

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, January 5, 2025 | 28th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Sunday Before the Theophany | Eve of the Theophany
Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia,
and Martyr Theonas (303) | Ven Syncletica of Alexandria (ca. 350)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
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

[Strick Fast Day!]

Today: Eve of Theophany of our Lord! Vespers | Great Complines
Matins (Condensed Version) | Blessing of the Water
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
[Weather Permitting – Check email, website, & announcement]
CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN!

Saturday: January 11 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: January 12 – Martyr Tatiana of Rome
Reading of Hours – 9:00am
Divine Liturgy – **9:30am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Tuesday: January 14 – Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform!

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 4 – Forefeast)

The river Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha, / after Elijah had been taken up to heaven. / The waters were parted in two, / and the stream became a dry path. / This was truly a type of baptism, / by which we pass over the stream of life. // Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

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 – Forefeast)

O Christ, in Thy compassion and infinite mercy, / Thou art coming as a man to be baptized in the Jordan, / in order to take away the many transgressions of us all, clothing me in the garment of ancient glory / of which I was cruelly stripped bare.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Forefeast)

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: / “Do not be afraid to baptize me, // for I come to save Adam, the first-formed man!”

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!

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday Before)

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.
Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

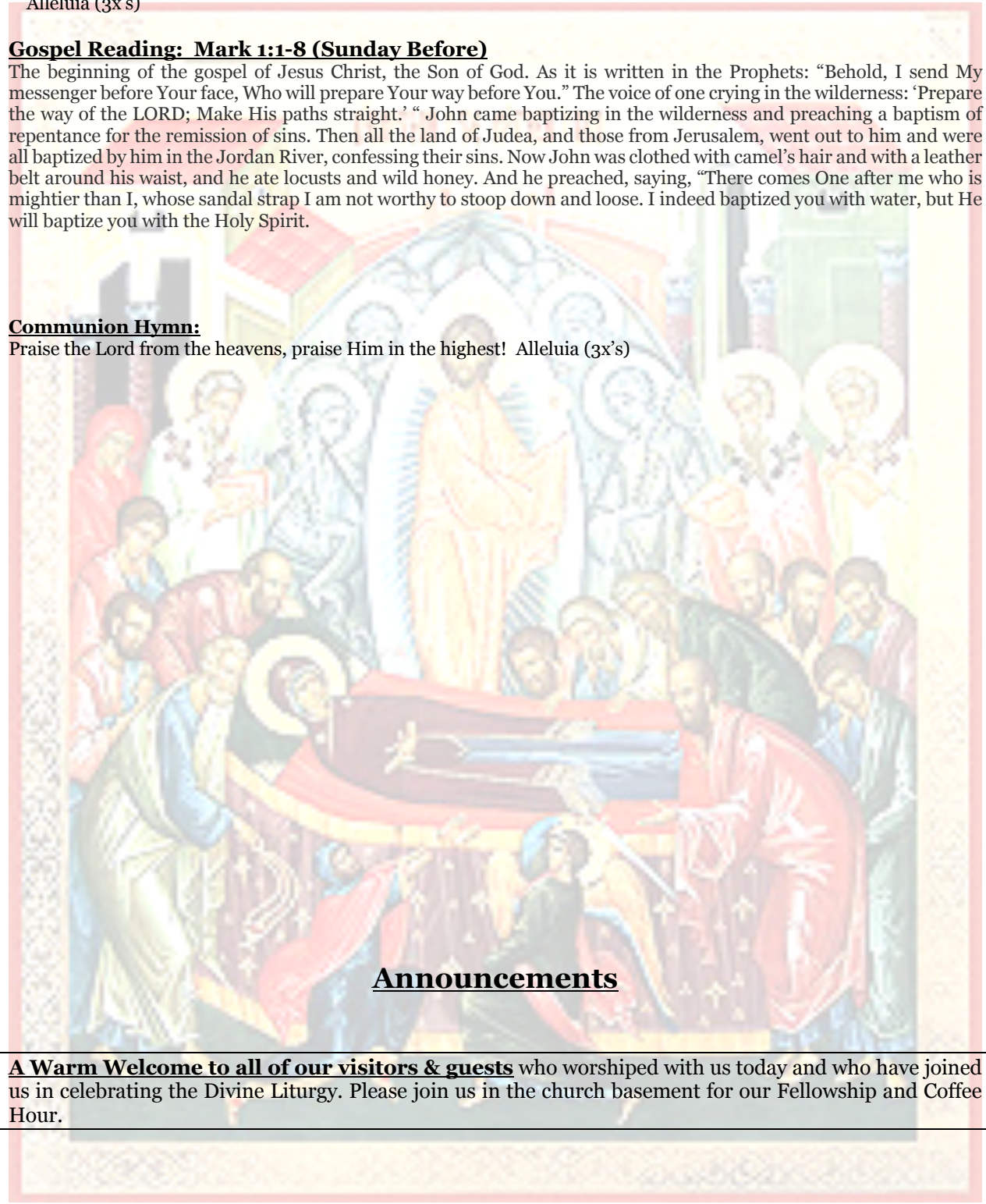
v. O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us,
and have mercy on us! Alleluia (3x's)
v. That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations.
Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday Before)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' " John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! 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

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PARISHIONERS AND PARISH FRIENDS

The parish had a very successful *Advent Bazaar* last month. Through your donations and purchases of the icons, Christmas cards, crafts, baked goods, the Bazaar raised over **\$2,800** as of last Sunday, December 29. Thank You for your support towards the parish HVAC Project.

Thank You to All!!!

Father Mark and Matushka Jan would like to thank you all for your kind thoughts, wishes, and most generous gifts, including for Matushka's Jan's birthday. May God bless you and yours in the coming year!

2025 House Blessing

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany, which is Monday, January 6. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #1 of 3.

According to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A. of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Annual and General Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the Meeting. The Spiritual Advisor's report, the Treasurer's report, the voting on the 2025 budget, along with any other business that needs to be discussed. The election of the 2025 parish council officers took place during the Fall Parish meeting back in November 2024.

2025 Saint Tikhon's Church Calendars are now available

The parish received its order of 2024 Saint Tikhon's Calendars. We have begun distributing the calendars to the parishioners of the parish. If you're in church, please ensure your household gets its calendar. Thank You!

Below is a link on the Diocese website of photos of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Throughout Eastern Pennsylvania 2024. Take a look:

https://doepa.org/diocesan_news_the_feast_of_the_nativity_of_our_lord_throughout_eastern_pennsylvania_2024

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

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

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/29/24

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Please remember in your prayers:

Leila Jones (newly born on Tuesday, December 31 at 3:06PM * 8lbs. 13oz. & 22 inches long), her big brother Levi, her parents Colin & Anastasia (Kavalkovich) Jones, her grandparents Subdeacon Daniel (Ken) & Debbie Kavalkovich, and her great-grandmother Catherine Kavalkovich. May God Grant Leila and her family Many Healthy and Blessed Years!!

Natalie Patterson-Nedbal and her unborn child; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; 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)

Week of Sun Dec 22 to Sat Dec 28

December Month to Date

Attendance:	31	29 (average)
<i>Eve of Nativity</i>	<i>23 (very nice attendance)</i>	
<i>Feast of the Nativity</i>	<i>37</i>	
Funds In:	\$ 5,241.00	\$11,435.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,260.02	\$ 7,007.97
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 3,980.98	\$ 4,427.03

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

2025 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 29)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 5)</u>
3 rd Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6 th Hour:	To Be Determined Pellack	To Be Determined
Epistle:	To Be Determined	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.

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 – 86th Annual Novogodny Ball, Philadelphia, PA

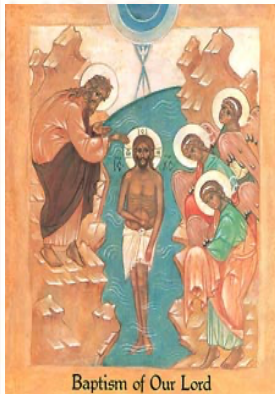
Presented by Saint Stephen's OCF, A semi-formal dinner dance for the benefit of deserving Orthodox Christian charities. New Venue and Lower Prices This Year!!!

To learn more and for details, please visit their website: www.novogodnyball.com

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

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.



Baptism of Our Lord

Eve of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [January 5th]

The fourth day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 5. If January 5th falls on a weekday, the following order is observed:

Vespers on the evening of the 4th, then Matins. The First Hour is not read after Matins.

On the 5th we read the Royal Hours, followed by Vespers and the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great.

If the Eve of Theophany falls on Saturday:

The Royal Hours are read on Friday, but there is no Liturgy. Vespers on the evening of the 4th, followed by Matins. The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is celebrated on Saturday morning.

If the Eve of Theophany falls on a Sunday:

The Royal Hours are read on Friday, but there is no Liturgy. Vigil is served on Saturday evening, and the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is celebrated on Sunday.

There are thirteen readings at Vespers on the Eve of Theophany, and the entrance is made with the Gospel. There is fasting today, whatever day of the week it may be.

Venerable Synkletika of Alexandria [January 5th]

Saint Synkletika (Synklētiké) was a native of Alexandria, the daughter of wealthy parents. She was very beautiful, but from a young age she thought only about the things which are pleasing to God. Loving the purity of virginity, she refused to marry anyone, and spent all her time in fasting and prayer.

After the death of her parents, Synkletika distributed her inheritance to the poor. She left the city with her younger sister, and lived in a crypt for the rest of her life.

News of her ascetic deeds quickly spread throughout the region, and many devout women and girls came to live under her guidance. During the course of her ascetical life the Saint zealously instructed the sisters by word and by deed.

In her eightieth year Saint Synkletika was stricken with an intense and grievous illness. She bore her ordeal with true Christian endurance, and the day of her death was revealed to her in a vision. After giving final instructions to her nuns, she surrendered her soul to God around the year 350.