

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

Sunday, July 7, 2024 | 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – All Saints of America and All Saints of Russia
Venerable Thomas of Mount Maleon (10th c.)

Venerable Acacius of Sinai, who is mentioned in The Ladder (6th c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich

Choir Director – Nina Patterson

Reader – Mark Klus

Reader – David Pellack

Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

Tuesday: Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!

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

Sunday: July 14 – Commoration of the Holy Fathers
of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

Reading of Hours – 8:30am

Divine Liturgy – **9:00am [Summer Hours]**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

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 8 - Saints)

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation, / the lands of North America offer to Thee, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. / By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace // through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

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 aster! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 - Saints)

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America / now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. / With them the Angels glorify Him, / and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them; // and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – All Saints)

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.

Epistle Reading: Romans 2:10-16

But glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel. 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)
- v. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, O you righteous! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 1]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:18-23

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for the Saints are as follows:
Epistle – Hebrews 11:33-12:2 and Gospel – Matthew 4:25-5:12]*

“Be the first to arrive at church for services and the last to leave, especially for the Divine Liturgy.”
St Symeon the Studite (also called Symeon the Pious; +1021)

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

UPDATED!!! - Services in the church basement

While the parish is serving Vespers and Divine Liturgy in the church basement due to the air conditioner still not working, there are some adjustments we need to make for the services to be performed smoothly as possible. As stated before, this will be a work in progress so please be patient with all those who are trying to make this work for everyone.

We have 2 portable air conditioners that have been set up in the church basement (one near the back door of the basement and the other near the middle window of the street side of the basement). We also have three (3) whirl fans which will assist in circulating the cold air while also cooling the basement to a comfortable level (one fan on the stage/altar blowing out to the congregation, one fan on the stage/altar blowing towards the altar/priest, and one near the street side basement middle window ~~inner front doors~~ blowing towards the congregation to keep that cold air in the basement).

Other items of note:

* Prosfora – It will be available to be offered for your loved ones. The trays will be located on the display case in front of the office.

* Candles – They will NOT be available to burn. It will already be hot enough, no need to include more heat and with the fans and air moving, the candles will burn down more quickly than what they should be allowed to do.

* **[UPDATE]:** Collection - We will have one individual walk around taking both of the collections when they are normally scheduled during the service.

* Reading Stand - The stand used for reading the Hours and the Epistle will also be used by Father Mark when he reads the gospel. If you're reading the Epistle, please bring the stand up with you to the stage after you've read to receive the blessing and to put the stand on the stage in front of Father Mark.

* Coffee Hour – We are limited with room and trying to avoid distractions during the services, so we are requesting from the coffee hour teams to please just bring either donuts, pastries, bagels, or other finger foods that do not need to be prepared, cooked, heated, or watched over while services are in progress. Also, we do not have enough room to stretch out and enjoy a meal since the tables will not be set up. Also, due to the use of all the electrical outlets, coffee will be made upstairs in the vestibule near the candle stand.

* Live Streaming – Since we will be using a large amount of electricity with the air conditioners and fans, along with the limited space in the basement, we will not be streaming services at this time, however, this option may change in the future.

* Basement back door – The back door basement will be locked 10-15 minutes BEFORE services begin to avoid any distractions during services. Please make every effort to use the basement front doors when entering the church through the basement.

Finally, please remember we will be in an area that is about half the size of the nave of the church, so we would like to keep the moving around as minimal as possible to avoid distractions. Also remember the choir will be in the same space singing in front of where the coffee table is located.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 6/30/24

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Please remember in your prayers:

Christina Andrews and her unborn child; Darren Bodnar, Emily Gerasimoff; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; Fania Wanenchak; 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 (June)

<u>Week of Sun Jun 23 to Sat Jun 29</u>	<u>June Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 33	32 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,314.00	\$ 4,605.95
Funds Out: \$ 3,718.68	\$12,968.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$ 2,404.68)	(\$ 8,362.05)

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

- 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 (Jul 7)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jul 14)</u>
3 rd Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6 th 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.

[...continued from last page...Synaxis of the Saints of North America...]

bishop on the continent, St Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

St Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. St Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

St Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at St Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, St Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to St Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. St Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.



Synaxis of the Saints of North America [July 7th]

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians.

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. St Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, St Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were St Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and St Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive St Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

St Tikhon (Belavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox