

## 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>



<http://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionphilly>

Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 \* Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

### Sunday, September 18, 2016 | 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross

St Eumenes, Bishop of Gortyna (6<sup>th</sup> c.)

### V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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### Weekly Schedule

Tuesday: September 20 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the Church Basement! Begin reading the Book of Exodus.

Saturday: September 24 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: September 25 – Ven Euphrosyne of Alexandria  
Repose of Ven Serguis

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: September 25 – Church Life Discussion begins this Sunday after Divine Liturgy and the Fellowship hour.

Topic: History of the Divine Liturgy

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 4)**

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

### **Troparion (Tone 1 – Elevation of the Cross)**

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

### **Kontakion (Tone 4)**

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

### **Kontakion (Tone 2 – St Eumenes)**

Radiant with divine light, O blessed one, / illumine us who lovingly praise thy precious and glorious passing; / Hierarch Father Eumenes, / unceasingly intercede for us all.

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Elevation of the Cross)**

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy pow’r, / granting them victories over their adversaries // by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 7)**

Extol the Lord our God: / worship at His footstool for He is Holy!  
v. The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!

### **Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24**

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 1)

- v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast gotten of old!  
Alleluia (3x's)
- v. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of  
the earth. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-42**

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

**Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing Irmos of Ode 9:**

Magnify, O my soul, / the most precious Cross of the Lord! / Thou art a mystical paradise, O Theotokos / who, though untilled, hast brought forth Christ; / through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. / Now at its Exaltation, // as we bow in worship before it, we magnify thee.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!  
The light of Thy countenance has shone on us, O Lord. Alleluia (3x's)

The Flowers decorating the cross on the Tetrapod (for the Elevation of the Cross Holy Day this past Wednesday) are in the memory of Michael and Mary Spack donated by the Herbert Family.

**Announcements**

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

## **Announcements** (cont.)

### **40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Fall Season:**

The next 40 Days for Life will begin in two weeks and occur from September 28 to November 6. This will be the largest campaign ever with peaceful vigils occurring in ALL 50 states at the same time! Meanwhile the killing still continues at Planned Parenthood. Thank you so much in advance for signing up for this list and being willing to continue standing up for those that can't speak for themselves.

#### **Information:**

- \* Contacts: Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084
- \* Email: roobearoo@hotmail.com
- \* Website: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/philadelphia/>
- \* Prayer vigil located at 12<sup>th</sup> & Locust St, Philadelphia – Planned Parenthood
- \* Vigils open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.
- \* Try to have at least one person there to cover the hour.
- \* There are more abortions performed there than at any other Planned Parenthood in Pennsylvania!

The 40 Days For Life is not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a peaceful physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves.

Other peaceful vigils located in the surrounding areas include:

New Jersey - Absecon (Atlantic City area) and Cherry Hill

Pennsylvania – Bryn Mawr, Norristown, Warminster, and West Chester

Delaware - Wilmington

### **Clean up day outside the Church & Hall – Sat Oct 29, 2016!**

The parish will be cleaning up around the outside of the church and the hall on this day. Please bring, if you can, tools and supplies to assist in the beautification of the property. Items that you may find helpful in cleaning up are: broom, shovel, trash bags, shears, branch clippers, rake, leaf blower, weed wacker, and any other type of gardening equipment or outdoor cleaning supply. Time TBD within the next few weeks. Rain Date – the following Saturday, Nov 5

### **Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church 2016 Pierogie Sale!**

Call in orders ONLY!!! Orders taken Monday or Tuesday from 9AM to 11AM and pick up on Friday from 1PM-2PM. October order date: October 10 & 11. Pick Up Date: October 14.

Phone number: 302.798.4588. Church location: 1406 Philadelphia Pike – Wilmington, DE.

Cost: Potato = \$8/dozen      Sauerkraut = \$8/dozen      Cheese = \$12/dozen

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Zara Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson  
Julia Makara and Matushka Koczak offered by Pellack Family  
Peter Witiak, Family and Friends offered by Debra Kavalkovich  
Grandparents offered by Anastasia and Alexander Kavalkovich

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Annamae Witiak and John Pellack offered by Pellack Family  
Annamae Witiak offered by Nina Patterson  
Annamae Witiak offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich  
Annamae Witiak and Passed Family offered by Ana and Alex Kavalkovich  
Annamae Witiak, Anne Ashmore, John Salamone, Helen Gerisalt, Al Kavalkovich, Vito Maturo offered by Debra Kavalkovich  
Annamae Witiak, Anne Ashmore, John Salamone, Susan Larker, Theresa Holbrook offered by Patricia Ferguson

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery); Mat. Jan Koczak; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak (newly departed); Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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**2017 Saint Tikhon’s Monastery Calendar - Taking orders now:**

The parish will be ordering 2017 calendars from Saint Tikhon’s Monastery. There is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board downstairs next to the other three sign up sheets (i.e. cleaning, coffee hour, reading schedule). The cost of the 2017 St Tikhon’s calendars is \$6 per calendar. The deadline for ordering these calendars will be: Sunday, October 30, 2016!

**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. 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 – Icon Fund (2016)
- 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 Sep 5 to Sep 11</u>	<u>September Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	45	40 (average)
Vesperal Liturgy (9/13)	13	
Funds In:	\$ 1,387.00	\$ 2,578.00
Funds Out:	\$ 712.54	\$ 3,995.99
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 674.46	(\$ 1,417.99)

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

**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.

## Calendar of Events

### **Tuesday, September 20 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.**

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and begin reading and studying the next book in the Bible...Exodus. Yes, they have completed Genesis, so be prepared to begin learning about God's rescue of his people from Egypt, their journey to Sinai, and the covenant between them. **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!!!!**

### **Sunday, September 25 – Church Life Discussion begins after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship hour in church basement.**

The Topic – History of the Divine Liturgy. Please note the Church Life Discussions on the History of the Divine Liturgy will be held on the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** of each month.

### **St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Russian Festival 4<sup>th</sup> St & Fairmount Avenue – Philadelphia, PA October 7 to 9 2016.**

The parish's popular and festive event will be held the first full weekend of October (this year from Friday, October 7 to Sunday, October 9). The weekend will feature a range of Russian food delights for lunch through dinner, live accordion music, the Sunday School's Russian Dancers, and specialty shops from Russian made artifacts, books of interest, handmade decorations, drawing opportunities, and a variety of collectibles and treasures for one's enjoyment.

### **Coffee with Sister Vassa – October 2016 Speaking Tour:**

Sister Dr. Vassa Larin will be making a series of presentations around the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania beginning on October 17, 2016. The closest her speaking schedule brings her to the Philadelphia area will be on **Thursday, October 20** at 7:00pm at St. Stephen Orthodox Cathedral (Northeast Philadelphia)

8598 Verree Rd – Philadelphia, PA 19111. Phone: 215.342.0866

Her Topic: *Keeping Christ in Orthodoxy*

To learn more about Sister Vassa, please visit her website at:  
[www.coffeewithsistervassa.com](http://www.coffeewithsistervassa.com)

You can also view her presentations on the Internet website YouTube.com and use the search: Coffee with Sr Vassa. Each of her video presentations are about 10 to 20 minutes in length.

Information and Flyer are posted on our parish bulletin boards!

### **IOCC Fifth Annual Benefit Banquet – Friday, October 28, 2016!**

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church – 900 S. Trooper Road – Jeffersonville, PA 19403

Hors d'oeuvres and Silent Auction at 6:00pm \* Dinner and Program at 7:30pm

Tickets are \$60 per person.

Register online at IOCC website at: [ioccc.org/philadelphia](http://ioccc.org/philadelphia)

Flyer and Information posted on Bulletin Board down in the church basement



## The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross [Sep 14<sup>th</sup>]

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of toleration extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Cyriacus and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem.

During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) he accepted a martyr's death for Christ (see October 28). The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death.

St Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. St Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khosroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khosroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, St Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast".