday, January 25 and Friday, January 26, 2024 – The 60th Annual Diocesan Assembly will be held at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Harrisburg, PA. If you are interested in attending as a Lay Delegate to represent the parish or attend just as an Assembly observer, please speak with Father Mark or Parish President Matthew Andrews.



Prophet Zephaniah [December 3rd]

The Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Prophetess Oldama. He was from the tribe of Simeon, and was the ninth of the Twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. The prophet lived at the royal court, where he preached repentance and helped King Josiah eliminate idol-worship. He prophesied about the calamities that were to come for the people of Judea and the surrounding regions: Gaza, Ascalon, Crete, and against the Moabites, the Ammonites and the Ninevites.

Prophet Habakkuk [December 2nd]

The Holy Prophet Habakkuk, the eighth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, was descended from the Tribe of Simeon, and he prophesied around 650 B.C.

The Prophet Habakkuk foresaw the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, the Babylonian Captivity and the later return of the captives to their native land. During the war with the Babylonians the prophet withdrew to Arabia, where the following miracle occurred. When he was bringing dinner to the reapers, he met an angel of the Lord, and instantly by the strength of his spirit he was transported to Babylon, where at the time the Prophet Daniel was languishing in prison. The food intended for the reapers assuaged the hunger of the exhausted Prophet Daniel (Dan. 14:33-37).

After the end of the war with the Babylonians, the Prophet Habakkuk returned to his homeland and died at a great old age. His relics were found at the time of Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450), together with the relics of the Prophet Micah (August 14).

The Fourth Ode of the Psalter (“O Lord, I have heard thy report, and was afraid...”) is based on Habakkuk 3:2-19.

