

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>

Sunday, September 27, 2015 | 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Martyrs Callistratus and those with him.

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Substitute Rector (starting October 4)

Parish President – Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856-217-8075

Weekly Schedule

Sunday: September 27 – **There is No Divine Liturgy being served at our parish today due to the visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia this weekend.**

Saturday: Great Vespers – No Vespers on October 3rd! We will begin having Saturday Great Vesper services again starting on **Saturday, October 17 at 5:00PM!**

Sunday: October 4 – Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy

Tuesday October 6th, 7th and 8th – Tree Cutting & Trimming around the church, hall, and yard property. Assistance needed on October 7th & 8th. If you can volunteer some time on either day (or both), please see Lena or Paul to schedule the day(s) you can assist.

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 3 – Martyr Callistratus)

In contest thou wast strengthened by the Holy Spirit, O Martyr Callistratus, / and wast glorious in casting down the Enemy. / Thou didst offer a noble army of athletes / as sweet-smelling incense to Christ. // With them pray for us who praise thee with hymns!

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 4 – Martyr Callistratus)

Like stars ye hast shone upon the world, / shedding the light of your contests and miracles upon all who cry to you: // Rejoice, Martyr Callistratus and fellow company of 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: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." Therefore Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

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: Luke 5:1-11

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Communion Hymn:

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

Announcements

Welcome Very Reverend Mark W Koczak. The parish would like to welcome Father Mark & Matushka Janet to our church. Fr Mark will begin to serve the Divine Liturgy starting October 4 & then will begin serving regularly starting October 17 (he has a previous scheduled engagement the weekend of Oct 10-11). Fr Mark comes to us from the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and is currently "on loan" from the Archdiocese. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon & his Grace Archbishop Mark of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania have given permission for Fr Mark to serve as our parish priest; with just some "church" paperwork to be finalized. Fr Mark is no stranger to Holy Assumption. He filled-in & served as a substitute priest for both Father John Udics and Father Matthew Cantrell when either one was on vacation or unable to serve Liturgy. Please introduce yourself and give both Father and Matushka Koczak a warm South Philly welcome.

Welcome to all of our visitors & guest worshipping 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.

Announcements (cont.)

In the News...Orthodox Church in America (OCA): oca.org

The OCA's Metropolitan Council concludes fall session & passes the 2016 budget. Internet link to the article is below:

<http://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-council-concludes-fall-session-passes-2016-budget>

Keeping up with the 18th All-American Council: Audios and videos available at the following internet links:

<http://oca.org/news/headline-news/keeping-up-with-the-council-audios-and-videos-available>

or go to direct link: http://www.ancientfaith.com/specials/18th_aac

The 18th All-American Council Approved Minutes and Power Point presentations posted. Internet link to the article is below:

<http://oca.org/news/headline-news/18th-all-american-council-minutes-powerpoint-presentations-posted>

In the News...Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (DOPEA): doepa.org

Proposed By-Laws for the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania to be voted upon at Diocesan Assembly in January 2016.

The internet link to article and by-laws is: <http://doepa.org/epabylaws.html>

Diocesan Council approves Proposed Resolution for the Transition to Proportional Giving Levels

The internet link to the report is: <http://doepa.org/financecommittee.html>

Diocese post the Revised OCA Statutes passed at 18th All-American Council and that will take affect on November1, 2015. The internet link to the 50 page OCA Statues is:

<http://doepa.org/files/Policies/OCA-Statutes/revised-statute-oca-2015-1.pdf>

Parishes and parishioners are encouraged to review these topics that are being presented to inform the parishes and parishioners, and hopefully will provide clarity and clear up any misconception or confusion.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Neil Hourahan, Jean Hourahan, John Spack, Sophie Herbert, Shane O'Shura, Claire Remington offered by M/M Herbert

David Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson

Dave & Emily Albrecht offered by M/M Rick LeRoy

Ronald Andrew offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

Health of Family offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John O'Shura, Julia Drimak, Helen (Paytas) Wallace offered by M/M Herbert

John Lepo offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

Julia Drimak offered by Hourahan Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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

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In our daily lives we are aware of the clock and the need to be on time, whether to our job, our medical appointments, or social engagements. This punctuality should also apply to church services, especially Sunday morning Divine Liturgy. Please make every effort to be in the church ready to be prepared for the Divine Liturgy when it commences.

2016 Annual Parish Census. The parish has received from the Diocese the 2016 Annual Parish Census. There is information in the census report for our parish that needs updating. Over the next two or three Sundays, parish council members may be asking for updated information from our parishioners, if needed, to complete and be in compliance with the census report. Thank you for your time and understanding regarding this census request.

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 (September)

	<u>Week of September 14 to 20</u>	<u>September Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	28	29 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,381.00	\$3,332.00
Funds Out:	\$ 858.36	\$6,103.81
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$522.64	(\$2,771.81)

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.

Holiday Basket Brigade and Christmas Flower Donations!

The parish will begin accepting donations for both of these projects starting next Sunday, October 4. Details to follow in future bulletins.

Calendar of Events

Tree Cutting and Branch Trimming To Begin Tuesday, October 6 to Thursday, October 8. The Tree Cutting and Trimming around the Church property, the hall, and the yard will begin next week (Tuesday October 6 thru Thursday October 8). The parish is looking for able body people to assist with clearing branches, piling wood, and assist with feeding tree limbs into the mulch feeder machine on both Wednesday, October 7th and Thursday October 8 (no assistance needed on the first day). All work will be “ground work” (no climbing of trees to cut down). If you can offer any assistance on either day (or both days), your time will be very much appreciated and will assist in keeping our cost low. Please see Lena or Paul to schedule the day(s) you can assist. Thank You!

Clean-up Day Outside of Church Property – Scheduled for Saturday, October 10 at 9:30am. As a result of the Tree Cutting and Branch trimming during the week, the property will be littered with small branches and leaves. Your assistance with cleaning any leftover debris and beautifying the property is greatly appreciated!

Bible Study – Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30pm in the church basement. The Bible Study Group will continue to get together and informally meet. During the next gathering the group will continue to discuss the Book of the Prophet Zechariah.

Saturday Great Vespers resumes on Saturday, October 17 at 5:00pm. The parish will once again hold Great Vespers on Saturday evenings beginning on October 17 at 5:00pm. Fr Mark will inform the parish regarding his schedule for the remaining Saturdays in October (24th & 31st) as to whether he will be able to serve Vespers on those two Saturdays. Beginning in November, Vespers will be served every Saturday unless otherwise mentioned by Fr Mark. Please make every effort to attend and enjoy being a part of this wonderful service.

The **Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood** will be sponsoring a conference seminar entitled *The Holy Mysteries and Family Life* on **Saturday, October 24** at St Michael the Archangel Russian Orthodox Church located at the corner of 4th St & Fairmount Avenue in Philadelphia. Registration begins at 9:00am with the first session starting at 10:00am. There is no fee for the Conference but donations would be gratefully accepted. Please see the bulletin boards for the flyers for more information.



Martyr Callistratus [September 27th]

Saint Callistratus was a native of Carthage. An ancestor of St Callistratus, Neochorus, has served under the emperor Tiberius in Palestine, under the command of Pontius Pilate, the procurator of Judea, and was a witness to the suffering on the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, His voluntary death and glorious Resurrection.

The saint's father was a Christian, and he raised his son in faith and piety. Also like his father, St Callistratus became a soldier and excelled among his pagan military comrades by his good conduct and gentle disposition.

At night when everyone slept, he usually stayed up at prayer. Once, a soldier sleeping nearby heard St Callistratus invoking the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and he reported this to the military commander, who in turn summoned Callistratus, interrogated him and wanted to make him offer sacrifice to idols. The saint resolutely refused to do this, so the military commander ordered that the saint be beaten. Then, covered with wounds, the saint was dragged over sharp stones. The beating and the torments did not sway the firm will and brave endurance of the sufferer.

The saint was sewn up in a leather sack and drowned in the sea. By God's mercy, however, the sack struck a sharp rock and was torn open. St Callistratus came to dry land unharmed, carried by dolphins. Viewing such a miracle, forty-nine soldiers came to believe in Christ. Then the military commander threw St Callistratus and the believing soldiers into prison. Before this, all of them were subjected to innumerable floggings.

In jail St Callistratus continued to preach the Word of God to the soldiers and he bolstered their spirits for martyrdom. Summoned again before the military commander, the sufferers firmly confessed their faith in Christ, after which they were bound hand and foot and thrown into a dam. But there their bonds broke, and with bright faces the holy martyrs stood in the water, rejoicing in their Baptism, which coincided with the act of martyrdom.

Beautiful bright crowns appeared over their heads, and all heard a voice: "Be brave, Callistratus, with your company, and come rest in the eternal habitations." At the same time, the earth shuddered and an idol standing nearby fell down and smashed. Seeing this, another 135 soldiers also believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. The military commander, fearing a mutiny in the army, did not put them on trial, but again imprisoned St Callistratus with the others, where they fervently prayed and gave thanks to the Creator for giving them power to endure such sufferings.

At night the martyrs were cut to pieces with swords by order of the military commander. Their holy relics were buried by the 135 soldiers who remained alive. Later, a church was built on the spot of their sufferings, as St Callistratus had foretold.