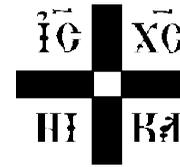


Weekly Schedule

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

Sunday Reading of Hours, 9:40 a.m.
Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy

The Miracle of Saint Euphemia the All-Praised: The holy Great Martyr Euphemia (September 16) suffered martyrdom in the city of Chalcedon in the year 304, during the time of the persecution against Christians by the emperor Diocletian (284-305). One and a half centuries later, at a time when the Christian Church had become victorious within the Roman Empire, God deigned that Euphemia the All-Praised should again be a witness and confessor of the purity of the Orthodox teaching. In the year 451 in the city of Chalcedon, in the very church where the glorified relics of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia rested, the sessions of the Fourth Ecumenical Council (July 16) took place. The Council was convened for determining the precise dogmatic formulae of the Orthodox Church concerning the nature of the God-Man Jesus Christ. This was necessary because of the widespread heresy of the Monophysites ["mono-physis" meaning "one nature"], who opposed the Orthodox teaching of the two natures in Jesus Christ, the Divine and the Human natures (in one Divine Person). The Monophysites falsely affirmed that in Christ was only one nature, the Divine [i.e. that Jesus is God but not man, by nature], causing discord and unrest within the Church. At the Council were present 630 representatives from all the local Christian Churches. On the Orthodox side Anatolius, Patriarch of Constantinople (July 3), Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem (July 2), and representatives of St Leo, Pope of Rome (February 18) participated in the conciliar deliberations. The Monophysites were present in large numbers, headed by Dioscorus, the Patriarch of Alexandria, and the Constantinople archimandrite Eutychius. After prolonged discussions the two sides could not come to a decisive agreement. The holy Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople proposed that the Council submit the decision of the Church dispute to the Holy Spirit, through His undoubted bearer St Euphemia the All-Praised, whose wonderworking relics had been discovered during the Council's discussions. The Orthodox hierarchs and their opponents wrote down their confessions of faith on separate scrolls and sealed them with their seals. They opened the tomb of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia and placed both scrolls upon her bosom. Then, in the presence of the emperor Marcian (450-457), the participants of the Council sealed the tomb, putting on it the imperial seal and setting a guard to watch over it for three days. During these days both sides imposed upon themselves strict fast and made intense prayer. After three days the patriarch and the emperor in the presence of the Council opened the tomb with its relics: the scroll with the Orthodox confession was held by St Euphemia in her right hand, and the scroll of the heretics lay at her feet. St Euphemia, as though alive, raised her hand and gave the scroll to the patriarch. After this miracle many of the hesitant accepted the Orthodox confession, while those remaining obstinate in the heresy were consigned to the Council's condemnation and excommunication. After an invasion by the Persians during the seventh century, the relics of St Euphemia were transferred from Chalcedon to Constantinople, into a newly built church dedicated to her. Many years later, during the period of the Iconoclast heresy, the reliquary with the relics of the saint was cast into the sea by order of the Iconoclast emperor Leo the Isaurian (716-741). The reliquary was rescued from the sea by the ship-owning brothers Sergius and Sergonos, who gave it over to the local bishop. The holy bishop ordered that the relics be preserved in secret, beneath a crypt, since the Iconoclast heresy was continuing to rage. A small church was built over the relics, and over the reliquary was put a board with an inscription stating whose relics rested within. When the Iconoclast heresy was finally condemned at the holy Seventh Ecumenical Council (in the year 787), during the time of St Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople (784-806) and the emperor Constantine VI (780-797) and his mother St Irene (797-802), the relics of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia were once again solemnly transferred to Constantinople.



Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St
Philadelphia, PA 19145
Phone: (215) 904-7713 (Home)
(215) 468-3535 (Church)
Email: frmatthew@comcast.net

Rev. Matthew Cantrell, Acting Rector

Rev. Sergius Willis, Associate Pastor

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

Troparion (Tone 6)

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body. You took cap-tive hell, // not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Troparion (Tone 3)

You brought joy to the Orthodox and shame to the defenders of heresy, for you confirmed what the Fathers of the Fourth Council had correctly taught. Glorious martyr Euphemia, fair virgin of Christ, entreat Christ God to grant us His great mercy.

Kontakion (Tone 6)

When Christ God the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

July 11, 2010

**7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST —
Tone 6.** Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-
praised (451). Bl. Olga (in Baptism Elena),
Princess of Russia (969).

Kontakion (Tone 6)

For the sake of Christ your Bridegroom you underwent struggles in both martyr-dom and faith. Now intercede with the Mother of God that heresies and the insolent enemies of the Orthodox be placed underfoot! You received and guarded that which was defined by the six hundred and thirty God-bearing Fathers, // all praised Euphemia.

Prayers for The Faithful and Departed

Justine, Dave, Rick, Daniel, Patricia, McCartney family, Diane. **May God Grant Them Many Years!**

Metropolitan John, Ruth. **May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

Epistle Reading

Romans 15:1-7

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 9:27-35

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.



Welcome to our Visitors!

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 that have properly prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession of sins should approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Collection

Please bring any food you would like to donate to church. We, as a church, will offer food to one of the local food banks, Philabundance.

Church Telephone Number

Our church's telephone number is 215-468-3535. If there is inclement weather, do please call the number and wait for the answering machine. If church is canceled, it will be announced here.

Month of Stewardship

We've entered our "Month of Stewardship," here at Holy Assumption. Our reading group, led by Emily Petkas, is part of this project. She would like to introduce you to a wonderful book today. Its title is Freedom of Simplicity, written by Richard J. Foster. Emily will lead a discussion based on this book. For those of you who have ordered and have not yet picked up your book, you may do so today. Moreover, Emily has prepared some discussion questions to help guide your reading. I would encourage all of you to participate, whether or not you have read the book.