

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 26, 2025 | 31st Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia
Venerable Xenophon, his wife, Mary and their two sons, Arcadius
and John, of Constantinople (5th – 6th c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com

Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich Choir Director – Nina Patterson
Reader – Mark Klus Reader – David Pellack
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

- Tuesday: Venerable Ephraim the Syrian
- Thursday: January 30 – Blessed Olga Book Club at **6:30PM** on the ZOOM media platform ONLY!!!
[Rescheduled from last Thursday, January 23]
- Thursday: January 30 - Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs:
Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom
- Saturday: February 1 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: February 2 – Meeting of the Lord into the Temple
and Sunday of Zacchaeus
Reading of Hours – 9:00am
Divine Liturgy – **9:30am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
- Sunday: February 2 - Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
(Rescheduled from last Sunday)

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 4 – New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, / praising her new martyrs and confessors; / hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, / venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. / Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, / they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. // By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Kontakion (Tone 6)

When Christ God the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, / and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: / “Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, / and power, and strength be to our God // unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – New Martyrs of Russia)

God is our refuge and strength, our help in afflictions that severely befall us.

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

My Son Timothy, This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 6)

- v. He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

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)

[**Note:** The readings for the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia is as follows: Epistle – Romans 8:28-39 and Gospel - Luke 21:8-19]

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

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 “next” Sunday, February 2, 2025 on Sunday, January 26, 2025 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

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 2025 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 Reminders

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!

Another reminder is if you are the last person in the church and before you leave or go down to the basement, please ensure that the lights are all turned off; the candles are all put out; the windows are closed and shut (during the warmer weather season); any fans or other electronic gadgets are unplugged; and that the front door and front gates are locked. If you do not have a key to the front door, please let a parishioner who does know that the front door needs to be locked. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/19/25

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Please remember in your prayers:

The newly illumined servant of God Ethan Alfred Andrews who was baptized on Saturday, January 11; and their godparents Peter Parsells and Nicole Velez. May God Grant Ethan and his 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; Catherine Kavalkovich; 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 (January)

Week of Sun Jan 12 to Sat Jan 18

January Month to Date

Attendance:	34	34 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,835.00	\$ 3,844.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,780.64	\$12,300.99
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 54.36	(\$ 8,456.99)

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:

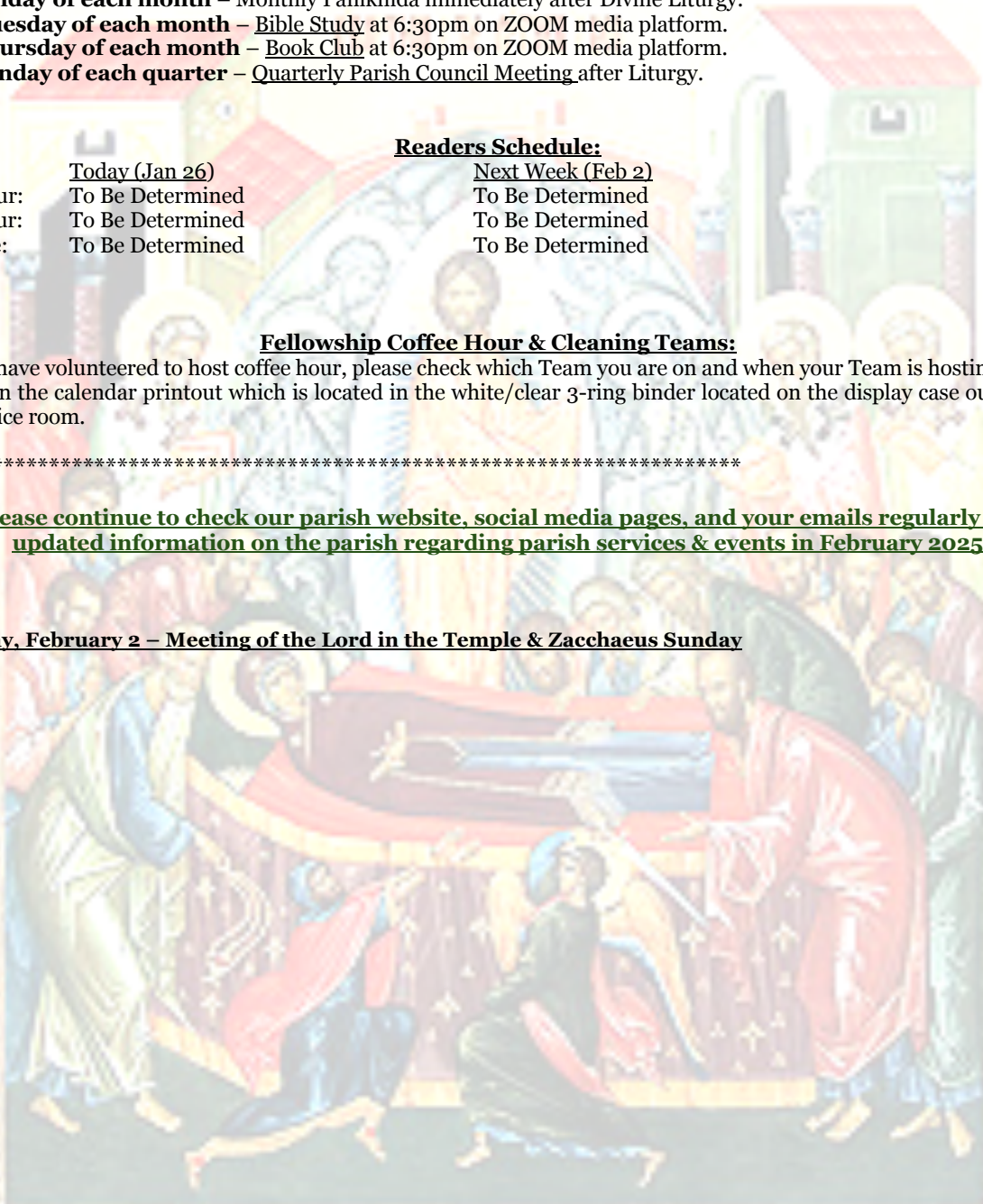
	<u>Today (Jan 26)</u>	<u>Next Week (Feb 2)</u>
3 rd Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6 th Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Epistle:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

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 February 2025

Sunday, February 2 – Meeting of the Lord in the Temple & Zacchaeus Sunday





New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia [January 26th]

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth.

Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

The Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia glorified the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia in 1981, for those who suffered during the Soviet period (1917 to 1991) for their faith. Immediately following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian Church under the leadership of Patriarch Alexei II began glorifying some of the New Martyr's, beginning with the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev, and Metropolitan Benjamin of Petrograd in 1992. In 2000, the All-Russian Council glorified Tsar Nicholas II and his family, as well as many other New Martyrs. More names continue to be added to list of New Martyrs, after the Synodal Canonization Commission completes its investigation of each case. The Russian Church celebrates the feast of the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia on the Sunday nearest **January 25th** (o.s.) / February 7th (n.s.) -- the date Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev's martyrdom (the first Hieromartyr of the Bolshevik Yoke). – *from OrthodoxWiki*

