

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: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, January 3, 2021 | 30th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Sunday Before the Theophany | Forefeast of the Theophany
Holy Prophet Malachi (ca 400 B.C.)
Martyr Gordius at Caesarea, in Cappadocia (4th 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

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

Weekly Schedule

Tuesday: Eve of Theophany! Great Complines & Matins (Condense)
and Blessing of Water! Services begin at **5:00PM**
[STRICT FAST DAY]

Wednesday: Feast of Holy Theophany - Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM!**
CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN!

Saturday: January 9 – Saturday Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM!**

Saturday: January 9 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: January 10 – Sunday After Theophany!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
(CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!!!)

Sunday: January 10 – Property Committee is scheduled to meet.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Forefeast)

Prepare, O Zebulon, / and adorn thyself, O Naphthali! / River Jordan, cease flowing, / and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! / Adam, rejoice with our first Mother, / and do not hide yourselves as ye did of old in Paradise; / for having seen you naked, / He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. // Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

Kontakion (Tone 5)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, / resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Prophet Malachi)

Endowed with the gift of prophecy, O Malachi, / thou didst clearly proclaim the saving coming of Christ to the world. // His brightness has brought light to the whole universe.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Forefeast)

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

Prokeimenon (Tone 6 – Sunday Before)

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

As a result of the new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials, the following changes will occur at the parish until at least the end of December 2020:

- * NO coffee hour after services;
- * NO Sunday school in church basement (ZOOM classes to be held instead); and
- * Father will serve a Saturday Divine Liturgy for those who wish to attend Liturgy in a smaller gathering. Now, if the Saturday Divine Liturgy attendance reaches levels near the maximum restriction amount, the parish may...repeat may, split the parishioners into two grouping with one group attending on Saturday and the other attending on Sunday.

CARDS FOR OUR TROOPS! SAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS!

Please save your Christmas cards this year. Matushka Janine and the Charity Committee are collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for next year. They will use the front cover and paste it on a new card, write an appropriate verse on the inside of the card, and address the card to our soldiers. Please consider donating your cards you received this year. Please see Matushka Janine as to where to drop off your Christmas cards at a designated area in the church basement, or whether she will collect them directly. As always, thank you for your generosity!

This year we collected and sent out just under **600** cards for our troops!

2021 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 Wednesday, 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.

Please Note: House blessing schedule will also be based upon the current State and Local Civil Authority's travel and social gathering restrictions due to the Covid virus!

AMAZON SMILE!

When ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Samantha Hourahan offered by the Hourahan Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

James Leddy offered by Nina Patterson
John Kolson offered by the Hourahan Family
Albert Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Sophie Herbert offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/27/20:

Two Large Votive Cross – Memory of beloved Stephen Perzsel offered
by Deacon Michael & Matushka Janine McCartney

** Correction – In the December 27 of the paper version of the bulletin, the One Small Votive Cross candles burned on December 20 in Memory of John Wanenchak Jr. was incorrectly credited. The Small Votive Cross candle was actually offered by Rick & Daria LeRoy. Our apologizes for this error.**

#####

Please remember in your prayers:

+ His Eminence Archbishop David (Mahaffey) who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, November 27. May His Memory Be Eternal! Vetchnaya Pamyat!

+ Archpriest Ernesto Rios (Dec 15); Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich (treatment); Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Darcy Stafford and her unborn child; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

#####

Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of December 27):

Sidewalk Donation – Extra Large Block – Brett McKenna & Tanya Krawchuk

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. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Youth Fund
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (December)

Week of Sun Dec 20 to Sat Dec 26

December Month to Date

Attendance:	27	26 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of <u>no more than 50 people</u>)</i>		
<i>Liturgy on Eve of Nativity: 13 Eve of Nativity: 24 Feast of the Nativity: 35</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 4,701.00	\$ 9,203.00
Funds Out:	\$ 2,880.00	\$ 7,954.45
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) :	\$ 1,821.00	\$ 1,248.55

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

- 1st Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2nd Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
- 2nd Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
- 3rd Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 4th Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Jan 3)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jan 10)</u>
3 rd Hour :	David Albrecht	Matthew Andrews
6 th Hour:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Lena Helen
Epistle:	John Spack	Michael Spack

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

As a result of new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials on Monday, November 16 which went into effect on Friday, November 20, the formal coffee hour event held after Sunday Divine Liturgy has been suspended until further notice.

Once city officials ease restrictions relating to Covid, coffee hour will then resume.

When the coffee hour resumes (currently not until at least January 2021), a new coffee schedule with new team parishioners will be in the rotation as per the action taken during the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, November 1.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services in January 2021.

Saturdays in JANUARY 2021 – Divine Liturgy @ 10:00AM

Sunday, January 10 – Property Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held after Divine Liturgy in the church basement and possibly on ZOOM!

Tuesday, January 12 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement and on the ZOOM Media platform. Social distancing will be adhered to.

End of January – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting! Date & Time TBA

End of January – Annual Parish Meeting! Date to be determined!

Soup N’ Bowl VI Challenge which is scheduled for Sunday, February 7 is now **CANCELLED!!**



Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [January 3rd]

The second day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 3. Today's hymns invite us to go in spirit to the Jordan River where the Creator comes to be baptized. He is the Light which shines in the darkness (John 1:5), and today He begins to overcome that darkness.

Martyr Gordius at Caesarea, in Cappadocia [January 3rd]

The Martyr Gordius was born at the end of the third century in the city of Caesarea of Cappadocia into a Christian family. When he came of age, he entered military service. Because of his valor and military skill, he was made a centurion. During the persecution of Christians at the beginning of the fourth century, he left the world and settled in the Sinai desert to prepare himself for the good deed of confessing the Name of Christ the Savior.

In the year 320, Gordius openly appeared before the prefect of a city where pagan games were being held, and identified himself as a Christian. He was arrested, suffered terrible torments, then was beheaded.

Holy Prophet Malachi [January 3rd]

The Holy Prophet Malachi lived 400 years before the Birth of Christ, at the time of the return of the Jews from the Babylonian Captivity. Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets, therefore the holy Fathers call him "the seal of the prophets."

Manifesting himself an image of spiritual goodness and piety, he astounded the nation and was called Malachi, i.e., an angel. His prophetic book is included in the Canon of the Old Testament. In it he upbraids the Jews, foretelling the coming of Jesus Christ and His Forerunner, and also the Last Judgment (Mal 3:1-5; 4:1-6).

