

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, November 21, 2021 | 22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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

Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Sunday School classroom

Thursday: November 25 – Thanksgiving! Remember to Give Thanks to God
for the Blessings You Have In Your Life!

Saturday: November 27 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: November 28 – Monk Martyr & Confessor Stephen the New
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

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 – Feast of Theotokos Into the Temple)

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, / of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. / The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, / in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. / Let us rejoice and sing to her: // “Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation!”

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 – Feast of Theotokos Into the Temple)

The most pure Temple of the Savior; / the precious Chamber and Virgin; / the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, / is presented today to the House of the Lord. / She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, / therefore, the angels of God praise her: / “Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 5)

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 3 – Feast of Theotokos Into the Temple)

My soul doth magnify the Lord / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! [Tone 8] Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.' And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing in Tone 4:

The Angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed! / How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies? / As you are a living Temple of God, / let no impure hand touch you, O Theotokos! / But let the lips of all believers sing, / constantly magnifying you in joy / with the angelic salutation: // Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One!

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: The readings for the Most Holy Theotokos are as follows:
Epistle – Hebrews 9:1-7 and Gospel – Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28]*

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

Sundays, December 5, 12, & 19, 2021 - Parish's Saint Nicholas Fair

[NOTE CHANGE IN DATES!!!]

The parish will have the Saint Nicholas Fair to support the parish HVAC Project. We are collecting new items and unused items (PLEASE, nothing used!) for sale at the fair. We are also accepting crafts, and baked goods for sale. Please see Matushka Janine if you would like to help to donate. Matushka Janine has a sign-up sheet for baked goods. We had a great time last year and raised a little over \$3,200 for the HVAC project. Please consider joining us!

This year, there will be handmade, natural soaps for sale from **Oct 31 to Dec 19**. The types of soaps include: honey orange, goats milk unscented, shea butter, francenscence, lavender oatmeal, and men's chappareal soap. Soap cost is \$3 to \$4 per bar. Orders are accepted. No supply chain issues with soap orders! These make great Christmas presents. See Matushka Janine for samples and to purchase.

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

This is the parish policy regarding wearing mask inside the church effective as of August 15, 2021:

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.

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

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

The Charity Committee wishes to thank all the parishioners who donated towards the Thanksgiving Turkey Donation Drive last month. We received over \$400 in donations which will help feed many over the Thanksgiving weekend. Mother Catherine has been busy making the necessary purchases of food for the Thanksgiving event. Again, Thank You All for your donations and support.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Anastasia and her unborn child offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Anastasia, Colin, Alexander, Selena, Patricia, Kathleen, Michael, Patricia, Catherine, Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

New departed Angelo Amorosso offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family
Derrick offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 11/14/21:

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Please remember in your prayers:

The newly baptized Scarlett Jo Andrews (November 6) and her parents Christopher & Allison and her godparents. May God Grant Scarlett and the Andrews Family Many Blessed Years!

Anthony & Lisa Colona; Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; Edward Gerasimoff (recovery); The Gerty Family; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Anne (Homa) Killoran (surgery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Joseph Rabik; Dr. Gale Rutan; Peter Witiak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of November 14)

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$10 from the Candy Sale

Health of Scarlett Jo Andrews: Medium Block – Christopher and Allison Andrews

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 on Sunday, October 10, 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 will begin on Sunday, October 17.

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

Cash Flow Activity (November)

<u>Week of Sun Nov 7 to Sat Nov 13</u>	<u>November Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 45	45 (average)
Funds In: \$ 4,295.13	\$ 4,296.00
Funds Out: \$ 433.62	\$ 3,012.47
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 3,861.51	\$ 1,283.53

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 (Nov 21)</u>	<u>Next Week (Nov 28)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Anthony Colona	Sbdn Daniel Kavalkovich
6 th Hour:	David Pellack	Michael Wanenchak
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus and Daniel S Herbert	Matthew Andrews

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Nov 21): Saint Innocent
(Mark Klus, Tish Klus, David Albrecht)

Next Week (Nov 28): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(John Spack, Michael Spack, Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson)

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 November/December 2021.

Advent Giving (October 17 to December 12): We will be collecting food and cleaning supplies for Soap & Song Homeless group and Food Pantry

UPDATED DATES for the Saint Nicholas Fair is now on Sundays on December 5, 12, and 19th!!!



The Flowers on the Tetrapod last Sunday, November 14, were donated by Patricia, Kathleen & Michael Amoroso in Memory of Angelo Amoroso!



The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple [November 21st]

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple

(Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Saints Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.