

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> St. & Snyder Ave.)

Philadelphia, PA 19145 \* Church Phone: (215) 468-3535

Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>

### Sunday, August 2, 2015 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Translation of the Relics of the Protomartyr and  
Archdeacon Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople (ca. 428)

**Rev. Matthew Cantrell, Rector** [ *On Leave of Absence* ]

**Fr. Archimandrite Christopher Grecu, Interim Rector**

*Parish President – Matthew Andrews*

*Phone: 856-217-8075*

### Texts for the Liturgical Service

#### **Troparion (Tone 8)**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

#### **Troparion (Tone 4 – Protomartyr Stephen)**

Thy relics have risen from the depths of the earth, / like a treasury for the immortal life of all creation. / The Church, rejoicing in the grace that she receives from them, / duteously honors thee, O Protomartyr Stephen.// Preserve us from error and heresy by thy intercession!

#### **Kontakion (Tone 8)**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, / and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

#### **Kontakion (Tone 6 – Protomartyr Stephen)**

Thou wast the first to be sown on the earth by the Heavenly Husbandman, O all-praised one, / and wast the first to shed thy blood on the earth for Christ, O blessed one. / Thou wast the first to receive the crown of victory from Him in heaven.// O Stephen, first of the suffering God-crowned martyrs.

#### **Prokeimenon (Tone 8)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!  
v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

**Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17**

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-34**

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

**Communion Hymns:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

## Announcements

**Welcome Archimandrite Christopher Grecu.** The parish would like to welcome Father Christopher to our church. Father Christopher comes to us from the Romanian Episcopate and has been given permission to serve at our parish from the Most Reverend Nathaniel, Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate and his Grace Archbishop Mark of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. Father Christopher is no stranger to Holy Assumption. He filled-in and served as a substitute priest when Father John Udics was either on vacation or unable to serve Liturgy. Father Christopher will only be available to serve Sunday Divine Liturgy. Please introduce yourself and give Father Christopher a warm South Philly welcome.

**If anyone is in need of a priest:** With Father Matthew on a leave of absence until August 31 and Father Christopher only performing Sunday Divine Liturgy, please contact any one of the following priest if you request to arrange sacraments, instructions, counseling, home visits, sick calls, hospital visits or funeral arrangements:

Rev. Victor Gorodenchuk – St. Stephen’s Cathedral – Philadelphia, PA  
Home# 215.745.3232 Parish Office# 215.342.0866  
Email: [dean@ststephenscathedral.org](mailto:dean@ststephenscathedral.org) or [gorodenchuk@msn.com](mailto:gorodenchuk@msn.com)

OR

Very Rev. John Perich – St. Herman of Alaska Church–Gradyville, PA  
Home# 610.494.6117 Parish Office# 610.459.5310

**Welcome to all of our visitors & guest worshiping with us today.** A warm welcome to all of our visitors and guest who have joined us today in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

**No Vespers served during the summer.** Vespers will not be served on Saturdays or during the weekday the day before a feast day during the summer months (June 1 to August 31).

**Bible Study – Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30pm in church basement.** The Bible Study Group will continue to get together and informally meet over the summer. During the next gathering the group will continue to discuss the Book of the Prophet Zechariah.

**Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!**

## Announcements (cont.)

**Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading.** Sign up sheets for the above items are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. The sheets have been pretty bare over the past few weeks. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

**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. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Youth Fund
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

### Cash Flow Activity (July)

	<u>Week of July 20 to 26</u>	<u>July Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	31	27 (average)
Funds In:	\$1,559.00	\$4,705.00
Funds Out:	\$562.35	\$7,220.54
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$996.65	(\$2,515.54)

**Shop Rite Gift Cards:** If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack 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.

**FOCUS Event – Friday, August 14 – 8am to 3pm:** FOCUS North America is looking for volunteers to assist them with their 2015 Education Day event at the School of the Future located at 4021 Parkside Avenue. Please see their flyers posted on the bulletin boards both in the back of the church and in the church basement.

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Albert Kavalkovich, Brianna Herbert, Brendan Herbert, Benjamin Macalush, Justine Spack, Barbara Andrews, Norman Andrews, and Pellack Family offered by M/M Herbert.  
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
Family and Friends offered by Pellack Family

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Frank Jay Slivka, Emma Burychka, Ella Drozdak, and Father Sergius Willis offered by M/M Herbert.

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Father Matthew Cantrell and the Cantrell Family; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Grace Corba; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia.

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Thank you all for your generous donations to our parish's Building Fund in memory of Emma Burychka. May her Memory Be Eternal!

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For those who wish to read reports, listen to plenary sessions, or view video and photo galleries of the events that occurred during the OCA's 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council (AAC) last month, please go to the OCA's website at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org) and search for the 18<sup>th</sup> AAC link to enter that section of the website. Information is also posted on the OCA's Facebook page.

## Announcements (cont.)

**Scheduling Confession:** If you wish to receive confession during the summer, please speak with Father Christopher to discuss scheduling a time for confession on a Sunday well before the Divine Liturgy. Please understand the priest needs to prepare that morning the sacraments and prayers before Divine Liturgy. He may limit the number of people scheduled to hear confessions that Sunday morning.

**Attending Services on Feast Days during the week:** If you wish to attend Divine Liturgy services during the week during the summer for a Feast or Holy Day, please contact one of the following OCA parishes in the area:

St. Herman of Alaska – Gradyville, PA (Delaware County)  
Parish Phone: 610.459.5310 Website: [www.sthermansoca.org](http://www.sthermansoca.org)

St. Michael the Archangel Church – Wilmington, DE  
Parish Phone: 302-995-6775 Website: [www.stmichael-delaware-oca.org](http://www.stmichael-delaware-oca.org)

St Stephen Cathedral – Philadelphia, PA (Northeast Philly)  
Parish Phone: 215.342.0866 Website: [www.ststephencathedral.org](http://www.ststephencathedral.org)

Church of the Holy Cross – Medford, NJ (Burlington County)  
Parish Phone: 856.665.2491 Website: [www.holycrossmedford.org](http://www.holycrossmedford.org)

The **Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood** will be holding the following special Vesper services during the month of August, in conjunction with the Assumption/Dormition Fast, and the Feast of the Assumption; Paraklesis Services (Services of Supplication) to the Mother of God at **4PM on the following Sundays** at the following locations:

- Aug 2 – St Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church – 6740 N 5<sup>th</sup> St – Philadelphia, PA 19126.
- Aug 9 – St Michael’s Russian Orthodox Church – 335 Fairmount Ave – Philadelphia, PA 19123.  
Church Phone: 215-627-6148
- Aug 16 – St Stephen’s Orthodox Church – 8598 Verree Rd – Philadelphia, PA 19111. Present will be the Miracle Working Icon of St Anna.
- Aug 23 – St Andrew’s Russian Orthodox Church – 707 N 5<sup>th</sup> St (Near the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> St & Fairmount Ave) - Philadelphia, PA 19123

The Pan Orthodox Choir will be singing at these services.

## Weekly Schedule and Calendar of Events

- Sunday: August 2 – Philadelphia Clergy Brotherhood Vespers at St Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church – 6740 North 5<sup>th</sup> St – Philadelphia, PA 19126 – 4:00PM
- Thursday: August 6 – The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (the Second of the three “Feast of the Savior” in August)
- Saturday: Great Vespers – **There will be no Vespers served during the summer (June 1 to August 31).**
- Sunday: August 9 – Glorification of the Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1970)  
Reading of Hours – 9:40am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy*
- Sunday: August 9 – Philadelphia Clergy Brotherhood Vespers at St Michael’s Russian Orthodox Church – 335 Fairmount Ave – Philadelphia, PA – 4:00PM
- August 11: Bible Study – 6:30PM – Book of the Prophet Zechariah
- August 14: FOCUS Group Education Day Event – 8am to 3pm
- August 15: The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary (Feast Day of our Parish)
- August 16: Translation of the Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople (the Third of three “Feast of the Savior” in August)
- August 16: Philadelphia Clergy Brotherhood Vespers at St Stephen’s Orthodox Church – 8598 Verree Rd – Philadelphia, PA
- August 29: The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John



## Translation of the relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen [August 2<sup>nd</sup>]

The Transfer of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople took place about the year 428.

After the holy Protomartyr Archdeacon Stephen was stoned by the Jews, they left his holy body unburied to be devoured by the beasts and birds.

After a day and a night the renowned Jewish teacher of the Law, Gamaliel sent people to take up the body of the Protomartyr. Gamaliel buried him on his own property, in his own tomb, not far from Jerusalem.

When Lord's secret disciple Nicodemus died, Gamaliel also buried him near the grave of St Stephen. Afterwards Gamaliel himself, who had been baptized with his son Abibas, was buried near the grave of the Protomartyr Stephen and St Nicodemus.

In the year 415 the relics of the saint were uncovered in a miraculous manner and solemnly transferred to Jerusalem by Bishop John and the bishops Eutonius of Sebaste and Eleutherius of Jericho. From that time healings took place from the relics.

Afterwards, during the reign of holy Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450), the relics of the holy Protomartyr Stephen were transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople and placed in the church of the holy deacon Laurence (August 10). When a church dedicated to the Protomartyr Stephen was built, the relics were transferred there on August 2. St Stephen's right hand is preserved in the Serapionov chamber of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra

