

## 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, September 15, 2024 | 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross  
Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross  
Greatmartyr Nicetas (Nikita) the Goth (ca. 372)

#### 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!  
[ **RESCHEDULED** from last Tuesday, September 10 ]

Saturday: September 21 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: September 22 – Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**  
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 3)**

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

### **Troparion (Tone 1 – Elevation of the Cross)**

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

### **Troparion (Tone 3 – Greatmartyr Nicetas)**

Thou didst defeat error and didst triumph in martyrdom, / Nicetas, namesake of victory; / for thou didst conquer the ranks of the enemy / and ended thy contest by fire. // Pray to Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

### **Kontakion (Tone 3)**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

### **Kontakion (Tone 2 – Greatmartyr Nicetas)**

Thou didst stand firm and didst defeat delusion / and hast received thy martyr's crown, Nicetas, namesake of victory; / thou art rejoicing with the Angels, / together with them thou art praying unceasingly to Christ God for us all.

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Elevation of the Cross)**

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy power, / granting them victories over their adversaries // by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 7)**

Extol the Lord our God, / worship at His footstool for He is holy!  
v. The Lord reigns; let the people tremble!

### **Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast gotten of old! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:16-26**

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

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

Magnify, O my soul, / the most precious Cross of the Lord! / Thou art a mystical paradise, O Theotokos / who, though untilled, hast brought forth Christ; / through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. / Now at its Exaltation, // as we bow in worship before it, we magnify thee.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
The light of Thy countenance has been signed upon us, O Lord. Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross are as follows:  
Epistle – Galatians 2:16-20 and Gospel – Mark 8:34-9:1*

**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

## HVAC Project Donations in Memory of Emily Gerasimoff

Melanie Albrecht  
Tish Berchtold & Reader Mark Klus  
Martha Palubniak  
Katherine R Stilley

Barbara Andrews  
Ronald & Cheryl Homa  
John & Michele Spack

## HVAC Project Donations in Memory of Peter Witiak

Melanie Albrecht  
Tish Berchtold & Reader Mark Klus  
The Donohue Funeral Home LTD  
Catherine Kavalkovich  
Martha Palubniak  
Dr Gale Rutan and Joseph Francis  
Michael & Fania Wanenchak  
Gene & Joan Witiak

Barbara Andrews  
Debbie Chan & Family  
Ronald & Cheryl Homa  
Rick & Daria LeRoy  
Nina Patterson  
John & Michele Spack  
Robert Wanenchak

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### 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!**

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BEFORE THY CROSS, WE BOW DOWN IN WORSHIP, O MASTER  
AND THY HOLY RESURECTION, WE GLORIFY



O LORD SAVE THY PEOPLE AND BLESS THY INHERITANCE

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

William Walker offered by the Reader David Pellack  
Natalie Patterson-Nedbal and her unborn child offered by Nina Patterson

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

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

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

The Flowers decorating the Cross on the Tetrapod (for the Elevation of the Precious Cross Holy Day which was yesterday) are in the memory of Mary “Matsey” Herbert donated by the Herbert Family. Memory Eternal!

**Vigil Cross Candles – 9/8/24**

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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!

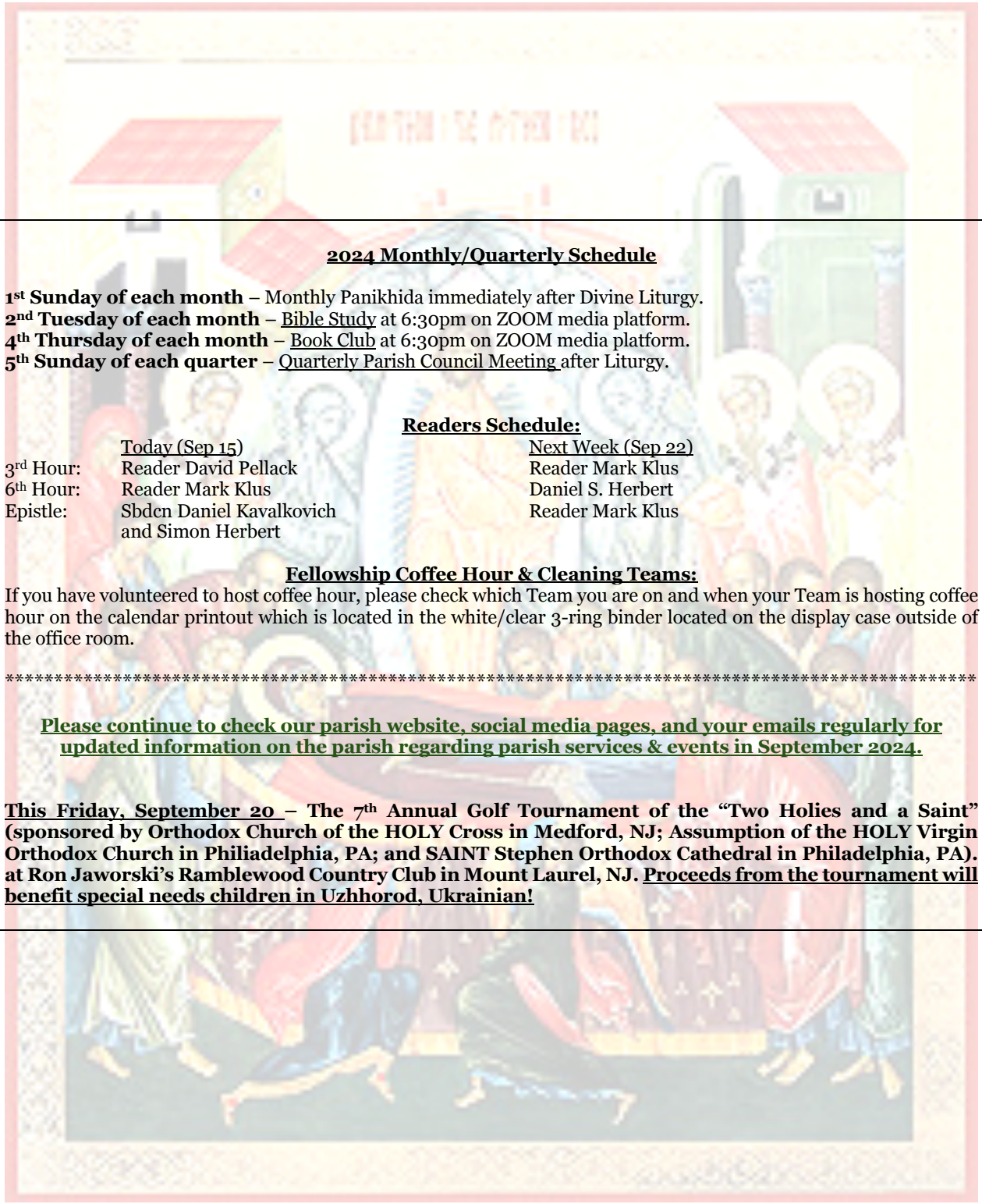
### **Cash Flow Activity (August)**

<u>Week of Sun Sep 1 to Sat Sep 7</u>	<u>August Month (Unaudited)</u>	
Attendance:	21	33 (average)
<i>Fri Vespers (9/13)</i>	5	
<i>Sat Liturgy (9/14)</i>	8	
Funds In:	\$13,108.00	\$11,409.58
Funds Out:	\$ 3,128.90	\$ 6,633.55
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 9,979.10	\$ 4,776.03

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 (Sep 15)</u>	<u>Next Week (Sep 22)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	Reader David Pellack	Reader Mark Klus
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	Daniel S. Herbert
Epistle:	Sbden Daniel Kavalkovich and Simon Herbert	Reader Mark Klus

### **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 September 2024.**

**This Friday, September 20** – The 7<sup>th</sup> 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. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit special needs children in Uzhhorod, Ukrainian!**



## **Greatmartyr Nicetas the Goth** [September 15<sup>th</sup>]

The Holy Great Martyr Niketas (Niké́tas) was a Goth (a Germanic tribe). He was born and lived on the banks of the Danube River, suffering for Christ in the year 372. The Christian Faith was already spreading throughout the territory of the Goths at that time. Saint Niketas believed in Christ and was baptized by the Gothic bishop Theophilus, who participated in the First Ecumenical Council. Pagan Goths started to oppose the spread of Christianity, which resulted in a civil war.

After Fritigern, at the head of a Christian army, defeated the pagan Athanaric, the Christian Faith continued to spread among the Goths. The Arian bishop Ulphilas, the successor to Bishop Theophilus, created a Gothic alphabet and translated many spiritual books into the Gothic language, including the Holy Scriptures. Saint Niketas worked tirelessly among his fellow Goths to teach them about Christ. Through his personal example and inspired words, he brought many of them to the Christian Faith.

After his defeat, however, Athanaric managed to regroup his forces. He returned to his own country and regained his former power. Since he remained a pagan, he continued to hate the Christians and persecuted them, seeking revenge for the humiliation he had endured at their hands.

Saint Niketas had to contend against both visible and invisible enemies. In opposing these invisible enemies, he converted many pagans to Christ, and strengthened the faithful for the contest of martyrdom. Filled with zeal for God, the Saint denounced the persecutor Athanaric for his cruelty and impiety, because he subjected the Christians to severe torments.

Saint Niketas prevailed against both of these enemies. He trampled the devil underfoot, and defeated Athanaric in battle. The cruel tormentor was troubled because he was unable to convert Saint Niketas to his own impiety, and so he resolved to capture the Saint and put him to death.

Saint Niketas endured many tortures, and then he was thrown into a fire. Although his body was not burnt by the fire, he surrendered his soul to God, and his relics were illumined by a radiant light. By night, a Christian named Marianus, took the body of Saint Niketas, and buried it in Cilicia. Afterward, it was transferred to Constantinople. Part of the relics of the Great Martyr Niketas were later given to the monastery of Vysokie Dechani in Serbia. Thus Saint Niketas received an unfading crown of glory from Christ on September 15, 372.

We pray to Saint Nicetas for the preservation of children from birth defects.

