

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, December 24, 2023 | 29th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Sunday of the Holy Fathers
Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ
Holy Eve of the Nativity of Christ

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952
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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

Today: FINAL Day Saint Nicholas Parish Fair after Divine Liturgy

Today: Eve of the Nativity of Christ! Great Complines and Matins (Condensed Version).
Time: **12:30pm!**

Monday: The Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

From Christmas Day until January 4, inclusive, there is a general dispensation from all fasting!

Saturday: December 30 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: December 31 – Sunday After the Nativity of Christ
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

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 2 – Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith, / for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; / and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Forefeast)

Mary was of David’s seed, / so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem. / She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man. / The time for the birth was at hand. / Since there was no room at the inn, / the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen. // Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

Kontakion (Tone 1 – Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! / The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. / The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, // and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave / to give birth to the Eternal Word. / Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! / Glorify with the angels and the shepherds / the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Prokeimenon (Tone 4– Songs of our Fathers)

Blessed are Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!
v. For Thou are just in all that Thou has done for us!

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 4)

- v. We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! 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

ATTENTION: When donating Trash Bags for the Church – 39 gallon size

If you are kind enough to make a donation and purchase Trash Bags for the church, please remember the church needs 39 Gallon size bags. We appreciate those who have donated the 33 gallon size in the past - - and those can be used in other purposes - - but those thrash bags to not fit the black plastic trash can, which is a 39 gallon trash can. Thank you for your attention and prior donations regarding this matter.

85th Annual Novogodny Ball – Sunday, January 14, 2024

St Stephen's OCF – Chapter #82 of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will host this annual event. This year's semi-formal gala will be located at the Radisson Hotel – Philadelphia Northeast | 2400 Old Lincoln Highway | Trevoese, PA 19053. **DEADLINE IS JANUARY 7, 2024**

Dinner begins at 5:30PM Dancing from 7:30PM to 11:30PM

Dinner & Dancing

Age 23+: \$110 | Ages 13-22: \$100 | Age 12 & Under: \$70

Dancing & Treats Only

Age 23+: \$65 | Ages 13-22: \$55 | Age 12 & Under: \$50

Obtain tickets: Make checks payable to St. Stephen's OCF and mail to:
85th Novogodny Ball | 1104 Amber Lane | Lansdale, PA 19446

General inquiries and questions:

Phone: 215.290.4542 (Andre Cox)

Email: novogodnyball@gmail.com

Radisson Hotel Info & Room Reservations:

Phone#: 267.525.4006 Website: www.radisson.com/trevoese

Room Rate: \$119/night on Saturday, January 13, 2024

Room Rate: \$109/night on Sunday January 14, 2024

Reservations **MUST** be made by December 14, 2023

Novogodny Ball reservation forms are available in the back of the church!

2024 Saint Tikhon's Church Calendars are now available

The parish received its order of 2024 Saint Tikhon's Calendars. We will begin distributing these calendars to those households today and tomorrow. If you're in church, please ensure your household gets its calendar. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and Friends offered by Reader David Pellack
Diane Pratt & Family offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Parishioners offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Aunt Roseanne Kennedy offered by Nina Patterson

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/17/23

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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 (December)

<u>Week of Sun Dec 10 to Sat Dec 16</u>	<u>December Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 37	38 (average)
Funds In: \$ 2,585.00	\$ 4,548.00
Funds Out: \$ 1,279.14	\$ 4,552.84
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 1,305.86	(\$ 4.84)

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 24)</u>	<u>Next Week (Dec 31)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Reader David Pellack	John Spack
6 th Hour:	Daniel Herbert	Michael Wanenchak
Epistle:	Reader David Pellack	John Spack

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 January 2024.

Friday, January 5th – Eve of the Holy Theophany:

Vespers | Great Complines | Matins (condensed version) | Blessing of the Water beginning at **5:00PM!**

Saturday, January 6th – Holy Theophany Liturgy:

Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM!**

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.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

The Spiritual Advisor's report, the President's report, the Treasurer's report, and the voting on the 2024 budget will take place during the meeting along with any other business that needs to be discussed.



Eve of the Nativity of our Lord **[December 24th]**

In Slavic practice, on the eve of the Nativity of the Lord, the liturgical services consist of the Royal Hours with the Typika, Vespers, and the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great. At Vigil in the evening, Great Compline is followed by Matins.

If the Nativity falls on Sunday, however, the Royal Hours with the Typika are read on the preceding Friday. On Friday evening, the office of the Forefeast, December 24. The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is served on Saturday morning. At Vigil in the evening, Great Compline is followed by Matins. On Sunday morning, the Liturgy of Saint Basil is celebrated.

If the Nativity falls on a Monday, Royal Hours with the Typika are read on Friday December 22. On Saturday evening and Sunday morning we follow the order for the Sunday before the Nativity with the office of the Forefeast for December 24. On Sunday morning the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is served. Vigil on Sunday evening consists of Great Compline is followed by Matins. On Monday morning the Liturgy of Saint Basil is celebrated.

On the eve of the Nativity, instead of three readings from the Old Testament at Vespers, there are eight readings (from Genesis, Numbers, Micah, Isaiah, Baruch, Daniel, and two more readings from Isaiah). The entrance is made with the Gospel.

At the end of Liturgy the priest places a lighted candle in a candlestick in the center of the church. Then the troparion and kontakion of the Feast are sung. At Vigil on the evening of the twenty-fourth, Great Compline is followed by Matins.

