

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, September 4, 2022 | 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Hieromartyr Babylas, Bishop of Antioch (251)

Holy Prophet and Godseer Moses (16th c. B.C.)

Martyr Babylas of Nicomedia, and with him 84 children (4th c.)

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: **Final Sunday of 2022 Summer Hours!!!**

Wednesday: September 7 – Vespers Divine Liturgy at **5:30PM** for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary.

Saturday: September 10 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: September 11 – Sunday before Exaltation of the Cross

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Tuesday: September 13 – Vespers Divine Liturgy at **5:30PM** for the Exaltation of the Precious Cross [Strict Fast Day on Wednesday, September 14].

NOTE: Bible Study Postponed to Tuesday, September 20

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Saint Babylas)

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / thou didst become a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. // O Hieromartyr Babylas, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

Troparion (Tone 2 – Prophet Moses)

Thou didst ascend to the heights of the virtues, O Prophet Moses; / therefore, thou wast deemed worthy to see the glory of God. / Having received the grace-filled tablets of the Law, / and bearing the grace of the writing within thyself, / Thou wast the honorable praise of prophets, // and a great mystery of piety.

Kontakion (Tone 3)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Saint Babylas)

Thou didst guard the mighty works of faith in thy heart, / therefore, thou didst not fear the tyrant; // preserve us as well, Hieromartyr Babylas, good servant of Christ!

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Prophet Moses)

The choir of prophets rejoices with Moses and Aaron today, / for the fulfillment of their prophecy is in our midst: / the Cross, by which Thou hast saved us, shines forth today. // By their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v. Clap your hands, all ye people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 3)

v. In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame. Alleluia (3x's)
v. Be Thou a God of protection of me, a house of refuge in order to save me. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:16-26

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

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

Ukrainian Orphanage Project

TODAY, is the last day the parish will be collecting monetary donations as our Giving Project for a Ukrainian Orphanage. This project is in connection with Matushka Maggie Zlatkowski at Saint Stephens Cathedral. For any donations, please make the checks out to Assumption of the Holy Virgin and put the Ukrainian Orphanage Project in the subject line. Please hand all checks to Matushka Janine so she can keep track of the accounting. TODAY, we will write a check for all donations received to Saint Stephens Cathedral, and their Ukrainian Orphanage Project. The funds will be handed directly to the orphanage. Please note at this time, an orphanage cannot be selected in advance because of the war. Whatever orphanage is still standing by the grace of God, will be selected to receive the funds. Please continue to pray for all in the Ukraine, especially the innocent children who are caught up in the war. Thank you!

+ Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) of Diokleia (August 24, 2002)

His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) of Diokleia, world-renowned Orthodox scholar and a hierarch in the Archdiocese of Thyateira (Great Britain) of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at the age of 87 after battling a grave illness.

Metropolitan Kallistos was born Timothy Ware in England in 1934 and raised as an Anglican. After discovering Orthodox Christianity, he was received into the Church in 1958. He was educated at Oxford University. In 1963, he published his best-known book, *"The Orthodox Church"*, which continues, with many updates and revisions, to be a must-read, especially among seekers of the true faith. A companion volume, *"The Orthodox Way"*, was published by Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press in 1979.

Prayers requested for His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon is asking for the prayers of the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America on behalf of His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman who is drawing to the close of his earthly life. Metropolitan Herman is currently in his home on the grounds of Saint Tikhon's Monastery.

Vigil Cross Votive Candles: There is availability for the vigil cross votive candles to be lit for services on Sundays and Feast Days. Please see Simon Herbert for details of cross sizes and schedule cross lightings!

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:

Gabriel Andrews on his 1st Birthday offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Gabriel Andrews on his 1st Birthday offered by Godfather David Pellack
William Knodel offered by David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Christine Paptic offered by David Pellack

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 8/28/22

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Please remember in your prayers:

Elton Andrews; Ronald Kavalkovich; 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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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of August 28)

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 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 (August)

<u>Week of Sun Aug 21 to Sat Aug 27</u>	<u>August Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 12 (Typika Readers Service)	27 (average)
Funds In: \$ 881.00	\$ 5,369.00
Funds Out: \$ 0.00	\$ 6,100.05
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 881.00	(\$ 731.05)

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 (Sep 4)</u>	<u>Next Week (Sep 11)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Dr. David Albrecht	Reader Mark Klus
6 th Hour:	Daniel Herbert	David Pellack
Epistle:	Dr. David Albrecht	Reader Mark Klus and John Spack

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 during the summer are coffee hour bye-weeks where there is no team scheduled. There will be coffee available, just no food or meal:

Today, September 4 (Labor Day Weekend)

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 2022.

Wednesday, September 7 - Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 5:30PM for Feast of the Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary.

Tuesday, September 13 – Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 5:30PM for the Exaltation of the Precious Cross [Strict Fast Day on September 14]

Tuesday, September 20 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement and on the ZOOM media platform **[NOTE Change in Date!!!!]**

Friday, September 23 – The 5th Annual Golf Tournament of the “Two Holies and a Saint” (sponsored by Orthodox Church of the HOLY Cross in Medford, NJ; Assumption of the HOLY Virgin Orthodox Church in Philiadelphia, PA; and SAINT Stephen Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA). at Ron Jaworski’s Ramblewood Country Club in Mount Laurel, NJ. Golf Registration is now closed. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Ukrainian Orphanage Fund!



Hieromartyr Babylas, Bishop of Antioch, and those with him

[September 4th]

The Hieromartyr Babylas and with him the three youths Urban, Prilidian, Epolonius and their mother Christodoula died as martyrs under the emperor Decius (249-251). During his stay in their city of Antioch, the emperor arranged for a large festival in honor of the pagan gods.

At the same time, Babylas, the holy and God-fearing Bishop of Antioch, was serving the Divine Liturgy in church. He prayed for his flock and taught them to endure all tribulations for Christ with courage. The idolater Decius, curious to witness the Divine Mysteries, decided to enter the church.

News of this reached the bishop, so he went out to meet Decius and blocked the path to the church, for he was unwilling to permit impiety in the temple of God. When the emperor approached the church doors, Saint Babylas refused to let him enter, so the emperor had to abandon his intention. He wanted to take revenge on the saint right away, but when he saw the large throng of Christians, he feared they might riot.

The next day the angry emperor ordered that the church be set on fire, and for Bishop Babylas to be brought before him. When asked why he had insulted the imperial dignity by not allowing the emperor to enter the church, the holy bishop answered, "Anyone who would rise up against God and want to desecrate His sanctuary, is not worthy of respect, but has become the enemy of the Lord."

Decius declared that the holy bishop must worship the idols in order to make up for his lack of respect for the emperor, or else face execution. After convincing himself that the martyr would remain steadfast in his faith, he commanded the military commander Victorinus to put him in heavy chains and lead him through the city in disgrace. The holy martyr replied, "Emperor, these chains are as venerable for me as your imperial crown is for you. For me, suffering for Christ is as desirable as the imperial power is for you. Death for the Immortal King is as precious to me as your life is to you."

At the trial with Bishop Babylas were three young brothers, who did not forsake him even in this most difficult moment. Seeing them, the emperor asked, "Who are these children?"

"These are my spiritual children," the saint replied, "and I have raised them in piety, I have given them an education, cultivated them with guidance, and here before you in a small body are these great young men and perfect Christians. Test them and see."

The emperor tried in all sorts of ways to entice the youths and their mother Christodoula to renounce Christ, but in vain. Then, in a rage, he ordered each of them to be whipped with a number of blows corresponding to their age. The first received twelve blows, the second, ten, and the third, seven. Dismissing the mother and children, the torturer again summoned the bishop, telling him that the children had renounced Christ. He did not believe the lie, however.

Then he commanded all the martyrs be tied to a tree and burned with fire. Seeing the stoic bravery of the saints, the emperor finally condemned them to be beheaded with the sword.

