

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, November 24, 2024 | 22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple
Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria (305-313)
Greatmartyr Mercurius of Caesarea in Cappadocia (3rd 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

- Today: ADVENT BAZAAR! After Liturgy, come down to the church basement and check out the Christmas cards, icons, and other Christmas goodies as we prepare for the Nativity of our Lord
- Thursday: November 28 – Thanksgiving! Remember to Give Thanks for the Blessings You Have In Your Life.
- Thursday: November 28 – Blessed Olga Book Club – **RESCHEDULED**
The next Blessed Mother Olga Book Club will be held on Thursday, December 5th at **6:30PM** on the ZOOM media platform **ONLY!!!**
- Saturday: November 30 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: December 1 – Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos)

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, / of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. / The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, / in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. / Let us rejoice and sing to her: / Rejoice, O Fulfillment // of the Creator's dispensation!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria)

By thy virtues as by rays of the sun thou didst enlighten the unbelieving philosophers, / and like the most bright moon thou didst drive away the darkness of disbelief from those walking in the night; / thou didst convince the queen, and didst also chastise the tyrant, / God-summoned bride, blessed Catherine. / Thou didst hasten with desire to the heavenly bridal chamber of the fairest Bridegroom of Christ, / and thou wast crowned by Him with a royal crown; // Standing before Him with the Angels, pray for us who keep thy most sacred memory!

Kontakion (Tone 5)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria)

Let all of us who love to honor the martyrs / form a great choir in praise of the most wise Catherine, / for she preached Christ and trampled the serpent, // despising the knowledge of the orators.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos)

The most pure Temple of the Savior; / the precious Chamber and Virgin; / the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, / is presented today to the house of the Lord. / She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, / therefore, the angels of God praise her: // “Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 5)

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- 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. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:10-17

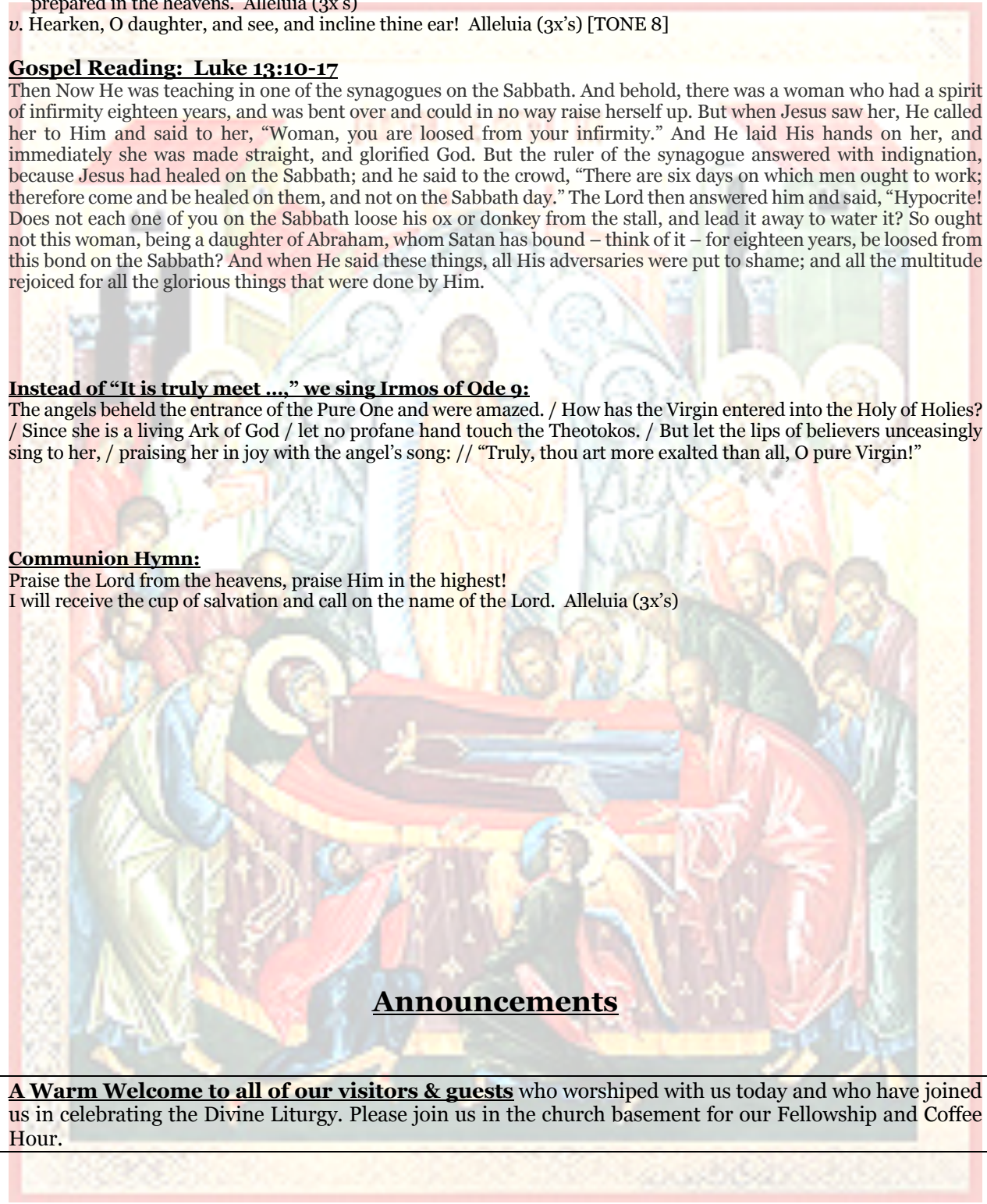
Then Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath? And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

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

The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed. / How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies? / Since she is a living Ark of God / let no profane hand touch the Theotokos. / But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her, / praising her in joy with the angel's song: // "Truly, thou art more exalted than all, O pure Virgin!"

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)



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 Fall General Parish Meeting (Summation):

On Sunday, November 17, 2024, the parish held its Fall General Parish Meeting. Along with holding the election of parish council officers for the 2025-2026 calendar years, the following parish business was discussed:

- * An update on the status of the Hall, along with the details of dealing with the city zoning board and the results from the RCO Meeting. The parish council should be commended for the time and effort that has been put in while dealing with the city red tape on this issue.
- * A report on the status of the church roof and domes was presented to the parish body. Blueprints of the dome provided the name of the company who designed and installed the domes, and with quite a surprise, the company is still in business. They will be contacted for hopefully arranging an inspection of the domes to decide what steps can be taken next in the repair process.
- * Information was provided on putting together a parish mission statement along with plans regarding a parish membership drive. In addition, creating a list of responsibilities of work performed around & for the church is in progress in order for all parishioners to be aware of what needs to be done for the church.
- * Status on the two houses, Partners for Sacred Spaces and potential Grant resources were tabled at this meeting and are scheduled to be placed on the agenda of a future meeting in 2025.
- * A motion was overwhelmingly passed that beginning in 2025, all Sunday Divine Liturgies moving forward will now begin at 9:30AM, starting with the first Sunday in January. The priest will still have at his discretion the start times for weekday services.

Minutes for this meeting will be made available and posted on the bulletin board once they have been compiled by the secretary and reviewed by the parish council.

With that said, here are your 2025 Parish Council Officers:

2025 Parish Officers

Parish Spiritual Leader: Father Mark Kozak
Parish President: Matthew Andrews (2024-2025) [3rd consecutive term on council]
Parish Vice President: Brett McKenna (2025-2026) [3rd consecutive term on council]
Parish Secretary: Natalie Patterson (2024-2025) [3rd consecutive term on council]
Parish Treasurer: Daniel Herbert (2025-2026) [1st term on council]
Parish Trustee (Even Year): Tanya Krawchuk (2024-2025) [2nd consecutive term council]
Parish Trustee (Odd Year): Reader Mark Klus (2025-2026) [2nd consecutive term council]
Parish Immediate Past President: Peter Parsells

Next year at the Fall General Parish Meeting, the positions of Parish President, Parish Secretary, and Parish Trustee (Even-Year) will be the only positions available to elect parish council officers for a two-year term.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Ken Walker offered by the Reader David Pellack
Father Mark, Natalie Patterson & her unborn child offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Joseph Killoran, Christopher John Homa offered by Ron Homa

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 11/17/24

One Small Vigil Cross – Memory of Mary Herbert on her wedding anniversary offered by the Herbert Family

One Small Vigil Cross – Health of Simon Herbert on his wedding anniversary offered by the Herbert Family

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Please remember in your prayers:

Father Mark Koczak; 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 (November)

<u>Week of Sun Nov 10 to Sat Nov 16</u>	<u>November Month to date</u>
Attendance: 36	37 (average)
Funds In: \$ 2,365.27	\$ 3,756.27
Funds Out: \$ 1,583.34	\$ 4,315.08
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 781.93	(\$ 558.81)

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 (Nov 24)</u>	<u>Next Week (Dec 1)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	Reader David Pellack
6 th Hour:	Reader David Pellack	Dr David Albrecht
Epistle:	Daniel Herbert	Dr David Albrecht

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 November/December 2024 and January 2025

Every Sunday between Today and December 22 – ADVENT BAZAAR!!!

The parish will once again sponsor a bazaar this Advent season. It will continue running every Sunday thru Sunday, December 22. All sales will benefit the HVAC Project. Parishioners are encouraged to contribute one or two items, should they wish. Dr Gale Rutan is offering hand-painted icons and Christmas cards with icon printing. Please come and check it out! Thank You!

Beginning on January 5, 2025 – Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:30AM!!

During the Fall Parish Meeting held on Sunday, November 17, a motion was passed that beginning in 2025 (starting on Sunday, January 5), Sunday Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30AM 'ALL YEAR ROUND' (no more switching back and forth from 9AM to 10AM between summer and winter hours). This schedule time change is for Sunday Divine Liturgy ONLY! The superior has the discretion for the time when services held during the week. The only exception will be on Easter (Pascha) Sunday which will still be served with procession, Matins, & Divine Liturgy beginning at 8:30AM.



Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria [November 24th]

The Holy Great Martyr Catherine was the daughter of Constus, the governor of Alexandrian Egypt during the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-313). Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, and possessed of a rare beauty and intellect, Catherine received an excellent education, studying the works of the greatest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. Young men from the most worthy families of the empire sought the hand of the beautiful Catherine, but she was not interested in any of them. She told her parents that she would enter into marriage only with someone who surpassed her in nobility, wealth, comeliness and wisdom.

Catherine's mother, a secret Christian, sent her to her own spiritual Father, a saintly Elder living in a cave outside the city, for advice. After listening to Catherine, the Elder said that he knew of a Youth who surpassed her in everything. "His countenance is more radiant than the shining of the sun, and all of creation is governed by His wisdom. His riches are given to all the nations of the world, yet they never diminish. His compassion is unequalled."

This description of the Heavenly Bridegroom produced in the soul of the holy maiden an ardent desire to see Him. "If you do as I tell you," said the monk, "you will gaze upon the countenance of this illustrious man." In parting, the Elder handed Catherine an icon of the Theotokos with the divine Child Jesus on Her arm and told her to pray with faith to the Queen of Heaven, the Mother of the Heavenly Bridegroom, and She would hear Catherine and grant her heart's desire.

Catherine prayed all night and was permitted to see the Most Holy Virgin, Who said Her Divine Son, "Behold Thy handmaiden Catherine, how fair and virtuous she is." But the Child turned His face away from her saying, "No, she is ugly and unbelieving. She is a foolish pauper, and I cannot bear to look at her until she forsakes her impiety."

Catherine returned again to the Elder deeply saddened, and told him what she had seen in the dream. He lovingly received her, instructed her in the faith of Christ, admonished her to preserve her purity and integrity and to pray unceasingly. She then received the Mystery of holy Baptism from him. Again Saint Catherine had a vision of the Most Holy Theotokos with Her Child. Now the Lord looked tenderly at her and gave her a beautiful ring, a wondrous token of her betrothal to the Heavenly Bridegroom (This ring is still on her hand).

At that time the emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival. Therefore, the celebration was especially splendid and crowded. The cries of the sacrificial animals, the smoke and the smell of the sacrifices, the endless blazing of fires, and the bustling crowds at the arenas defiled the city of Alexandria. Human victims also were brought, the confessors of Christ, those who would not deny Him under torture. They were condemned to death in the fire. The saint's love for the Christian martyrs and her fervent desire to ease their sufferings compelled Catherine to speak to the pagan priest and to the emperor Maximian.

Introducing herself, the saint confessed her faith in the One True God and with wisdom exposed the errors of the pagans. The beauty of the maiden captivated the emperor. In order to convince her and to show the superiority of pagan wisdom, the emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers and rhetoricians of the Empire to dispute with her, but the saint got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves. Saint Catherine made the Sign of the Cross over the martyrs, and they bravely accepted death for Christ and were burned alive by order of the emperor.

*** remaining life of Great Martyr Catherine can be viewed on the oca.com website ***