

## 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, March 4, 2018

Tone 6 – Saint Gregory Palamas  
The Second Sunday of Great Lent  
Venerable Gerasimus of the Jordan (475)

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

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### Weekly Schedule

Today: Mission Service at St. George's Antiochian Church  
8210 West Chester Pike \* Upper Darby, PA at **4:00PM!**

*Service Schedule for the Third Week of Great Lent is  
noted under Calendar of Events (page 7) of this bulletin!*

Saturday: March 10 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: March 11 – Third Sunday of Great Lent! Sunday of the Cross!  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: March 11 – Property Committee Meeting in church  
basement after Divine Liturgy.

Tuesday: March 13 – Bible Study at 6:30 in church basement.

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 6)**

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

### **Troparion (Tone 8 – St Gregory Palamas)**

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation, / O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians, / O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, // always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Lenten Triodion)**

Now is the time for action! / Judgment is at the doors! / So let us rise and fast, / offering alms with tears of compunction and crying: / “Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea; / but forgive us, O Master of all, // so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 8 – St Gregory Palamas)**

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, / joyful trumpet of theology, / together we sing thy praises, O God-inspired Gregory. / Since thou now standest before the Original Mind, guide our minds to Him, O Father, // so that we may sing to thee: “Rejoice, O preacher of grace!”

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 5)**

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.  
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

### **Epistle Reading: Hebrews 1:10-2:3**

And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.” But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 6)

- v. He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust! Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Mark 2:1-12**

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone? But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins – He said to the paralytic, I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house. Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

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

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: / the assembly of Angels and the race of men. / O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, / the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: / our God before the ages. / He made thy body into a throne, / and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. // Glory to thee!

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. 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

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

The 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign has begun (Feb 14 to Sunday, March 25). This will be the largest campaign ever with peaceful vigils occurring in ALL 50 states at the same time!

#### 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.

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 – Cherry Hill                      Delaware - Dover
- Pennsylvania – Northeast Philadelphia, Bryn Mawr, Norristown, and West Chester

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### **The Parish Mailing Address is the PO Box address!!!**

Please be aware that our mailing address is the PO Box address noted at the top on the front of the bulletin. The church location is no longer a valid mailing address and the mail will no longer be delivered to it. This includes any one of the following combinations below that will no longer be accepted:

- 2101 South 28<sup>th</sup> Street \* Philadelphia, PA 19145
- 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Snyder Avenue \* Philadelphia, PA 19145
- 2800 Snyder Avenue \* Philadelphia, PA 19145

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### **Mission Service at our Parish on Sunday, March 25 at 4:00PM!**

As a result of hosting this service on St. Mary of Egypt and the Annunciation, a church cleaning is scheduled the day before **on Saturday, March 24** with a start time around **9:00AM!**

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### **Attendance: First Week of Great Lent Services**

- Sunday Mission Service (2/25) = 4 from our parish attended!
- Wednesday (2/28) – Presanctificied Liturgy = 17
- Friday (3/2) – Presanctificied Liturgy = 3 (inclement weather that evening)

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{**Note:** Today's readings for Saint Gregory of Palamas are as follows:  
Epistle – Hebrews 7:26-8:2 and Gospel - John 10:9-16}

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
The Rabik Family offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik  
Mary Herbert, Joseph Herbert offered by MM Herbert

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Emelie Albrecht offered by MM Herbert  
Robert Corba offered by MM Herbert

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

- + Newly Departed handmaiden of God Emelie Albrecht (Feb 6)
- + Newly Departed servant of God Robert Corba (Feb 6)

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!

In addition, the Reverend William (Billy) Franklin Graham Jr who passed away on Wednesday, February 21 at the age of 99.

Also, please keep in your prayers the victims (14 students and 3 teachers), those injured, and the first responders assisting them from the terrible and senseless tragedy that occurred on Wednesday, February 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Memory Eternal!

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**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 (February)**

	<u>Week of Feb 19 to Feb 25</u>	<u>February Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	31	38 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 4,800.00	\$11,486.00
Funds Out:	\$ 2,889.62	\$ 8,129.48
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,910.38	\$ 3,356.52

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.

### **TODAY – Mission Service at 4:00pm.**

Philadelphia Pan-Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood  
St George's Antiochian Orthodox Church \* 8210 West Chester Pike  
Upper Darby, PA 19082. Phone #610.853.1171  
Website: <http://www.saintgeorgeupperdarby.org>

### **Third Week of Great Lent Service Schedule – March 5<sup>th</sup> to March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Wednesday, March 7 – The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts beginning at 6:30PM  
Friday, March 9 – Akathist beginning at 6:30PM  
Saturday, March 10 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM  
Sunday, March 11 – Divine Liturgy (Sunday of the Cross) beginning at 10:00AM  
Sunday, March 11 – Mission Vespers Service (See below for location and details)

Any changes in the schedule or time will be announced in our parish media outlets (church bulletin, the parish website and parish FaceBook page).

### **Sunday, March 11 – Mission Service at 4:00pm.**

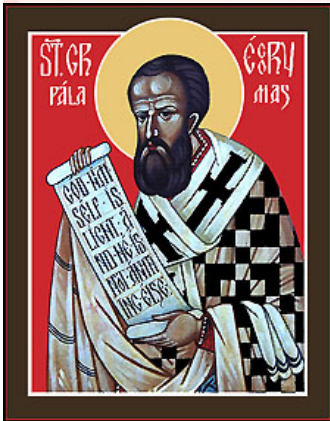
St Vladimir's Orthodox Church (OCA) \* 812 Grand Street  
Trenton, NJ 08610. Phone #609.393.1234 or Office/Mobile #908.494.3620  
Website: <http://www.saintvladimir.org>

**Sunday, March 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month)!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-up from the previous meeting, status of the meeting with the tenant of the parish house, and any additional action(s) that need to be taken.

### **Bible Study – Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30pm in the church basement.**

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

**PASCHA FLOWERS.** We are collecting for Pascha (Easter) flowers during the Lenten Season. There are special envelopes available to use for your offering for Pascha flower donations. Please give the envelopes to a member of the parish council for your offering. Thank You!



## Second Sunday of Great Lent: Saint Gregory Palamas [March 4<sup>th</sup>]

After his glorification in 1368, a second commemoration of St Gregory Palamas (November 14) was appointed for the Second Sunday of Great Lent as a second “Triumph of Orthodoxy.” St Gregory combined his priestly duties with the life of a hermit. Five days of the week he spent in silence and prayer, and only on Saturday and Sunday did he come out to his people. He celebrated divine services and preached sermons. For those present in church, his teaching often evoked both tenderness and tears. He performed many miracles in the three years before his death, healing those afflicted with illness.

### “You Are The Salt Of The Earth”

Throughout the course of history, salt has been viewed as a valuable substance. We can find numerous references to salt in the Old Testament. The Righteous Job asks the question: “Can nothing which is unsavory be eaten without salt?” When the Prophet Elisha sweetened the waters of Jericho, he cast salt into them to illustrate its purifying power.

At the time of Christ, salt had many uses and served a multitude of purposes. In addition to its importance in seasoning and preserving food, salt was frequently used in the ritual of the Jewish people. So when our Lord said these words to His followers: “YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH,” (Matt. 5:13) they fully understood that He was drawing attention to the significant role they were expected to play in “preserving” God’s covenant with mankind. They knew that Christ looked upon them as “precious commodities.”

Christians today must also consider themselves to be the “salt of the earth”, for much is expected of us as well. We must remind ourselves, however, that we must not “lose our flavor.” Just as tasteless salt becomes worthless, Christians who do not live up to their calling are of little value to the Lord.

Along the shores of the Dead Sea, the primary source of salt in Biblical times, it is often difficult to distinguish this vital component from the white grains of sand that are plentiful as well. In like manner, it is not enough to merely APPEAR to be committed to Christ. Our devotion and loyalty to Him must be genuine. We must be the “real thing!” If not, then we, too, risk being “trampled underfoot by men” (Matt 5:13) and rejected by our Divine Savior.