

## Parish Announcements

- **Service Streaming:** To view livestreams of our services, please visit [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGp9uDgdYDw\\_sqUBWP\\_8zeQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGp9uDgdYDw_sqUBWP_8zeQ).
  - **Service Schedule:** Special festal services will be celebrated in January and February as follows:
    - January 5** – Orthros (5 PM), Divine Liturgy for Theophany (6 PM), Blessing of Water (immediately following Liturgy)
    - February 1** – Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entrance of our Lord to the Temple (6:30 PM)
  - **Health Policy:** In light of the surge in COVID cases and hospitalizations in our area (Delaware and Chester Counties in PA and New Castle County in DE), the Holy Ascension Health Committee has recommended that masks be mandatory in the Church building. Additionally, the Agape Meal will be placed on hold and Sunday school classes (for both children and adults) will be suspended through January 16. The retreat planned for Saturday, January 8 will be postponed until a later date. The committee will regroup the week of January 17 to review current health conditions; an update will be provided at that time.
- These changes in plans will not impact Liturgical services. Both the Chrismation of our brother John R. (January 2) and the upcoming Baptism and Chrismation of our brother Dan S. (January 8) will proceed as planned.
- **Parish Life Conference:** The 2022 PLC will be held at Antiochian Village from June 29 – July 3.
  - **Blanket and Coat Drive (November – January):** We are currently collecting gently used winter clothing and blankets to share with our friends in Philly. (Please note that we do not buy new blankets and coats, as they can become a commodity on the street; however, new socks and new underwear are standard for donating.)



Sunday, January 2, 2022



# HOLY ASCENSION

Orthodox Christian Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of  
Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch  
and All the East

**Primate**

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan Joseph  
(Al-Zehlaoui)

**Diocesan Hierarch**

His Grace, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)

**Pastor**

V. Rev. Fr. Christopher Eid

**Subdeacon**

Vladimir Moses

**Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM**

**Sunday Orthros - 8:25 AM**

**Sunday Liturgy - 9:30 AM**

**Confessions** - Saturday evenings,  
following most divine services,  
and by appointment

*For an updated service and event  
schedule, visit our online calendar:*

**HolyAscension.net/calendar**

558 Highland Rd., West Chester, PA 19380 | HolyAscension.net  
610) 436-4659 (office) | (484) 238-0732 (cell)

## Divine Liturgy Variables

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone Three

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

### Apolytikion of the Forefeast of Theophany in Tone Four

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

### Apolytikion of Holy Ascension in Tone Four

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit – and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

### Kontakion of the Forefeast of Theophany in Tone Four

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

## Prayer Requests

### LIVING:

Catechumen John R.; Catechumen Dan S.; Vicki M. (health); Della (Jeanne K.'s friend); David K. (Vicki M.'s nephew); Carol (Vicki M.'s sister, health); Maggie (Fran H.'s sister-in-law, health); Thomas (Fran H.'s husband, health); Jean (Lisa K.'s friend, cancer); Sophia (infant granddaughter of Lisa K.'s coworker, leukemia); Marlan A.; Courtney M. (health); Maggie W. (health); Ariel (Barbara H.'s daughter-in-law) and baby; Barbara H. (shoulder); Bp. Alexander (health); Met. Hilarion (cancer); Jeanne K. (health); Dorothy (Fran's mother); Elizabeth G. (heart); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Andy (Lisa K.); Stephanie (Lisa K.); Kristine (Lisa K.); Suad and Nasri (ill); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war, illness, and disasters

### DEPARTED:

Mary

Those lost to illness or natural disasters

Orthodox Christians and others who have recently lost their lives during the fighting in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world

Sunday before Theophany

## Today's Scripture Readings

### THE EPISTLE

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.*

*The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy (4:5-8)*

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

### THE GOSPEL

*The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:1-8)*

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## Words from the Saints

Christians, have we understood the great responsibility that we have taken on before God through baptism? Have we come to know that we must conduct ourselves as children of God, that we must align our will with the will of God, that we must remain free from sin, that we must love God with all our hearts and always patiently await union with Him? Have we thought about the fact that our heart should be so filled with love that it should overflow to our neighbor? ...

Let none of us lose our boldness, nor neglect our duties, nor be afraid of the difficulties of spiritual struggle. For we have God as a helper, who strengthens us in the difficult path of virtue.

St. Nektarios of Aegina