

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 12, 2025 | 29th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Sunday After the Theophany

Afterfeast of the Theophany

Martyr Tatiana of Rome | Saint Sava I, Archbishop of Serbia

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 BAPTIZED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN!

Tuesday: Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!

Saturday: January 18 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: January 19 – Venerable Macarius the Great of Egypt
Reading of Hours – 9:00am
Divine Liturgy – **9:30am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 1 – Feast of Theophany)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, / and called Thee His beloved Son; / and the Spirit in the form of a dove / confirmed the truthfulness of His word. / O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself // and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Martyr Tatiana of Rome)

In thy sufferings thou didst shine brightly / in the royal purple of thy blood, / and like a beautiful dove thou didst fly to heaven, / passion-bearer Tatiana. // Therefore, always pray for those who honor thee!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Feast of Theophany)

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, / and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. / Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises. / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O unapproachable Light.

Prokeimenon (Tone 1 – Sunday After Theophany)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday After Theophany)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5 – Sunday After Theophany)

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)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday After Theophany)

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

[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!

No tongue knows how to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos;
even Angels are overcome with awe praising thee.
But since thou art good, accept our faith;
for thou knowest our love inspired by God.
Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee.

Communion Hymn:

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all.
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

May God Grant Many Years to Lou (Patrick) and Tyrone (Gregory)

Brett McKenna and Tanya Krawchuk would like to wish many years to our newly illumined godsons Tyrone (Gregory) Robinson and Lou (Patrick) Aguiar. They were both baptized and chrismated on Saturday, January 4, 2025. We are happy to have them as part of our family!

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 #2 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!

2025 Parish Housekeeping Item

During the reading of the Hours, the Prayers after Divine Liturgy, and during the Announcements, please keep the talk and conversations down to a basic and necessary minimum. It is once again becoming a distraction in the church when the readings, prayers, and announcements are read.

If you must have a conversation with an individual, please enter the vestibule in the back or walk down to the church basement to conduct your conversation. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Ethan Andrews offered by Nina Patterson
Zachary & Kenneth Walker offered by the Reader David Pellack
Anastasia, Colin, & Leila Jones offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/5/25

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Please remember in your prayers:

Both our newly illumined servants of God Lou (Patrick) Aguiar and Tyrone (Gregory) Robinson who were baptized on Saturday, January 4; and their godparents Breet McKenna and Tanya Krawchuk. May God Grant both Lou & Tyrone and their godparents Many Healthy and Blessed Years!!

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!!

All those affected by the devastating fires in California. Many have lost their homes, livelihoods, and even loved ones. We ask the Lord to give His Strength to those who are aiding in firefighting and relief efforts, and to show mercy to those suffering at this time.

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/January)

Week of Sun Dec 29 to Sat Jan 4

December Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	30	30 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 755.01	\$12,190.01
Funds Out:	\$ 7,168.79	\$12,551.76
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 6,413.78)	(\$ 361.75)

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 (Jan 12)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 19)</u>
3 rd Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6 th Hour:	To Be Determined	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.



Martyr Tatiana of Rome, and those who suffered with Her [January 12th]

The Holy Virgin Martyr Tatiana was born into an illustrious Roman family, and her father was elected consul three times. He was secretly a Christian and raised his daughter to be devoted to God and the Church. When she reached the age of maturity, Tatiana decided to remain a virgin, betrothing herself to Christ. Disdaining earthly riches, she sought instead the imperishable wealth of Heaven. She was made a deaconess in one of the Roman churches and served God in fasting and prayer, tending the sick and helping the needy.

When Rome was ruled by the sixteen-year-old Alexander Severus (222-235), all power was concentrated in the hands of the regent Ulpian, an evil enemy and persecutor of Christians. Christian blood flowed like water. Tatiana was also arrested, and they brought her into the temple of Apollo to force her to offer sacrifice to the idol. The saint began praying, and suddenly there was an earthquake. The idol was smashed into pieces, and part of the temple collapsed and fell down on the pagan priests and many pagans. The demon inhabiting the idol fled screeching from that place. Those present saw its shadow flying through the air.

Then they tore holy virgin's eyes out with hooks, but she bravely endured everything, praying for her tormentors that the Lord would open their spiritual eyes. And the Lord heard the prayer of His servant. The executioners saw four angels encircle the saint and beat her tormentors. A voice was heard from the heavens speaking to the holy virgin. Eight men believed in Christ and fell on their knees before Saint Tatiana, begging them to forgive them their sin against her. For confessing themselves Christians they were tortured and executed, receiving Baptism by blood.

The next day Saint Tatiana was brought before the wicked judge. Seeing her completely healed of all her wounds, they stripped her and beat her, and slashed her body with razors. A wondrous fragrance then filled the air. Then she was stretched out on the ground and beaten for so long that the servants had to be replaced several times. The torturers became exhausted and said that an invisible power was beating them with iron rods. Indeed, the angels warded off the blows directed at her and turned them upon the tormentors, causing nine of them to fall dead. They then threw the saint in prison, where she prayed all night and sang praises to the Lord with the angels.

A new morning began, and they took Saint Tatiana to the tribunal once more. The torturers beheld with astonishment that after such terrible torments she appeared completely healthy and even more radiant and beautiful than before. They began to urge her to offer sacrifice to the goddess Diana. The saint seemed agreeable, and they took her to the heathen temple. Saint Tatiana made the Sign of the Cross and began to pray. Suddenly, there was a crash of deafening thunder, and lightning struck the idol, the sacrificial offerings and the pagan priests.

Once again, the martyr was fiercely tortured. She was hung up and scraped with iron claws, and her breasts were cut off. That night, angels appeared to her in prison and healed her wounds as before. On the following day, they took Saint Tatiana to the circus and loosed a hungry lion on her. The beast did not harm the saint, but meekly licked her feet.

As they were taking the lion back to its cage, it killed one of the torturers. They threw Tatiana into a fire, but the fire did not harm the martyr. The pagans, thinking that she was a sorceress, cut her hair to take away her magical powers, then locked her up in the temple of Zeus.

On the third day, pagan priests came to the temple intending to offer sacrifice to Zeus. They beheld the idol on the floor, shattered to pieces, and the holy martyr Tatiana joyously praising the Lord Jesus Christ. The judge then condemned the valiant sufferer to be beheaded with a sword. Her father was also executed with her, because he had raised her to love Christ.