

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, September 8, 2024 | 11th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – Nativity of Our Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross
Icons of the Most Holy Lady Theotokos

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!

Friday; September 13 – Vespers with Lityia at **6:00PM** for the
Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross

Saturday: September 14 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the
Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross

Saturday: September 14 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: September 15 – Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion (Tone 4 – Nativity of the Theotokos)

Thy nativity, O Virgin, / has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! / The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, / has shone from thee, O Theotokos. / By annulling the curse, / He bestowed a blessing. // By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Nativity of the Theotokos)

By thy nativity, most pure Virgin, / Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, / Adam and Eve – from the corruption of death. / And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: // “The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 3 – Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. Alleluia (3x's)
v. For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him. Alleluia (3x's)
v. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:23-35

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.

Instead of "It is truly meet ..." we sing Irmos of Ode 9:

Magnify, O my soul, / the most glorious birth of the Mother of God! / Virginitly is foreign to mothers; / childbearing is strange for virgins. / But in thee, O Theotokos, / both were accomplished. / Therefore all we nations // of the earth unceasingly magnify thee.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord! Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for the Nativity of the Theotokos are as follows:
Epistle – Philippians 2:5-11 and Gospel – Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28*

*[Note: Today's readings for Sunday before the Elevation are as follows:
Epistle – Galatians 6:11-18 and Gospel – John 3:13-17*

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

***** (Continued from the last page of this bulletin)*****

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: “the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls” (2nd Stikhera on “Lord, I Have Cried”, Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

HVAC Project Donations in Memory of Emily Gerasimoff

Barbara Andrews
Ronald & Cheryl Homa
John & Michele Spack

Tish Berchtold & Reader Mark Klus
Martha Palubniak
Katherine R Stilley

HVAC Project Donations in Memory of Peter Witiak

Barbara Andrews
Debbie Chan & Family
Ronald & Cheryl Homa
Rick & Daria LeRoy
Nina Patterson
Michael & Fania Wanenchak

Tish Berchtold & Reader Mark Klus
The Donohue Funeral Home LTD
Catherine Kavalkovich
Martha Palubniak
Dr Gale Rutan and Joseph Francis
Robert Wanenchak

2025 Saint Tikhon’s Monastery Calendar - Taking orders beginning 9/29:

The parish will once again be ordering 2025 calendars from Saint Tikhon’s Monastery. As a result from a generous benefactor, a donation was made to the church to cover the cost of one calendar per household for parishioners of the church.

If you wish to order additional calendars besides the one that will be ordered for your household, there will be sign-up sheet on the bulletin board downstairs on Sep 29th.

The cost of the 2025 St Tikhon’s calendars is \$8 per calendar (based on 2024 cost). The deadline for ordering these calendars will be: **Sunday, November 3, 2024!**

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:

Peter Witiak offered by Ron & Cheryl Homa
Peter Witiak offered by the Reader David Pellack
Peter Witiak offered by Nina Patterson
Peter Witiak, Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Albert Kavalkovich, Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 9/1/24

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed Servant of God Peter Witiak who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday morning, August 21, 2024. May His Memory Be Eternal!
Vetchnaya Pamyat!

Christina Andrews and her unborn child; Natalie Patterson-Nedbal and her unborn child; Darren Bodnar; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; Fania Wanenchak 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 (August)

<u>Week of Sun Aug 25 to Sat Aug 31</u>	<u>August Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 47	33 (average)
Funds In: \$ 3,672.00	\$11,400.59
Funds Out: (\$ 70.17) reimbursements	\$ 6,633.55
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 3,742.17	\$ 4,767.04

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:

Today (Sep 8)
3rd Hour: Dr David Albrecht
6th Hour: Reader David Pellack
Epistle: Reader Mark Klus
and Dr David Albrecht

Next Week (Sep 15)
Reader David Pellack
Reader Mark Klus
Sbden Daniel Kavalkovich
and Simon Herbert

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 September 2024.

Friday, September 13 – Vespers at **6:00PM** for the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross!

Saturday, September 14 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross!

Friday, September 20 – The 7th Annual Golf Tournament of the “Two Holies and a Saint” (sponsored by Orthodox Church of the HOLY Cross in Medford, NJ; Assumption of the HOLY Virgin Orthodox Church in Philadelphia, PA; and SAINT Stephen Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA). at Ron Jaworski’s Ramblewood Country Club in Mount Laurel, NJ. Golf Registration deadline is **Saturday, August 31**. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit special needs children in Uzhhorod, Ukrainian!



The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary [September 8th]

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

***** (Continue the Life of the Nativity of the Theotokos on page 4 of this bulletin)*****

