

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> St. & Snyder Ave.)  
Philadelphia, PA 19145 \* Church Phone: (215) 468-3535  
Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



<http://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionphilly>

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

### **Sunday, November 4, 2018 | 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Tone 6 – Venerable Joannicius the Great (846)

Hieromartyrs Nicander, Bishop of Myra and Hermas, Presbyter (1<sup>st</sup> c)

Venerable Merkury, FASTER of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves – 14<sup>th</sup> c.)

### **V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector**

615 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020

Phone: Home: 302-322-0943 | Mobile: 302-547-4952

Email: [mwkoczak@gmail.com](mailto:mwkoczak@gmail.com)

*Parish President - Matthew Andrews*

*Phone: (856) 217.8075*

### **Weekly Schedule**

Today: Fall General Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy and fellowship coffee hour in the church basement. The election of 2019 officers will take place at this meeting.

Today: Parish Fall Festivals (*see page 7 for locations & times*):

Tuesday: Election Day! (*Get Out and Vote!*)

Wednesday: November 7 – Vespers Divine Liturgy at **6:30PM** for the Synaxis of the Archangel Michael (November 8)

Saturday: November 10 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: November 11 – Veterans Day!

Sunday: November 11 – Martyrs Menas, Victor, and Vincent  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: November 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church school room.

## **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 8 – Venerable Joannicius)**

By a flood of tears thou didst make the desert fertile, / and thy longing for God hast brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles thou didst illumine the whole universe. // Our Father Joannicius pray to Christ God to save our souls!

### **Troparion (Tone 4 – Hieromartyr Nicander)**

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / thou didst become a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. // Hieromartyr Nicander, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

### **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 4 – Venerable Joannicius)**

We, the faithful, gather today / to honor thy memory, venerable Joannicius,// and we implore thee to obtain mercy for us from the Lord.

### **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: Ephesians 2:4-10**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

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)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 8:41-56**

And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

**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

### **Congratulations and Best Wishes to our newest member:**

Luke Emmanuel Parsells was born Thursday morning (November 1). His stats at birth were 8 pounds, 4 ounces, and 21 inches tall. His mother Heather is doing very well as is his father Peter.

May God Grant Luke, Heather and Peter Many Healthy, Happy, and Blessed Years!!!

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Thank you to everyone who came out yesterday morning to help clean up the outside of the church property and hall yard! The area looks beautiful thanks to all of your dedication and hard work for the church. Also, thank you to everyone who remained after the clean up and stayed for Vespers! The time was changed for your convenience to attend and you did not disappoint. Thank You!

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### **2019 Saint Tikhon's Monastery Calendar - Taking orders now:**

The parish will once again be ordering 2019 calendars from Saint Tikhon's Monastery. As a result from a generous benefactor, a donation was made to the church to cover the cost of one calendar per household for parishioners of the church.

If you wish to order additional calendars besides the one that will be ordered for your household, there is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board downstairs to do so.

The cost of the 2019 St Tikhon's calendars is \$6 per calendar.

Deadline for ordering extra calendars: **TODAY Sunday, November 4!**

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Pellack Family, Herbert Family, Hourahan Family, Kavalkovich Family, and Andrews Family offered by David Pellack

Margaret Pellack offered by Nina Patterson

John Herbert, Mildred O'Shura, Joseph Herbert, Sandra Hourahan,

Dr. Jane Kelly, David Pellack, Margaret Pellack offered by M/M Herbert

Kimberly Herbert on her birthday offered by M/M Herbert

Family and Friends offered by Debbie Kavalkovich

Michael & Janine McCartney offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

David Pellack and Margaret Pellack offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

Matthew and Christina offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

Sharon, Allison, Heather, Sandra, Pellacks offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

John Pellack offered by David Pellack

Archpriest Vincent Saverino offered by M/M Herbert

Mary Herbert offered by her brother & sister-in-law M/M Herbert

William Koczak on his anniversary offered by the Koczak Family

Souls of the Pittsburgh Massacre offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Dr. Jane Kelly; Matushka Jan (recovery after surgery); Luke Emmanuel Parsells (**newly born – Nov 1**) Heather Parsells; Peter Parsells; David Pellack; Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

In addition, Robert Helms (**newly departed – Sep 26**)

Also all those who are struggling and seeking relief in addition to all those first responders assisting them as a result of the damaging affects of the following:

- 1) The Atrocity at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA where 11 people died and six other injured, including four responding officers, and
- 2) Hurricane Michael along the Florida panhandle especially in the cities of Mexico Beach and Panama City, Florida.

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**Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!**

## Announcements (cont.)

### **Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.**

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

**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 (*reactivated July 2018*)
- 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 (October)**

	<u>Week of October 22 to October 28</u>	<u>October Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	40	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 3,059.00	\$ 8,585.00
Funds Out:	(\$ 469.53) <i>reimbursements</i>	\$ 5,408.48
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 3,528.53	\$ 3,176.52

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 David Pellack 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

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

### **Sunday, November 4 – PARISH FALL FESTIVAL**

St Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church – Firebird Pierogi Festival  
Sunday, November 4 - 12:00PM to 5:00PM  
817 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street (Corner of Brown Street) - Philadelphia, PA

### **NEXT WEEKEND...**

### **Friday to Sunday, November 9 to 11 – PARISH FALL FESTIVAL**

St Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church – Food Festival (3 day weekend)  
Friday, November 9 – 12:00PM to 8:00PM  
Saturday, November 10 – 12:00PM to 8:00PM  
Sunday, November 11 - 12:00PM to 4:00PM  
1855 Middletown Road (Route 352) – Glen Mills, PA 19342

**Wednesday, November 7 – Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Synaxis of the Archangel Michael (November 8<sup>th</sup>) at 6:30PM!**

**Sunday, November 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month)!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting; Church status from the recent water damage on north side of building; Hall status update; tenant situation at 2109 house; and the work performed on 2111 house.

### **Bible Study – Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30pm in the church basement.**

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and finish up reading and discussing the section in the Bible – The Book of **Joshua**.

**Cleaning Teams:**      Today (Nov 4): Saint Saint Herman of Alaska  
(Heather & Peter Parsells, Gale Rutan, Joseph Francis).  
                                 Next Week (Nov 11): Saint John of Kronstadt  
(Lena Helen, Paul Filanowski, William, Matthew Andrews).



## **Venerable Joannicius the Great** [November 4<sup>th</sup>]

Saint Joannicius the Great was born in Bithynia in the year 752 in the village of Marikat. His parents were destitute and could not provide him even the basics of an education. From childhood he had to tend the family cattle, their sole wealth. Love for God and prayer completely dominated the soul of the child Joannicius. Often, having shielded the herd with the Sign of the Cross, he went to a secluded place and spent the whole day praying, and neither thieves nor wild beasts came near his herd.

By order of the emperor Leo IV (775-780), a multitude of officials went through the cities and towns to draft young men for military service. Young Joannicius was also drafted into the imperial army. He earned the respect of his fellow soldiers for his good disposition, but he was also a brave soldier who struck fear in the hearts of his enemies. Saint Joannicius served in the imperial army for six years. More than once he was rewarded by his commanders and the emperor. But military service weighed heavily on him; his soul thirsted for spiritual deeds and solitude.

Saint Joannicius, having renounced the world, longed to go at once into the wilderness. However, on the advice of an Elder experienced in monastic life, he spent a further two years at the monastery. Here the saint became accustomed to monastic obedience, to monastic rules and practices. He studied reading and writing, and he learned thirty Psalms of David by heart.

After this, commanded by God to go to a certain mountain, the monk withdrew into the wilderness. For three years he remained in deep solitude in the wilderness, and only once a month a shepherd brought him some bread and water. The ascetic spent day and night in prayer and psalmody. After each verse of singing the Psalms Saint Joannicius made a prayer, which the Orthodox Church keeps to this day in a somewhat altered form, "The Father is my hope, the Son is my refuge, the Holy Spirit is my protection."

By chance, he encountered some of his former companions from military service. The saint fled the wilderness and withdrew to Mount Kountourea to hide himself from everyone. Only after twelve years of ascetic life did the hermit accept monastic tonsure. The saint spent three years in seclusion after being tonsured. Then he went to a place called Chelidon to see the great ascetic Saint George (February 21). The ascetics spent three years together. During this time Saint Joannicius learned the entire Psalter by heart. As he grew older, Saint Joannicius settled in the Antidiev monastery and dwelt there in seclusion until his death.

Saint Joannicius spent seventy years in ascetic deeds and attained to a high degree of spiritual perfection. Through the mercy of God the saint acquired the gift of prophecy, as his disciple Pachomius has related. The Elder also levitated above the ground when he prayed. Once, he crossed a river flooded to overflowing. The saint could make himself invisible for people and make others also hidden from sight.

Once, Saint Joannicius led Greek captives out of prison under the very eyes of the guards. Poison and fire, with which the envious wanted to destroy the saint, did him no harm, and predatory beasts did not touch him. He freed the island of Thasos from a multitude of snakes. Saint Joannicius also saved a young nun who was preparing to leave the monastery to marry; he took upon himself the agonized maiden's suffering of passion, and by fasting and prayer, he overcame the seductive assault of the devil.

Foreseeing his death, Saint Joannicius fell asleep in the Lord on November 4, 846, at the age of 94.