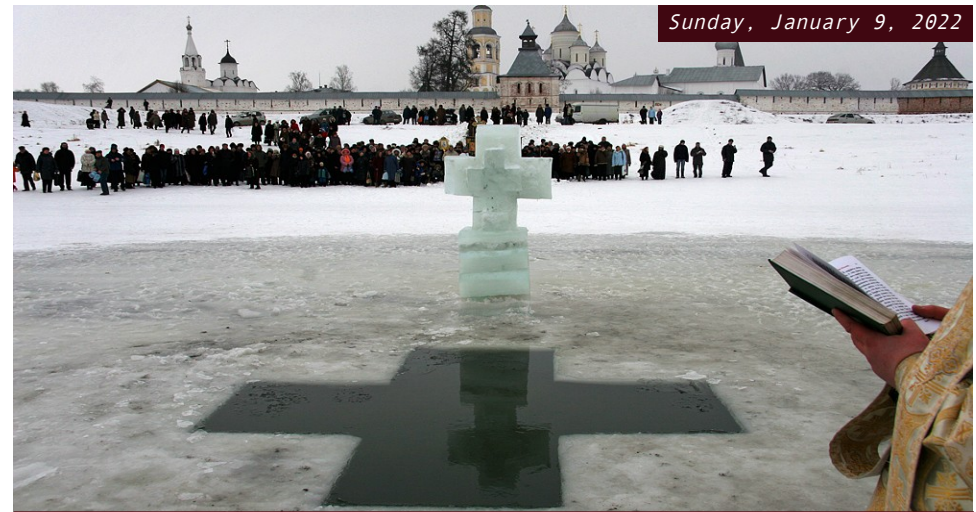


## Parish Announcements

- **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 as follows:
  - **February 1** – Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entrance of our Lord to the Temple (6:30 PM)
- **2022 Bishop's Visit:** His Grace Bishop Thomas will join us for his annual visit on the weekend of September 10-11.
- **Antiochian Village Registration:** Registration for 2022 summer camp is open as of this weekend (January 8 at 9 AM). See <https://avcamp.org/programs/summer-camp/> for further details.
- **Parish Life Conference:** The 2022 PLC will be held at Antiochian Village from June 29 – July 3.
- **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.
- **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.)



# 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**

## Divine Liturgy Variables

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone Four

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation – and proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

### Apolytikion of the Theophany of Christ in Tone One

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

### 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 Theophany of Christ in Tone Four

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come; Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

## 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 after Theophany

## Today's Scripture Readings

### THE EPISTLE

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

*The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (4:7-13)*

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### THE GOSPEL

*The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:12-17)*

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

## Words from the Saints

The grace of the Holy Spirit which is given mystically to every Christian when he is baptized acts and is manifested in proportion to our obedience to the commandments of the Lord. That is, if a Christian obeys the commandments of the Lord more, grace acts with him more, while if he obeys them less, grace acts within him less.

Just as a spark, when covered in the ashes of fire, becomes increasingly manifest as one removes the ashes...so the grace that has been given to every Christian through Holy Baptism is hidden in the heart and covered up by the passions and sins, and the more a man acts in accordance with the commandments of Christ, the more he is cleansed of the passions and the more the fire of Divine grace lights in his heart.

St. Nikodemus of the Holy Mountain