

## 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, December 29, 2024 | 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – Sunday After the Nativity

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and  
James the Brother of the Lord | The 14,000 Infants Slain by Herod

### 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

Christ Is Born!      Glorify Him!  
Christos Razdajetsja!      Slavite Jeho!

From Christmas Day until January 4, inclusive, there is a general dispensation from all fasting!

Saturday: January 4 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: January 5 – Eve of Theophany of our Lord!  
Reading of Hours – 9:00am  
Divine Liturgy – **9:30am** **[NEW TIME ON SUNDAY ONLY!]**  
*Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: January 5 – Eve of Theophany of our Lord!  
Great Complines | Matins (Condensed Version) | Water Blessing  
Time: After Fellowship Coffee Hour - Approximately **12:00PM**

Monday: January 6 – Feast of Holy Theophany! - Spraznikom!  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

## 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)**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shown to the world the light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

### **Troparion (Tone 2 – Righteous Ones)**

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; / and thou gavest glory with the shepherds; / thou didst worship with the Magi, / and didst receive the news from the Angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

### **Kontakion (Tone 3 – Righteous Ones)**

Today godly David is filled with joy; / Joseph and James offer praise. / The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. / They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, // and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 3 – Nativity)**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. / Angels with shepherds glorify Him; / the Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 2)**

The Lord is my strength and my song / He has become my salvation.  
v. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

### **Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4)**

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel

### **Epistle Reading: Galatians 1:11-19 (Sunday After)**

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 2)



- v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-23 (Sunday After)**

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**[Instead of "It is truly meet.." we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]**

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,  
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!  
I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:  
Heaven—the cave!  
The cherubic throne—the Virgin!  
The manger—the place where Christ lay,  
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song!

**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)

**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

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

During the Fall Parish Meeting held on Sunday, November 17, a motion was passed that beginning in 2025 (starting Next 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.

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### **His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon's 2024 Nativity Letter Now Available**

To read his Nativity Letter, please visit the following link on the OCA website:

<https://www.oca.org/holy-synod/statements/his-beatitude-metropolitan-tikhon/nativity-of-our-lord-2024>

### **The Archpastoral Message on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord 2024**

To read the Nativity Letter from our Archbishop Mark, please visit the following link on the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania [DOEPA] website:

[https://doepa.org/diocesan\\_news\\_archpastoral\\_message\\_on\\_the\\_feast\\_of\\_the\\_nativity\\_of\\_our\\_lord\\_2024](https://doepa.org/diocesan_news_archpastoral_message_on_the_feast_of_the_nativity_of_our_lord_2024)

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### **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 Kozzak last week mentioned a website dedicated specifically to Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemann. The website link is <https://schmemann.org>

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### **The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual FOCA 'Virtual' Christmas Concert streamed via YouTube**

On Wednesday, December 25, 2024, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) presented a National "Virtual" Christmas Concert on YouTube. Parish Choirs throughout the United States participated in this event by sending in a pre-recorded video of them singing Liturgical and Carol Christmas music. The virtual concert video is 2 hours and 2 minutes long.

Please check the direct link to the Christmas Concert:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otTuunrMHIM>

Please check the FOCA's YouTube channel at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9yPeZIKg5JZUj1n5mgDYRA> or this link

<https://www.youtube.com/@F.O.C.A.>

or search YouTube using Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America.



**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

**Sunday, December 22**

Catherine Kavalkovich offered by Nina Patterson  
Family and Friends offered by the Reader David Pellack

**Tuesday, December 24 & Wednesday, December 25**

Parishioners offered by the Reader David Pellack  
Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
Family & Friends offered by Daria LeRoy  
Natalie Patterson-Nedbal & her unborn child offered by Nina Patterson

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

**Sunday, December 22**

Emily Gerasimoff offered by Nina Patterson  
Albert, Ronald Andrew offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Emily Gerasimoff, Pete Witiak offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

**Tuesday, December 24 & Wednesday, December 25**

Gloria Jean Hourahan offered by the Hourahan Family

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 12/22/24**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 12/24/24 & 12/25/24**

One Small Vigil Cross – Memory of Paul & Irene, Stephen & Mary, Michael & Julia, Arthur & Grace,  
David & Emelie, Joseph & Anna offered by Nina Patterson

One Small Vigil Cross – Memory of Mary “Matesy” Herbert offered by the Herbert Family

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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 15 to Sat Dec 21</u>		<u>December Month to Date</u>
Attendance:	31	29 (average)
<i>Eve of Nativity</i>	23 ( <i>very nice attendance</i> )	
<i>Feast of the Nativity</i>	37	
Funds In:	\$ 1,809.00	\$ 6,194.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,668.84	\$ 5,747.95
Net Surplus/( <b>Deficit</b> ):	\$ 140.16	\$ 446.05

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

## 2025 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 (Dec 29)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 5)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	To Be Determined
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Reader David Pellack	To Be Determined
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus	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.

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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 January 2025

### Sunday, January 19, 2025 – 86<sup>th</sup> 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!!!

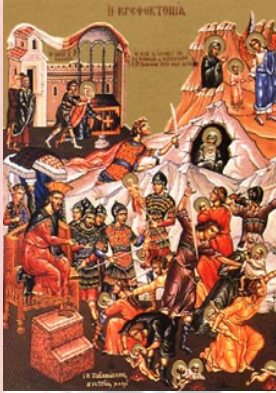
To learn more and for details, please visit their website: [www.novogodnyball.com](http://www.novogodnyball.com)

### Friday, January 24, 2025 – March For Life in Washington, D.C.

To learn more and for details, please visit the OCA website: [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)

The **61<sup>st</sup> 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.

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.



## **14,000 Infants (the Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem [December 29<sup>th</sup>]**

14,000 Holy Infants were killed by King Herod in Bethlehem. When the time came for the Incarnation of the Son of God and His Birth of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, Magi in the East beheld a new star in the heavens, foretelling the Nativity of the King of the Jews. They journeyed immediately to Jerusalem to worship the Child, and the star showed them the way. Having worshipped the divine Infant, they did not return to Jerusalem to Herod, as he had ordered them, but being warned by God in a dream, they went back to their country by another way. Herod finally realized that his scheme to find the Child would not be successful, and he ordered that all the male children two years old and younger at

Bethlehem and its surroundings be killed. He thought that the divine Infant, Whom he considered a rival, would be among the dead children.

The murdered infants thus became the first martyrs for Christ. The rage of Herod fell also on Simeon the God-Receiver (February 3), who declared before everyone in the Temple that the Messiah had been born. When the holy Elder died, Herod would not give permission for him to be properly buried. On the orders of King Herod, the holy prophet and priest Zachariah was also killed. He was murdered in Jerusalem between the Temple and the altar (Mt. 23:35) because he would not tell the whereabouts of his son John, the future Baptist of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The wrath of God soon fell upon Herod himself: a horrid condition struck him down and he died, eaten by worms while still alive. Before his death, the impious king murdered the chief priests and scribes of the Jews, and also his brother, and his sister and her husband, and also his own wife Mariam, and three of his sons, and seventy men of wisdom who were members of the Sanhedrin. He initiated this bloodbath so that the day of his death would not be one of rejoicing, but one of mourning.

The Christian Church very rightly proclaimed these murdered children as Saints, because they died at an innocent age, and were, in some way, the first martyrs of Christianity. They may not have been baptized in water, but they were baptized in the blessed blood of their martyrdom.

Last but not least, the relics (or perhaps some) of the Holy Infants are found in Constantinople, in the Church of Saint James the Brother of the Lord, which was built by Emperor Justin. Most of their Holy Relics are at the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Portions of their Holy Relics are also to be found in the Pantokrator Monastery on Mount Athos.

