

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, February 16, 2025

Tone 1 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Martyr Pamphilius the Presbyter and those with him.

Saint Nikolai, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Japan (2/3/1912)

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

Throughout the following week there is a general dispensation
from all fasting! (February 8, 2025 to February 18, 2025)

Saturday: February 22 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: February 23 – Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare Sunday)
Reading of Hours – 9:00am
Divine Liturgy – **9:30am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Thursday: February 27 - Blessed Olga Book Club at **6:30PM**
on the ZOOM media platform **ONLY!!!**

Thursday: February 27 – Repose of Saint Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. / And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; / receive me as a penitent, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

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: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 1)

- v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David,
His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!' 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

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

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.

Summation of the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 9, 2025

Below are some notations in summary format regarding topics discussed during the Annual Parish Meeting last Sunday: The priest presented his spiritual advisor's report. He remarked on the status and stability of the church life, some items on a Diocese level, the scheduling of the Sunday school program this upcoming Fall, and his much-anticipated attendance for the 21st Orthodox Church in America's All-American Council to be held in sunny Phoenix, AZ the third week in July!!

The parish president gave his report. He thanked everyone for their help and assistance over the past year with the church. He asked forgiveness for anything he may not have accomplished over the past year. He mentioned his attendance at the Diocesan Assembly in Wilmington, DE the previous week and remarked on the Dioceses financial position and their growth and security.

The parish treasurer presented the 2024 treasurers report which disclosed a surplus for the year...unfortunately this was achieved due to the fact many donations were received because of three highly active parishioners had passed away during the year.

Old Business – Tanya Krawchuk, along with Brett McKenna, informed the parishioners that the realignment task of the church properties lines was finalized and completed. She presented the new deeds to Father Mark & Matthew. A round of applause and “Atta Girl!” were bellowed for all her hard work and much time, money and effort spent to complete this much needed project.

New Business - An inquiry about the financial investment strategies of the parish led into a discussion on investments; and instructions on how parishioners can donate their retirement investments upon maturity occurs was presented.

New Business – A motion was passed to reclassify how the ShopRite gift card program proceeds are allocated to the parish charitable projects.

Final business was the 2025 parish budget which due to the ShopRite gift card motion passing, the 2025 budget was slightly amended (category wise) to reflect said motion being passed. After much discussion on certain line items, the amended 2025 parish budget disclosing a deficit for the year was passed.

A statement on hosting a Mission Service Vespers either the fourth (St John the Ladder) or fifth (St Mary of Egypt) Sunday of Great Lent was discussed.

Finally, before ending the meeting, the calendar of events was presented with 2025 Pascha on Sunday, April 20th and the 2025 Great Lenten service schedule is still to be determined and once its finalized; it will be sent out to the parishioners. Thank You!!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Irene Torpey offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 2/9/25

#####

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!!

All those who perished in the catastrophic airline tragedies in Washington D.C. and here in Philadelphia. All those affected by the devastating fires in California. We ask the Lord to give His Strength to those who are aiding in those airline relief efforts and aiding in firefighting and relief efforts, and to show mercy to those suffering. Memory Eternal to those who have perished!

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!

#####

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 (February)

| <u>Week of Sun Feb 2 to Sat Feb 8</u> | <u>February Month to Date</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Attendance: 48 | 48 (average) |
| Funds In: \$10,325.00 | \$10,325.00 |
| Funds Out: \$ 4,301.92 | \$ 5,926.92 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 6,023.08 | \$ 4,398.08 |

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 will help support the parish's Charity projects 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 (Feb 16)</u> | <u>Next Week (Feb 23)</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 and March 2025



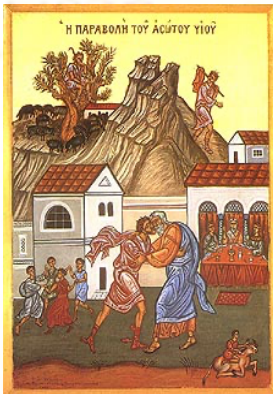
Thank You for a successful Soup N' Bowl IX Challenge



The parish held a very successful Soup N' Bowl IX challenge last Sunday with seven parishioners making delicious soups, stews, and chili. We would like to thank those seven parishioners for taking the time to prepare their dishes, and for everyone else who stayed during coffee hour and enjoy their meal.

The seven dishes were: Tortellini Soup; Vegan Vegetable Soup; Cass's Chili; Buffalo Chicken Wing Soup; Chicken Kale & Rice Soup and Potato Corn Chowder Soup (both tied for second place); and this year's winning dish selected by the parishioners is Hamburger Soup!! Thank you again for this successful event. Lets do it again next year

Sunday, March 2 - Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The parish traditionally serves this vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading "Vouchsafe, O Lord") that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!



The Sunday of the Prodigal Son [February 16th]

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

This parable of God’s forgiveness calls us to come to ourselves” as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being “in a far country” far from the Father’s house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us

with joy and gladness. We must only “arise and go,” confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that “home” where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn “By the Waters of Babylon.” It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today’s Gospel.

*****ATTENTION: CHURCH BULLETIN STATUS*****

During the Annual Parish Meeting last Sunday, it was mentioned that I notified the parish council that at the end of this year (Sunday, December 28, 2025), I will be stepping down from the responsibility of generating and publishing the parish bulletin. This upcoming June will be ten years since stepping into the job of having a weekly parish bulletin available to our parishioners at a time when the parish was in the midst of obtaining a full-time parish priest. This resignation should be enough time (10 1/2 months) to transition another parishioner to generate the bulletin beginning on the first Sunday in January of 2026.

By taking on a new responsibility as the parish treasurer, and also continuing to oversee the responsibility of the financial secretary’s duties as well, I will not be able to be fully effective in all the current task at hand on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, with the consensus that our parishioners wish to continue to have a physical paper bulletin available, I will have to at some point over the next few months, but no later than the end of May, to modify the current format of the bulletin. Since almost half of the information in the bulletin is available on the OCA or Diocese websites, it’s no longer necessary to keep including it. Reducing the bulletin from its current eight page booklet down to a four page booklet (or just have the bulletin in a two-sided pamphlet format, front and back), would be the most likely way to move forward...at least until the end of this year until another person oversees the bulletin.

