

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, August 29, 2021 | 10th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – The Beheading of the Holy, Glorious,
Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist, John

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

Wednesday: September 1 – **Church New Year** (*Indiction*)

Saturday: September 4 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: September 5 – Holy Prophet Zachariah & Righteous Elizabeth
Reading of Hours – 8:30am
Divine Liturgy – **9:00am [Summer Hours!!!]**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

*Please Note: Sunday, September 5 will be the final Sunday of summer hours for Divine Liturgy. Beginning on Sunday, September 12, the parish will resume Sunday Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM**.*

Tuesday: September 7 – Vespersal Divine Liturgy at **6:00PM** for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary.

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!”

Troparion (Tone 2 – Saint John the Baptist)

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, / but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. / Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, / for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the steams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. / Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, / thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, / Who takes away the sin of the world, // and grants us great mercy.

Kontakion (Tone 1)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion (Tone 5 – Saint John the Baptist)

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner / became an act of divine dispensation, / for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. / Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, / loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life, // but that which is false and temporal.

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!

Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – Saint John the Baptist)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

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)
- v. The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in
Lebanon. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:14-23

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting. Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up. And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings!
Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: Today's readings for Saint John the Baptist:
Epistle – Acts 13:25-33 and Gospel – Mark 6:14-30]*

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

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!!

COVID Protocol – City of Philadelphia – MASK Policy for Indoors Facilities

The below information was sent to parishioners via email from Father Mark on Friday evening, August 13:

Beloved in Christ,

Many of you know about the recent changes in covid prevention by the city. I have read the city website and communicated with our dean, Fr. Victor and our Archbishop. The parish council and I have also discussed the following plan of action.

Our parish and Fr. Victor's parish are the only two regular Diocesan parishes in Philadelphia. The rest are in the suburbs or different jurisdictions. We have a need to modify our plan for our safety against the covid virus. As a worshipping community we have done well during this pandemic.

Here is our plan for starting this Sunday 15 August:

1. Request that parishioners wear masks from the entrance to the church to the pews and whenever walking around the church. This includes waiting in line for communion and the cross veneration. At the pews masks are optional.

By following the above listed plan and remembering to be safe, I believe we can continue to be well and take care of each other.

Our plan follows the same restrictions for small businesses in the city of Philadelphia

My God bless you and keep you and your families during this time. We pray for all of you at our Divine Liturgies.

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Mark

Archpriest Mark Koczak
Rector
Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Anastasia, Colin, Alexander, Selena, Christina, Matthew, Elton, Scarlett, Catherine, Patricia, Ronald, Barbara, Steven, Susan, Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Ronald Andrew, Edward, Anne Killoran offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Albert, Vito, Marc, Helen, offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Anne, Alexander, William offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 8/22/21:

#####

Please remember in your prayers:

Infant child Gabriel Matthew Andrews (born August 27) and his parents Matthew & Christina. May God Grant Gabriel Matthew & his family Many Blessed Years!

Those in Louisiana, Tennessee, and Haiti recovering from natural disasters and all those trying to get out and escape Afghanistan this week.

Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; Edward Gerasimoff (recovery); The Gerty Family; Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich (recovery); Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Anne (Homa) Killoran (surgery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

#####

Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of August 22)

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$0 from the Candy Sale

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 Spring General Parish Meeting held on Sunday, June 13, the parish body approved that all future special collections be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (this collection will begin on Sunday, June 20).

The funds collected from your donations will assist in underwriting the cost to repair/fix/replace the roofs of both houses.

Please take note; the above-approved action did **NOT** affect the current financial balances of the other Funds the parish collected for as of June 13, 2021 (i.e. Kitchen, Youth, Restoration, & Charity).

Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (August)

<u>Week of Sun Aug 15 to Sat Aug 21</u>		<u>August Month to Date</u>
Attendance:	40	32 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,844.12	\$ 5,401.99
Funds Out:	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,464.31
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) :	\$ 1,344.12	\$ 937.68

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 (Aug 29)</u>	<u>Next Week (Sep 5)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Matthew Andrews	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich
6 th Hour:	Anthony Colona	Michael Spack
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and David Pellack	Dr. David Albrecht

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Aug 29): Saint Elizabeth the New Martyr [Lenten Meal – Strict Fast Day]
(Catherine Kavalkovich, Emily Gerasimoff, Sandra Hourahan, Melanie Albrecht)

Next Week (Sep 5): No Team Scheduled (Labor Day Weekend)
[Please Note: Coffee will be made & available, just no food]

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 September 2021.

From Now until at least the end of September
Christmas Card Project has started (Putting cards together)

Either Monday, September 13 or Tuesday, September 14
Services for the Exaltation of the Precious Cross [Strict Fast Day]
***** The Date and Time are still to be determined *****

Tuesday, September 14 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement and on the ZOOM media platform



The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John [August 29th]

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, St John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of St John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12). The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligula (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.