

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, December 12, 2021 | 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus (ca. 348)

Hieromartyr Alexander, Bishop of Jerusalem (251)

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

Today: Saint Nicholas Fair after Divine Liturgy until 2:00PM

Monday: December 13 – Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker and Equal-to-the-Apostles

Tuesday: December 14 – Bible Study at **6:30PM** in the church basement and on the ZOOM media platform. Social distancing guidelines will be followed!

Saturday: December 18 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: December 19 – Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: December 19 – Final Day of Saint Nicholas Fair after Divine Liturgy until 2:00PM

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to thee!

Troparion (Tone 2 – Forefathers)

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / she who bore Thee without seed. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Forefathers)

You did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, / but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, / you were glorified in a trial by fire. / From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: / “Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid, // for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Songs of the Fathers)

Blessed are Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!
v. For Thou are just in all that Thou has done for us!

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

v. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. Alleluia (3x's)

v. They called to the Lord and He answered them. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:16-24

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.' For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper."

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! 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

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

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 until **December 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.

2021 Parish Christmas Card

In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, a parish Christmas card has been designed. For a \$5 donation, parishioners can have their names listed and/or a message (up to 35 characters per \$5 donation). Cards will be distributed after Liturgy on December 25th. Cards will also be mailed to shut ins and those parishioners who attend services virtually. Please see David Pellack for more details! Thank You!

Eve of the Nativity of Christ Services (Great Complines and Matins (modified)) – Friday, December 24th – Time: TBD!

Once a definite time is finalized, it will be announced in church, printed in the bulletin, and noted on our social media platforms (website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Thank you all for your patience with this

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:

Family and Friends offered by Nina Patterson
Anastasia and her unborn child, Patricia offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John and Margaret Pellack offered by David Pellack
Anne Sabata offered by David Pellack
Lisa Colona offered by Sandra Hourahan

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/5/21:

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed Handmaiden of God Lisa Colona (Nov 23)

Anthony Colona; Grace Corba (Hospice); Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; Edward Gerasimoff (recovery);
The Gerty Family; Anastasia Jones and her unborn child; 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 December 5)

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 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 28 to Sat Dec 4</u>	<u>November Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance: 43	44 (average)
Funds In: \$ 3,912.10	\$10,626.17
Funds Out: \$ 4,021.48	\$ 6,440.85
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$ 109.38)	\$ 4,185.32

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 (Dec 12)</u>	<u>Next Week (Dec 19)</u>
3 rd Hour :	John Spack	Matthew Andrews
6 th Hour:	Dr David Albrecht	Anthony Colona
Epistle:	Dr David Albrecht	Michael Wanenchak

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Dec 12): Saint Herman of Alaska
(Matthew Andrews, Christina Andrews, Barbara Andrews)

Next Week (Dec 19): Saint Raphael of Brooklyn
(Brett McKenna, Tanya Krawchuk, Darcy Stafford, Jerome Stafford)

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning in 2022, the Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams will no longer be listed in the bulletin. With Teams changing the week they're scheduled to host coffee hour, and in some cases, Teams not even available when scheduled, it's not the responsibility of this Bulletin to monitor the schedule changes or even schedule hosting Teams. If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour in the red 3 ring binder which is 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 December 2021.

Advent Giving (FINAL DAY - TODAY): We will be collecting food and cleaning supplies for Soap & Song Homeless group and Food Pantry

TODAY (and Next Sunday December 19) - Saint Nicholas Fair!

Monday, December 13 – Repose of Saint Herman of Alaska

Tuesday, December 14 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement and via Zoom media platform.



Righteous Priest Aaron [December 12th]

The Righteous Aaron was the son of Amram and Jochebed, and the elder brother of the Prophet Moses the God-seer, and also of Miriam. He was a direct descendent of Levi by both parents. God called him “the Levite” in Exodus 4:14, when He appointed Aaron to be the spokesman for Moses, who was “slow of speech,” before the people. Later, he would also speak on behalf of Moses before Pharaoh in Egypt (Ex. 4:30; 7:2). Aaron was married to Elisheba, the daughter of the Prince of Judah (Ex. 6:23), who bore him four sons.

Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh and asked that the Hebrews be released from their slavery. The Lord told Moses that Pharaoh would ask them for a miracle, and that Aaron should throw down his rod before him, and it would become a serpent (Ex. 7:9). When Pharaoh would not allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt, God told Moses to have Aaron stretch forth his rod over the Nile River, and it would turn to blood.

Following a succession of plagues, Pharaoh relented and let the people go, then Moses led them on their long journey to the Promised Land. In Chapter 17 of Exodus, the Hebrews fought Amalek in a battle at Rephidim. Moses stood atop a hill with the rod of God in his hand. As long as he raised his hand, the Hebrews prevailed, but when he became tired and lowered it, Amalek prevailed. Aaron and Hur sat Moses on a rock and held up his hands, one on each side. This was a prefiguration of the suffering of Christ, because the arms of Moses formed a cross. In the Greek Septuagint, the names Aaron and Hur begin with the letters Alpha and Omega, another reference to Christ (Revelation 1:8).

Aaron and his sons were anointed and sanctified to serve God as priests (Exodus chapter 29). In chapter 32, Aaron fell into temptation when Moses went up on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments. Since Moses was taking a long time, the people grew restless and asked Aaron to make them a golden idol in the form of a calf so that they could offer sacrifices. He gave into them, and Moses was angry when he returned and saw them dancing and singing before the calf. He threw down the tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments, and then he burned the golden calf and ground it to powder. He scattered the powder on the water, and he made the people drink it. When Moses asked those who were on the Lord’s side to gather around him, the Levites came to him. He ordered them to take their swords and slay their sons, companions, and neighbors. About three thousand people were killed that day.

Later, Aaron and Miriam criticized Moses for marrying a Cushite woman (Num. 12:1). God was angry with them, so He punished Miriam with leprosy. She was healed by God seven days after Moses interceded for her.

In chapter 17 of Numbers, the people murmured against Moses and Aaron, so God commanded that the leaders of the twelve tribes should have their names inscribed on their rods and placed in the tent of testimony. God would reveal His choice to make the people cease their grumbling against Moses and his brother. Aaron’s rod bloomed miraculously in the tent of the testimony, to show that he had been chosen for this purpose.

Aaron reposed atop Mount Hor when he was one hundred and twenty-three years old. One of his descendants was Saint Elizabeth, the mother of Saint John the Baptist (Luke 1:5).