

## 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 21, 2024 | 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Venerable Maximus the Confessor (662)

Martyr Neophytus of Nicea (303-305)

Martyrs Eugene, Candidus, Valerian, and Aquila, at Trebizond (3<sup>rd</sup> c.)

### 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

Today: Sanctity of Life Sunday Observed

Thursday: January 25 – 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Assembly  
at Christ the Savior Church in Harrisburg, PA

Friday: January 26 – 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Assembly  
at Christ the Savior Church in Harrisburg, PA

Saturday: January 27 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: January 28 – New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**  
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Sunday: January 28 – Installation of 2024 Parish Council

Sunday: January 28 – Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy.

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 8)**

By Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

### **Troparion (Tone 8 – Maximus the Confessor)**

Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship, / enlightener of the universe and the adornment of hierarchs: / all-wise Father Maximus, thy teachings have gleamed with light upon all things. // Intercede before Christ God to save our souls!

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – Martyr Neophytus)**

Thy holy martyr Neophytus, O Lord, / through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. / For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through his intercessions save our souls!

### **Kontakion (Tone 8)**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

### **Kontakion (Tone 6 – Maximus the Confessor) \***

The Thrice-radiant Light took up abode in thy soul, O all-blissful father, / and displayed it as an elect vessel, manifest to the ends of the earth. / O blessed Maximus, thou didst explain hard-to-grasp doctrines with brilliance and clarity, // proclaiming the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity to all.

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Martyr Neophytus)**

Thou didst shine forth from the mount like lightning, / glorifying Christ through thy struggles and death as a martyr. // Therefore, thou hast received an unfading crown, O Great-martyr Neophytus.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 8)**

Pray and make our vows / before the Lord our God!  
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel!

### **Epistle Reading: Colossians 1:12-18**

Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)



v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)

v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14**

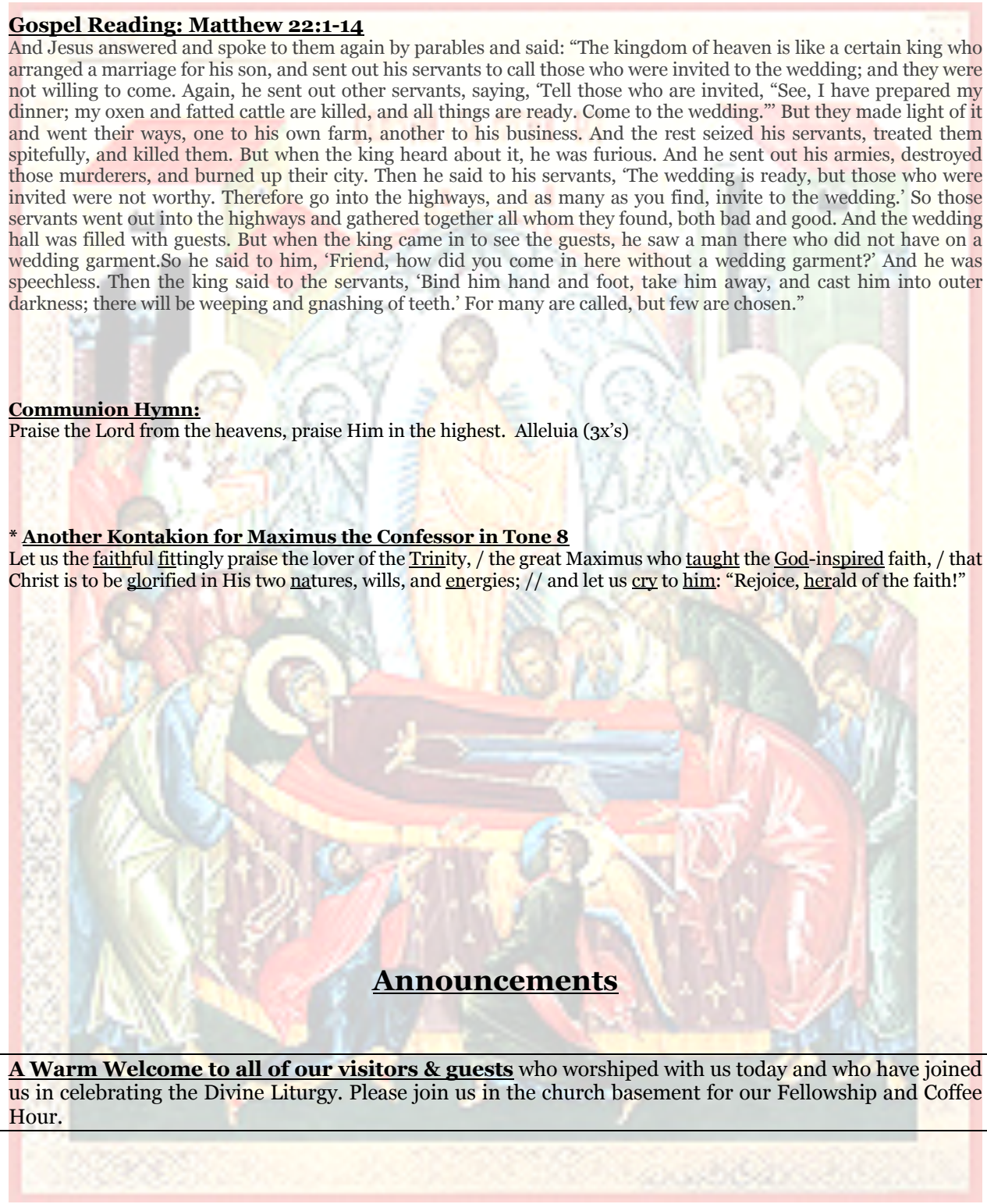
And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

**Communion Hymn:**

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

**\* Another Kontakion for Maximus the Confessor in Tone 8**

Let us the faithful fittingly praise the lover of the Trinity, / the great Maximus who taught the God-inspired faith, / that Christ is to be glorified in His two natures, wills, and energies; // and let us cry to him: "Rejoice, herald of the faith!"



**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

### **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 #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. 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 UNUSED Christmas Cards!**

**UPDATE:** Please save your *UNUSED* Christmas cards from this past year. Matushka Janine is collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for this upcoming year. Please consider donating your *UNUSED* cards you purchased 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!

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**There will be no services held for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs at our parish on either the eve (Monday, January 29) or on the Feast Day itself (Tuesday, January 30).**



**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Family and Parishioners offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Family and Friends offered by Nina Patterson  
Anne (Homa) Killoran offered by Ron Homa  
Family, Friends, and Parishioners offered by David Pellack

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Michael Spack Sr offered by M/M Herbert  
Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Edward Ovington offered by M/M Herbert

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 1/14/24**

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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 (January)**

<u>Week of Sun Jan 7 to Sat Jan 13</u>	<u>January Month to Date</u>	
Attendance:	30	30 (average)
	<i>For 2023 - the average attendance was 36.39</i>	
Funds In:	\$ 3,489.00	\$ 3,489.00
Funds Out:	\$ 6,010.88	\$ 8,476.97
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	<b>(\$ 2,521.88)</b>	<b>(\$ 4,987.97)</b>

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 21)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 28)</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.

**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.

After Divine Liturgy, but before the Annual Parish Meeting, the Installation of the Parish Council will be performed.

**Tuesday, January 30 – Synaxis of the Three Great Ecumenical Teachers and Hierarchs. NO SERVICE SCHEDULED AT THE PARISH THAT DAY!**

**Thursday, February 1** – Vespers Divine Liturgy at 6:00PM for The Feast of The Meeting of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, In The Temple

**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.



## **Martyr Neophytus of Nicea** [January 21<sup>st</sup>]

The Holy Martyr Neophytus, a native of the city of Nicea in Bithynia, was raised by his parents in strict Christian piety. For his virtue, temperance and unceasing prayer, it pleased God to glorify Saint Neophytus with the gift of wonderworking, while the saint was still just a child!

Like Moses, the holy youth brought forth water from a stone of the city wall and gave this water to those who were thirsty. In answer to the prayer of Saint Neophytus' mother, Neophytus' mother, asking that God's will concerning her son might be revealed to her, a white dove miraculously appeared and told of the path he would follow. The saint was led forth from his parental home by this dove and brought to a cave on Mt. Olympus, which served as a lion's den. It is said that he chased the lion from the cave so that he could live there himself. The saint remained there from the age of nine until he was fifteen, leaving it only once to bury his parents and distribute their substance to the poor.

During the persecution by Diocletian (284-305), he went to Nicea and boldly began to denounce the impiety of the pagan faith. The enraged persecutors suspended the saint from a tree, they whipped him with ox thongs, and scraped his body with iron claws. Then they threw him into a red-hot oven, but the holy martyr remained unharmed, spending three days and three nights in it. The torturers, not knowing what else to do with him, decided to kill him. One of the pagans ran him through with a sword (some say it was a spear), and the saint departed to the Lord at the age of sixteen.



[Please Note: Beginning with last week's bulletin, we will be providing the *Lives of the Saints* for those who are not well known, not mention often, and who's historical information can be presented onto this page without leaving out important life events or continuing on another page or in an upcoming bulletin. Thank you for your understanding regarding this matter.]