

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, December 4, 2022 | 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Greatmartyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana, at Heliopolis in Syria (ca. 306)
Venerable John of Damascus (776)
Glorification of New Hieromartyr Protopresbyter Alexander Hotovitzky (1994)

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: Saint Nicholas Fair after Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday: December 6 – Divine Liturgy for Saint Nicholas
the Wonderworker will be at **10:00AM!**
- Saturday: December 10 – Parish Indoor Cleaning starting at **10:00AM!**
- Saturday: December 10 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**
- Sunday: December 11 – Archbishop MARK visitation to our parish!
[Volunteers are needed to help prepare Lenten luncheon!]
- Sunday: December 11 – Sunday of the Forefathers!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
- Sunday: December 11 – Saint Nicholas Fair after Divine Liturgy

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 8 – Saint Barbara)

Let us honor the holy Martyr Barbara, / for, as a bird, she escaped the snares of the Enemy, // and destroyed them through the help and defense of the Cross!

Troparion (Tone 8 – Saint John)

O Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship, / the enlightener of the universe and the adornment of hierarchs; / all wise Father John, thy teachings have gleamed with light upon all things. // Intercede before Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, / and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Saint Barbara)

Singing the praises of the Trinity, / thou didst follow God by enduring suffering; / thou didst renounce the multitude of idols, / O holy martyr Barbara. / In thy struggles, thou wast not frightened by the threats of thy torturers, / but cried out in a loud voice: // “I worship the Trinity in one Godhead.”

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Saint John)

Let us sing praises to John, worthy of great honor, / the composer of hymns, the star and teacher of the Church, / the defender of her doctrines: / through the might of the Lord’s Cross he overcame heretical error, // and as a fervent intercessor before God he entreats that forgiveness of sins may be granted to all!

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!
Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him
with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:12-19

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

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

Poinsettias & Christmas Flowers!

We have begun collecting for Christmas flowers. There are special envelopes available to be used for your offering for flower donations. These envelopes are located in the vestibule on the stand where the Health and Departed slips are located. Please give the envelopes to Debbie Kavalkovich or a member of the parish council. Thank you for your support!

Taking Collections for the parish's Saint Nicholas Fair

We are collecting new items and unused items (PLEASE, nothing used!) for sale at the Saint Nicholas Fair. We are also accepting crafts and baked goods for sale. Please see Matushka Janine if you would like to help donate. Matushka Janine will have a sign-up sheet for baked goods. Proceeds from the Saint Nicholas Fair are earmarked for the HVAC Project. Please see the Flyers on the bulletin boards for additional details.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FOOD DONATIONS!!!

Thank you to all who donated food over the past two months for the Food Pantry Project. As mentioned last week, since there is currently not a food need at Saint Tikhon's, it was decided the food and supplies will be donated to Mother Catherine and the members of their monastery for their food pantry, which is in dire need of being fulfilled.

In Memory of Ronald Kavalkovich Sr. – HVAC Project Donations

Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine McCartney	Anonymous
Patricia Ferguson	Robert Wanenchak
Mr. and Mrs. Rick and Daria LeRoy	Nina Patterson
Jennifer Cantrell	Patricia Amoroso
Dr. and Mrs. David and Erin Albrecht	David Pellack
Mr. and Mrs. Neil and Sandra Hourahan	Anonymous

In Memory of Marc Ferguson Sr. – HVAC Project Donations

Patricia Ferguson

In Memory of David Albrecht Sr. – HVAC Project Donations

Nina Patterson

Vigil Cross Candle Reservations for Advent and Nativity Servies

The following vigil cross candles have been reserved for the following dates, as of Saturday, December 2:

Sunday, December 11 – 1 large Vigil Cross reserved
Sunday, December 25 – 1 Large Vigil Cross reserved

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

- David Albrecht Sr offered by Melanie Albrecht
- Ronald Andrew Kavalkovich offered by Melanie Albrecht
- David Albrecht Sr offered by Nina Patterson
- Ronald Andrew Kavalkovich offered by Nina Patterson
- Mary Ann Brodie offered by Andrew & Tracy DeVito
- Michael and Mary Popelak offered by Andrew & Tracy DeVito
- Ronald Andrew Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
- David Albrecht Sr offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
- Florence Telechan offered by David Pellack
- Ronald Andrew Kavalkovich offered by the M/M Herbert
- Stephen Harbolovic offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 11/27/22

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Ronald Andrew Kavalkovich offered by his sister Barbara Andrews

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Ronald Andrew Kavalkovich offered by his brother Subdeacon Daniel (Kenneth) Kavalkovich

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Please remember in your prayers:

Elton Andrews; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; Dr. Gale Rutan; Joseph Rabik; Peter Witiak; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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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 back on Sunday, October 10, 2021, 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 began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021.
Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (November)

<u>Week of Sun Nov 20 to Sat Nov 26</u>	<u>November Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 32	32 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,378.88	\$ 5,396.88
Funds Out: \$ 453.90	\$ 5,070.28
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 924.98	\$ 326.60

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 on ZOOM media platform.
- 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.
- Last Thursday of each month** – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Dec 4)</u>	<u>Next Week (Dec 11)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	David Pellack
6 th Hour:	Dr. David Albrecht	Matthew Andrews
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	David Pellack

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which Team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside of the office room.

NOTE: The following Sundays are coffee hour bye-weeks where there is no team scheduled. There will be coffee available, just no food or meal:

**Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)
Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day)**

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 2022.

December 11, 2022 – Parish Visitation of The Most Reverend MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. After Liturgy, a Lenten meal will be served. The parish is looking for volunteers to prepare a Lenten dish for this occasion. Please sign up to provide a dish on the sign-up sheet available in the church vestibule.

December 11, and 18, 2022: Saint Nicholas Fair at the parish between 11:30AM to 2:00PM. Please see Flyers on bulletin boards for more details and for a list of donations being accepted for this event. Donations will be accepted up to TODAY. Thank You.

December 22, 2022 - Saint Olga Book Club at 6:30pm on the ZOOM media platform. (Please check your email Inbox (or Spam folder) from Monday, November 21 around 8:30PM for more details & viewing information)



Greatmartyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana, at Heliopolis in Syria [December 4th]

The Holy Great Martyr Barbara lived and suffered during the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-311). Her father, the pagan Dioscorus, was a rich and illustrious man in the Syrian city of Heliopolis. After the death of his wife, he devoted himself to his only daughter.

Seeing Barbara's extraordinary beauty, Dioscorus decided to hide her from the eyes of strangers. Therefore, he built a tower for Barbara, where only her pagan teachers were allowed to see her. From the tower there was a view of hills stretching into the distance. By day she was able to gaze upon the wooded hills, the swiftly flowing rivers, and the meadows

covered with a mottled blanket of flowers; by night the harmonious and majestic vault of the heavens twinkled and provided a spectacle of inexpressible beauty. Soon the virgin began to ask herself questions about the First Cause and Creator of so harmonious and splendid a world.

Gradually, she became convinced that the soulless idols were merely the work of human hands. Although her father and teachers offered them worship, she realized that the idols could not have made the surrounding world. The desire to know the true God so consumed her soul that Barbara decided to devote all her life to this goal, and to spend her life in virginity.

The fame of her beauty spread throughout the city, and many sought her hand in marriage. But despite the entreaties of her father, she refused all of them. Barbara warned her father that his persistence might end tragically and separate them forever. Dioscorus decided that the temperament of his daughter had been affected by her life of seclusion. He therefore permitted her to leave the tower and gave her full freedom in her choice of friends and acquaintances. Thus Barbara met young Christian maidens in the city, and they taught her about the Creator of the world, about the Trinity, and about the Divine Logos. Through the Providence of God, a priest arrived in Heliopolis from Alexandria disguised as a merchant. After instructing her in the mysteries of the Christian Faith, he baptized Barbara, then returned to his own country.

During this time a luxurious bathhouse was being built at the house of Dioscorus. By his orders the workers prepared to put two windows on the south side. But Barbara, taking advantage of her father's absence, asked them to make a third window, thereby forming a Trinity of light. On one of the walls of the bath-house Barbara traced a cross with her finger. The cross was deeply etched into the marble, as if by an iron instrument. Later, her footprints were imprinted on the stone steps of the bathhouse. The water of the bathhouse had great healing power. Saint Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9) compared the bathhouse to the stream of Jordan and the Pool of Siloam, because by God's power, many miracles took place there.

When Dioscorus returned and expressed dissatisfaction about the change in his building plans, his daughter told him about how she had come to know the Triune God, about the saving power of the Son of God, and about the futility of worshipping idols. Dioscorus went into a rage, grabbed a sword and was on the point of striking her with it. The holy virgin fled from her father, and he rushed after her in pursuit. His way became blocked by a hill, which opened up and concealed the saint in a crevice. On the other side of the crevice was an entrance leading upwards. Saint Barbara managed then to conceal herself in a cave on the opposite slope of the hill.

After a long and fruitless search for his daughter, Dioscorus saw two shepherds on the hill. One of them showed him the cave where the saint had hidden. Dioscorus beat his daughter terribly, and then placed her under guard and tried to wear her down with hunger. Finally he handed her over to the prefect of the city, named Martianus. They beat Saint Barbara fiercely: they struck her with rawhide, and rubbed her wounds with a hair cloth to increase her pain. By night Saint Barbara prayed fervently to her Heavenly Bridegroom, and the Savior Himself appeared and healed her wounds. Then they subjected the saint to new, and even more frightful torments.

[The above is an excerpt of the martyrs lives, please visit the OCA website for more information under the tab Lives of the Saints! (www.oca.org)]