

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  
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**Sunday, April 8, 2018 | HOLY PASCHA**  
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST  
(BEGINNING OF THE PENTECOSTARION)  
CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

**V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector**

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**Weekly Schedule (Bright Week!)**  
(NO FASTING THIS WEEK!!!!)

Today: Pascha Vespers will begin approximately 15 minutes after the Blessing of the Easter Baskets (which will occur after Divine Liturgy)

No Services to be held at the parish during Bright Week!

Tuesday: April 10 – **Bible Study** at 6:30PM in church basement.

Saturday: April 14 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: April 15 - AntiPascha. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pascha  
St. Thomas Sunday.

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: April 15 - Blessing of Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery  
(For those that stay at the cemetery after the grave blessing, a Paschal picnic will be held near the Spack family gravesite)

(Weather Permitting!!!)

## **Texts for the Liturgical Service**

### **Troparion**

Christ is risen from the dead, / trampling down death by death, / and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

### **Hypakoe (Tone 8)**

Before the dawn Mary and the women / came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. / They heard the angelic voice: “Why do ye seek among the dead as a Man / the One Who is everlasting Light? / Behold the clothes in the grave; go and proclaim to the world: / “The Lord is risen; He has slain death, // as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man.”

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

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women, // granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

### **(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)**

As many as have been baptized into Christ, / have put on Christ. Alleluia. (3x's)

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

This is the day which the Lord has made! / Let us rejoice and be glad in it!  
v. O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!

### **Epistle Reading: Acts 1:1-8**

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. Thou didst arise and have mercy on Zion. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The Lord looked down from heaven and saw all the sons of men.  
Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing the following**

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: / "Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice, / Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! / With Himself He has raised all the dead." / Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! / The glory of the Lord has shone on you. / Exult now, / and be glad, O Zion! / Be radiant, / O pure Theotokos, / in the Resurrection of your Son!

**Communion Hymn:**

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality! Alleluia (3x's)

**Announcements**

**A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests** 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

## Paschal Greetings from Around the World

Aleut:	Khristus anahgrecum!	Alhecum anahgrecum!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Queshi fuhuole!
Coptic:	Pchristos aftooun!	Alethos aftooun!
Czech:	Kristus vstal a mrtvych!	Opravdi vstoupil!
English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Georgian:	Kriste ahzdkhah!	Chezmaridet ahzdkhah!
German:	Christus ist erstanden!	Wahrlich ist er erstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Hawaiian:	Ua ala hou'o Kristo!	Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!
Italian:	Cristo e risorto!	Veramente e risorto!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Korean:	Kristo gesso!	Buhar ha sho nay!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adeverat a inviat!
Russian:	Christos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Serbian:	Cristos vaskres!	Vaistinu vaskres!
Slovak:	Kristus vstal zmr'tvych!	Skutoc ne vstal!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!

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### Attendance: Holy Week

Sunday (4/1) Bridegroom Matins Service = 4 attended from our parish.  
Monday (4/2) Bridegroom Matins Service = 18  
Tuesday (4/3) Bridegroom Matins Service = 30 (Another beautiful turnout!)  
Wednesday Bridegroom Matins with Holy Unction = 4 attended from our parish.  
Thursday (4/5) - Vesperal Divine Liturgy = 11  
Thursday (4/5) - Friday Matins with 12 Passion Gospels = 26  
Friday (4/6) - Holy Friday Vespers = 29  
Friday (4/6) - Matins with Lamentations (Procession) = 54  
Saturday (4/7) - Vespers with Divine Liturgy with all 15 OT Readings = 20

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Lena Helen will be hosting an Open House Today after the Pascha Services. All parishioners are invited to attend. Bring your blessed Easter baskets and share in the food and fellowship with one another as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Location: 2065 East York Street in Philadelphia    Mobile #: 601.568.2153

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Parishioners offered by Pellack Family  
Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert  
Family and Friends offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik  
Marie Fortner offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

John Pellack offered by Pellack Family  
Emelie Albrecht offered by John Drimak Jr.  
Stephen Spack offered by Nina Patterson  
Stephen Spack offered by Daria LeRoy  
Helen Riley offered by Joseph Rabik  
Mary S Spack, Anastasia Scarloss offered by M/M Herbert  
Family and Friends offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik  
William and Julia Brasko offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Also for the newly departed servant of God the Archpriest John Nehrebecki who fell asleep in the Lord on Great and Holy Saturday morning (yesterday)! May Father John's Memory be Eternal!

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Thank You All for your generous donation for the Easter Flowers this year. The arrangements look beautiful. Thanks goes to Debbie Kavalkovich and Emily Gerasimoff who purchased the flowers, and to all of those who helped arrange them on Thursday night and Saturday afternoon. Christ Is Risen!!!

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

## Announcements (cont.)

### **Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.**

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

**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 (2016-18)**
- 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 (March/April)**

	<u>Week of Mar 26 to Apr 1</u>	<u>March Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	55	40 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 4,005.00	\$ 8,512.69
Funds Out:	\$ 6,465.56	\$ 6,486.37
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 2,460.56)	\$ 2,026.32

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

**Bible Study – Tuesday, April 10 at 6:30pm in the church basement.**

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will continue the readings and discussing the section in the Bible – The Book of **Deuteronomy**.

**Sunday, April 15 - St Thomas Sunday**

After Divine Liturgy and if the weather cooperates with us, we will have our annual Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery. For those that stay at the cemetery after the grave blessing, a Paschal picnic will be held near the Spack (Onufer & Julia) family gravesite. Please bring your favorite Pascha foods, beverages, and lawn chairs. Please dress appropriately for that day's weather (jackets, windbreakers, hats, sunscreen, etc...).

**Sunday, April 22 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School**

**Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday this month – Please Note Change in Date)!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-up from the previous meeting, and any additional action(s) that need to be taken.

**Sunday, April 22 - Holy Ghost Byzantine Church's Spring Fling Fundraiser!**

**[2310 South 24<sup>th</sup> St – Philadelphia, PA]**

Father Ed and the parishioners at Holy Ghost have invited our parish to their All-American Themed Spring Fling Fundraiser on April 22. Doors open at 11am and Lunch will be served at 12pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults 13 and older and \$7 for children 12 and under. See the Flyers posted on our bulletin boards in the church and downstairs!

**Sunday, April 29 - Church Life Discussion class after Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour.**

**(The 4<sup>5</sup>th Sunday this month – Please Note Change in Date)!** The Topic – Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. It's history and the stories displayed on them.

**Cleaning Teams:**

Today (Apr 8): Saint Elizabeth (Sandra Hourahan (if possible, Sam), Matuska Jan, and David Pellack). Next Week (Apr 15): Saint John Kochurov (Daria & Rick LeRoy and Michael Wanenchak).



## **The Resurrection of Our Lord (HOLY PASCHA (Easter))** [April 8<sup>th</sup>]

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith; receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness.

*(Sermon of St John Chrysostom, read at Paschal Matins)*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Christian faith. St Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and faith are in vain (I Cor. 15:14). Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no Christian

preaching or faith. The disciples of Christ would have remained the broken and hopeless band which the Gospel of John describes as being in hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They went nowhere and preached nothing until they met the risen Christ, the doors being shut (John 20: 19). Then they touched the wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the basis of everything they said and did (Acts 2-4): “. . . for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Luke 24:39).

The resurrection reveals Jesus of Nazareth as not only the expected Messiah of Israel, but as the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . the holy city, new Jerusalem. And I heard a great voice from the throne saying “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. . . He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away (Rev. 21:1-4).

In His death and resurrection, Christ defeats the last enemy, death, and thereby fulfills the mandate of His Father to subject all things under His feet (I Cor. 15:24-26).

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing (Rev. 5: 12).

### **THE FEAST OF FEASTS**

The Christian faith is celebrated in the liturgy of the Church. True celebration is always a living participation. It is not a mere attendance at services. It is communion in the power of the event being celebrated. It is God’s free gift of joy given to spiritual men as a reward for their self-denial. It is the fulfillment of spiritual and physical effort and preparation. The resurrection of Christ, being the center of the Christian faith, is the basis of the Church’s liturgical life and the true model for all celebration. This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore (Irmos 8, Paschal Canon). **CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**