

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, June 14, 2015 – 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 - Synaxis of All Saints of North America (All Saints of Russia), Prophet Elisha (9th c. B.C.)

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

Rev. Hieromonk Christopher Grecu, Interim Rector

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom! Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Troparion (Tone 8)

As the bountiful harvest of Your sowing of salvation, / The lands of North America offer to You, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. / By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace / Through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Kontakion (Tone 1)

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Yourself. Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You: “You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion (Tone 3)

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America / Now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. / With them the Angels glorify Him, / And all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them; / And together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Another Prokeimenon (Saints) (Tone 7)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Epistle Reading: Romans 2:10-16

But glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:33-12:2 (Saints)

They who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)

v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David,
His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)

v. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, O you righteous. [Saints] Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:18-23

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Saints)

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Communion Hymns:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)



Announcements

Welcome Rev. Hieromonk 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

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 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.

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).

<p><u>Bible Study – Tuesday, June 16 at 6:30pm in church basement.</u> The Bible Study Group will continue to get together and informally meet over the summer. The next meeting the group will discuss the Book of the Prophet Zechariah.</p>

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.

Weekly Cash Flow Activity (June 1 to June 7)

Attendance: 32

Funds In: \$983.00

Funds Out: \$1,049.25

Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$66.25)

Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Living: Health of Jack Drimak, Daniel Herbert, & Albrecht Family offered by M/M Herbert.
May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Departed: Memory of Emma Burychka offered by M/M Herbert,
Nina Patterson, & Emelie Albrecht.
Memory of Louis Bales, John Homa, & Simon Stafiniak
offered by M/M Herbert.
May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Weekly Schedule and Calendar of Events

Saturday: Great Vespers – **There will be no Vespers served during the summer (June 1 to August 31).**

Sunday: June 21 – Martyr Julian of Tarsus in Cilicia (3rd-4thc.)
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy

June 24: Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John

June 29: The Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul

July 15: Equal of the Apostles Great Prince Vladimir, in Holy Baptism Basil, the Enlightener of the Russian Land

July 20-24: The OCA's 18th All-American Council – Atlanta, GA

August 1: Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord (First of the three “Feast of the Savior” in August)

August 6: The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (the Second of the three “Feast of the Savior” in August)

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 29: The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John



Synaxis of the Saints of North America

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians. Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. St Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, St Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were St Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and St Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetov died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive St Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

St Tikhon (Belavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, St Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

St Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. St Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

St Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at St Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, St Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to St Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. St Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Sts John Kochurov (October 31) & Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. St John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in St Petersburg. St Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.