Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America and of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania •

2101 South 28th St • Philadelphia, PA 19145 (corner of 28th & Snyder Ave)
Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 • Point Breeze Station • Philadelphia, PA 19145-0383
Church Phone: 215-468-3535 • Website: https://www.holyassumptionphilly.org/

Rector V. Rev. Mark W. Koczak
Cellphone: 302-547-4952 / Home: 302-322-0943 / Email mwkoczak@gmail.com
Church Office & Rectory: 615 West 11th St. • New Castle, DE 19720-6020

February 22, 2026

Cheesefare Sunday

• Forgiveness Vespers following Liturgy

• TONE 4 •

Cheesefare is traditionally the last day on which cheese/other animal products may be eaten

The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise, Forgiveness Sunday. Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy Martyrs at the Gate of Eugenius at Constantinople (395-423). Ven.Thalassius, Limnaeus & Baradates, Hermits of Syria (5th c.). St. Athanasius the Confessor, of Constantinople (821).

Readings: Epistle: Rom. 13:11-14:4
2 Cor. 4:6-15 (Forerunner)
Gospel: Matt. 6:14-21
Matt. 11:2-15 (Forerunner)

Sub-deacon: Daniel (Kenneth) Kavalkovich
Reader: Mark Klus

Parish President: Brett McKenna
Reader: David Pellack

Choir Director: Nina Patterson
Reader: Jerome Stafford

Weekly Schedule — Great Lent Begins (strict fast)

Monday	February 23, 6:00 pm – Small Compline and Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Tuesday	February 24, 6:00 pm – Small Compline and Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Wednesday	February 25, 6:00 pm – Small Compline and Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Thursday	February 26, 6:00 pm – Small Compline and Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
Friday	February 27, 6:00 pm – Akathist to the Theotokos
Saturday	February 28, 4:00 pm – Great Vespers
Sunday	March 1, 9:00 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Liturgy: Sunday of Orthodoxy *(First Sunday of Lent)* 4:00 pm – Mission Vespers – *(Church To Be Determined)*

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information regarding parish services, events. (Including church closings in case of inclement weather).

2026 House Blessing

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing.

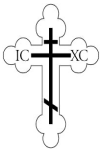
The blessing of houses will begin Wednesday, Jan. 7 (day after Theophany). Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

Note: there will be no house blessings the first week of Lent (Feb. 23 – 28) and Holy Week - Pascha (Apr. 6 – 12)

Candles and Prayers for the Living and Departed

Health for the Living:
Health of Jim Fairchild, offered by Nina Patterson
Health of family, offered by Catharine Kavalkovich
Health of family, friends and parish offered by David Pellack
Many Years to Barbara and Norman (Andrews) on their anniversary, offered by Catharine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!



2 Crosses are always available to light. Example: for Memory, for Health, for Birthdays, for Anniversaries.

1 Small Cross is $25 /1 Large Cross is $50

Announcements/Events

Lenten Calendar – Lent Starts Monday, February 23 / Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 1 / St. Gregory Palamas, March 8 / Sunday of the Life-Giving Cross, March 15 / St. John Climacus, March 22 / St. Mary of Egypt, March 29 / Lazarus Saturday, Saturday, April 4.

Lenten Charity Project – During the Lenten Season there will be a collection for the homeless. Please donate gently-used/new coats and gloves/mittens. In the church basement place them on the last table next to back exit.

Shop Rite Gift Cards support Charity Projects– 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 will help support the parish's Charity projects at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Aluminum Can Tab Collection to support Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Did you know that you could help Children's Hospital of Philadelphia every time you enjoy the canned beverage of your choice? The parish will be accepting aluminum can tabs as a Charity program to support this city's finest children's hospital. Please drop off your aluminum can tabs in the container located at the end of the dessert section of the food table (close to the coffee table area).

Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon
1st Collection during the Liturgy is for special causes: the first three Sundays of the month are 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 collection schedule began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts.
2nd Collection during the Liturgy is for the Parish. *Thank You!*

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 that is in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside the office room.

2026 Monthly/Quarterly Schedule:
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.
4th Thursday of each month –Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform
5th Sunday of each quarter –Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Attendance
February 15: 41 February MTD: 34

Cash Flow Activity Thank you all for your continuous financial support in maintaining your parish!

	Mon. Feb. 9 to Sun. Feb. 15	Feb. Month to Date
Funds In:	$2,490.00	$6,639.00
Funds Out:	$1,357.24	$7,380.13
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	($1,132.76)	($ 741.13)

Forgiveness Sunday What is the meaning of this rite? Why is it that the Church wants us to begin Lenten season with forgiveness and reconciliation? These questions are in order because for too many people Lent means primarily, and almost exclusively, a change of diet, the compliance with ecclesiastical regulations concerning fasting. They understand fasting as an end in itself, as a "good deed" required by God and carrying in itself its merit and its reward. But, the Church spares no effort in revealing to us that fasting is but a means, one among many, towards a higher goal: the spiritual renewal of man, his return to God, true repentance and, therefore, true reconciliation. The Church spares no effort in warning us against a hypocritical and pharisaic fasting, against the reduction of religion to mere external obligations. *— Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemann*

A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests! After Liturgy please join us in the basement for our Fellowship Coffee Hour