

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
Website: <https://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



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

Sunday, December 15, 2024 | 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Hieromartyr Eleutherius and his mother Martyr Anthia (2nd c.)

Venerable Paul of Latros (955)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952
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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

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

Sunday: December 22 – Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Tuesday: December 24 – Eve of the Nativity of Christ!
Great Complines and Matins (Condensed Version)
Time: **3:00PM**

Wednesday: December 25 – Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

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 2 – Forefathers)

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / she who bore Thee without seed. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Forefathers)

Ye did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, / but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, / ye were glorified in a trial by fire. / From the midst of unbearable flames ye called on God, crying: / “Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid, // for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Songs of our Fathers)

Blessed are Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!
v. For Thou are just in all that Thou hast done for us!

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11 (Forefathers)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. They called to the Lord and He answered them. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers)

Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’ For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ “

Communion Hymn:

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

Information on Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemann

On Friday, December 13, it was the 41st anniversary of the falling asleep of Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemann. Our Matushka Jan Kozcak last week mentioned a website dedicated specifically to Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemann. The website link is <https://schmemann.org>

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

JANUARY 2025 SCHEDULE

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.

Sunday, January 5, 2025 – Eve of Theophany Services with Great Complines | Matins (modified) | Blessing of the Water. Time: After Fellowship Coffee Hour - Approximately 12:00PM. [Strick Fast Day]

Monday, January 6, 2025 – Theophany of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ Time: 10:00AM.

Sunday, January 19, 2025 – 86th Annual Novogodny Ball, Philadelphia, PA

Presented by Saint Stephen's OCF, A semi-formal dinner dance for the benefit of deserving Orthodox Christian charities. New Venue and Lower Prices This Year!!!
To learn more and for details, please visit their website: www.novogodnyball.com

The **61st Annual Diocesan Assembly** will be held on Thursday, January 23 and Friday, January 24, 2025 at St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church in Wilmington, DE. If you are interested in attending as a Lay Delegate to represent the parish or attend just as an Assembly observer, please speak with Father Mark or Parish President Matthew Andrews. Thank You.

Friday, January 19, 2025 – March For Life in Washington, D.C.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is scheduled to be held sometime either the last Sunday in January or one of the first two Sunday's in February 2025.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Natalie Patterson-Nedbal & her unborn child offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Albert, Ronald, Emily offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/8/24

Two Small Vigil Crosses – Memory of John & Margaret Pellack
offered by the Reader David Pellack

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Please remember in your prayers:

Father Mark Kozak; 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 (December)

| <u>Week of Sun Dec 1 to Sat Dec 7</u> | <u>December Month to Date</u> | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Attendance: | 28 | 28 (average) |
| Funds In: | \$ 1,139.00 | \$ 1,139.00 |
| Funds Out: | \$ 4,218.69 | \$ 4,218.69 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit): | (\$ 3,079.69) | (\$ 3,079.69) |

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 (Dec 15)</u> | <u>Next Week (Dec 22)</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 rd Hour: | Reader Mark Klus | Reader David Pellack |
| 6 th Hour: | Reader David Pellack | Reader Mark Klus |
| Epistle: | Simon Herbert | Sbdn Daniel Kavalkovich |

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 December 2024

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!

Eve of the Nativity of Christ Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) – Tuesday, December 24th – Time: TBD.

Once the time is finalized, it will be announced in church, printed in the bulletin, and noted on our social media platforms (our website & Facebook)

The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ Service – Wednesday, December 25th – Time: 10AM.



Sunday of the Forefathers [December 15th]

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, “In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

Righteous Miriam [December 15th]

Saint Miriam, like her brothers Moses & Aaron, was descended from the tribe of Levi.

When Moses was an infant, the Hebrew midwives were ordered to kill any male child when they assisted at childbirths, but they refused to obey. Moses was hidden by his mother for three months, then, when she could no longer do this, he was placed into a basket of reeds and set upon the waters of the Nile. Miriam watched in secret to see what would happen to him. When Pharaoh’s daughter found him, Miriam emerged from her place of concealment and offered to find a wet nurse from among the Hebrew women for the baby. Miriam went to get her mother, who raised her child until he was grown, and then returned him to Pharaoh’s daughter (Exodus 2:10).

In the Torah, she is called “Miriam the Prophetess” (Exodus 15:20), while the Prophet Michah (6:4) has God say that He sent Moses, and Aaron, and Miriam before the Hebrews to lead them out of Egypt.

In Chapter 12 of the book of Numbers, Miriam and Aaron apparently criticize Moses for being married to a foreign woman of Cush (or an Ethiopian). This, however, was merely a pretext for their resentment. Actually, they were disturbed by Moses’ position as the sole mediator between God and the people. Miriam was a prophetess, after all. Miriam and Aaron questioned Moses, “Has the Lord spoken only to Moses? Has He not also spoken to us?” God then tells them that He speaks face to face with Moses, but only in visions to Miriam and Aaron while they are asleep. Then, for daring to speak against Moses, Miriam is punished with leprosy. Aaron pleads with Moses not to hold their sin against them, since they had acted out of ignorance. Even so, Miriam was set apart outside the camp for seven days, and then she was healed and allowed to come in.

