

## 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

### **Sunday, January 7, 2024 | 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 6 – Sunday After the Theophany

Afterfeast of the Theophany

Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

### **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: January 9 - Bible Study - 6:30PM on ZOOM platform!

Saturday: January 13 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: January 14 – Leavetaking of the Theophany

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 1 – Feast of Theophany)**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, / and called Thee His beloved Son; / and the Spirit in the form of a dove / confirmed the truthfulness of His word. / O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself // and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

### **Troparion (Tone 2 – St John the Baptist)**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, / but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. / Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the Prophets, / for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Whom thou didst preach. / After suffering with joy on behalf of the truth, / thou didst proclaim even to those in hell the God Who appeared in the flesh, / Who takes away the sin of the world // and grants us great mercy!

### **Kontakion (Tone 6 – St John the Baptist)**

The river Jordan trembled, and was driven back, / filled with fear at Thy coming in the flesh, / while John drew back in awe / as he fulfilled the ministry of the Spirit. / The ranks of Angels stood amazed / when they beheld Thee baptized in the stream. / And we who were in darkness are filled with light. // We praise Thee, O God made manifest, as Thou dost enlighten all.

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Feast of Theophany)**

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, / and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. / Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O unapproachable Light.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 1 – Sunday after Theophany)**

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!

### **Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – St John the Baptist)**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him

### **Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday After Theophany)**

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5 – Sunday After Theophany)

- 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)
- v. Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday After Theophany)**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**[Instead of "It is truly meet.." we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]**

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,  
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!  
No tongue is capable of praising you worthily;  
The angelic mind is overawed in exalting you, O Theotokos!  
But since thou art good, accept our faith,  
Since you are gracious and knowest our divine love,  
Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee!

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for Saint John the Baptist are as follows:  
Epistle – Acts 19:1-8 and Gospel – John 1:29-34]*

**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

### THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PARISHIONERS AND PARISH FRIENDS

**UPDATE:** Again, the parish had a very successful *Saint Nicholas Fair* last month. Through your donations and purchases of crafts, baked goods, and handmade natural scented soaps, the Fair raised over ~~\$2,050~~ **\$2,275** as of last ~~Monday, December 25~~ Sunday, December 31. Thank You for your support towards the parish HVAC Project.

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### **2024 House Blessing**

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany, which is Saturday, January 6. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

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### **Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 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. The Spiritual Advisor's report, the Treasurer's report, the voting on the 2024 budget, along with any other business that needs to be discussed. The election of the 2024 parish council officers took place during the Fall Parish meeting back in November 2023.

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### **Cards for Our Troops! Save your Christmas Cards!**

Please save your Christmas cards from this past year. Matushka Janine is collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for this upcoming year. We will use the front cover and paste it on a new card, write an appropriate verse on the inside of the card, and address the card to our soldiers. Please consider donating your cards you received this year. Please see Matushka Janine as to where to drop off your Christmas cards at a designated area in the church basement, or whether she will collect them directly. As always, thank you for your generosity!

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### **2024 Saint Tikhon's Church Calendars are now available**

The parish received its order of 2024 Saint Tikhon's Calendars. We have begun distributing the calendars to the parishioners. 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 Parishioners offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Jane Holefelder, Irene Torpey offered by Nina Patterson

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 12/31/23**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Norman Andrews; Emily Gerasimoff; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Justine McCann and her unborn child; 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 24 to Sat Dec 30</u>	<u>December Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 34	34 (average)
<i>Christmas Day Liturgy</i> 33	<i>(includes Christmas Day)</i>
Funds In: (12/24 & 12/25) \$ 5,820.00	\$12,824.00
Funds Out: \$ 2,982.00	\$ 8,000.42
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 2,838.00	\$ 4,823.58

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

## 2024 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 (Jan 7)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 14)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Epistle:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

### 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 January and February 2024.

**Thursday, January 25 and Friday, January 26, 2024** – The 60<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Sunday, February 11, 2024** – Soup N' Bowl VIII Challenge will be held in the church basement after Divine Liturgy.

We have two electric burners to be used to keep Soup warm and the remaining dishes we will use the Sterno heating trays to keep the dishes hot! Again, we will try to limit the number of food entrants between 4 to 6 dishes.



## Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

[January 7<sup>th</sup>]

In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior.

Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism.

The holy Prophet John, the son of the Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, was related to the Lord on His mother's side. The holy Forerunner, John, was born six months before Christ. The Archangel Gabriel announced his birth in the Temple at Jerusalem, revealing to Zachariah that a son was to be born to him.

Through the prayers offered beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saint John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people.

At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, Saint John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome. (On Saint John the Baptist, see Mt.3:1-16, 11:1-19, 14:1-12; Mark 1:2-8, 6:14-29; Luke 1:5-25, 39-80, 3:1-20, 7:18-35, 9:7-9; John 1:19-34, 3:22-26).

