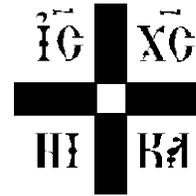


Weekly Schedule

Saturday Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
Confessions following Great Vespers

Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy

Saint Athanasius of Athos, in holy Baptism named Abraham, was born in the city of Trebezond. He was orphaned at an early age, and being raised by a certain good and pious nun, he imitated his adoptive mother in the habits of monastic life, in fasting and in prayer. Doing his lessons came easily and he soon outpaced his peers in study. The saint established at the monastery a cenobitic monastic Rule on the model of the old Palestinian monasteries. Divine services were served with all strictness, and no one was so bold as to talk during the services, nor to come late or leave the church without necessity. The Heavenly Patroness of Athos, the All-Pure Mother of God Herself, was graciously disposed towards the saint. Many times he was privileged to see Her with his own eyes. By God's dispensation, there once occurred such a hunger, that the monks one after the other quit the Lavra. The saint remained all alone and, in a moment of weakness, he also considered leaving. Suddenly he beheld a Woman beneath an ethereal veil, coming to meet him. "Who are you and where are you going?" She asked quietly. St Athanasius from an innate deference halted. "I am a monk from here," St Athanasius replied, and spoke about himself and his worries. "Would you forsake the monastery which was intended for glory from generation unto generation, just for a morsel of dry bread? Where is your faith? Turn around, and I shall help you." "Who are you?" asked Athanasius. "I am the Mother of the Lord," She answered, and bid Athanasius to strike his staff upon a stone. From the fissure there gushed forth a spring of water, which exists even now, in remembrance of this miraculous visitation. The brethren grew in number, and the construction work at the Lavra continued. St Athanasius, foreseeing the time of his departure to the Lord, prophesied about his impending end and besought the brethren not to be troubled over what he foresaw. "For Wisdom disposes otherwise than as people judge." The brethren were perplexed and pondered the words of the saint. After giving the brethren his final guidance and comforting all, St Athanasius entered his cell, put on his mantiya and holy kukolion (head covering), which he wore only on great feasts, and emerged after prolonged prayer. Alert and joyful, the holy igumen went up with six of the brethren to the top of the church to inspect the construction. Suddenly, through the imperceptible will of God, the top of the church collapsed. Five of the brethren immediately gave up their souls to God. St Athanasius and the architect Daniel, thrown upon the stones, remained alive. All heard the saint call out to the Lord, "Glory to Thee, O God! Lord, Jesus Christ, help me!" The brethren with great weeping began to dig out their father from the rubble, but they found him already dead.



HOLY ASSUMPTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Call to arrange sacraments, services, instruction, counseling, home visits, sick calls.

Troparion-Tone 3 (Resurrection)

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 8 (Ven. Sergius)

From your youth you received Christ into your soul, O ven'erable one, and above all desired to leave behind the turmoil of the world. You courageously settled in the wilderness, where you raised children in obedience, the fruits of humility. Thus, as an abode of the Trinity, you enlightened all who approached in faith and granted healing to all.// Our Father Sergius, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Kontakion-Tone 3 (Resurrection)

On this day You rose 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 Your power.

July 5, 2009

4th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 3.

Ven. Athanasius, Founder of the Great Lavra and Cœnobitic Monasticism on Mt. Athos, and his six disciples (1000). Uncovering of the Relics of Venerable Sergius of Radonezh

Kontakion-Tone 8

Having risen from the earth today and shining like the sun, your precious and incorrupt relics are as fragrant flowers, scented with miracles, granting healing to all the faithful, and making glad your flock which you wisely gathered and tended. Now as you stand before the throne of the Trinity, entreat God's help and grace for them and for all Orthodox Christians, so that we may sing: "Rejoice, divinely-wise Sergius!"

Prayers for our beloved Living and Departed:

David, Emelie, Brasko and Rabik families, Clergy and parishioners of Holy Assumption, Witiak family, John and Mary, McCartney family, Julia, Nina, . **May God Grant Them Many Years!** Mary, William, and Julia. **May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

Epistle Reading

Romans 6:18-23

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 8:5-13

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it. When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us for our Fellowship Hour in the Church Hall . **Please note: Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and confession of sins may approach the Chalice to receive Holy Communion.**

Announcements

Invite Someone to Church!

It has been said that the number one way to find new parishioners is simply to invite them. I would ask all of you to invite any friends, family, or acquaintances to come and pray with us. This does not mean that we coerce anyone; but it does mean that we mustn't shy from our duties to evangelize. Whether or not these invitees come is up to them. I ask only that you invite them.

Bulletin board

Please do periodically check the bulletin board. I will post cultural events and the like there for any who are interested.

Website

Our new website continues to evolve and is looking wonderful. The address is **www.holyassumptionphilly.org**. Posted on the website will be a variety of information, which includes among other things a monthly calendar, worship times, and a photo gallery. This is also a great way to have your relatives who live outside our area to keep abreast of the goings-on at Holy Assumption.

Announcements?

Do you have any announcements for the parish that you would like to see included in the weekly bulletin? If so, please email or call Fr. Matthew by Tuesday.

