

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 21, 2015 – 3rd Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 2 – Martyr Julian of Tarsus, in Cilicia (3rd–4th c.)

Rev. Matthew Cantrell, Rector [*On Leave of Absence*]
Rev. Hieromonk Christopher Grecu, Interim Rector

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: / “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion (Tone 4)

Your holy martyr Julian, O Lord, / through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God. / For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through his intercessions save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, / and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Let us all worthily praise Julian today, / the unconquerable pious warrior and seeker of truth; / to him let us cry out: / pray to Christ God for us all.

Prokeimenon (Tone 2)

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

v. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death

Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1-10

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 2)

- v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:22-33

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Communion Hymns:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! 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 worshiping 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).

Bible Study – Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30pm in church basement. The Bible Study Group will continue to get together and informally meet over the summer. During the next gathering the group will continue to discuss the Book of the Prophet Zechariah.

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.

<u>Cash Flow Activity (June)</u>		
	<u>Week of June 8 to 14</u>	<u>June Month to Date</u>
Attendance:	32	32 (average)
Funds In:	\$1,578.00	\$2,561.00
Funds Out:	\$835.59	\$1,884.84
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$742.41	\$676.16

Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Living: Health of Anastasia Kavalkovich, Catherine Kavalkovich, Albert Kavalkovich, and Michael & Joyce Spack offered by M/M Herbert.
Health Anastasia Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Health of Jamaine & Deborah offered by Barbara Andrews.
Health of Helen Riley offered by Kathy Renzetti.
May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Announcements (cont.)

Prayers for the Faithful and Departed (cont.)

Departed: Memory of Emma Burychka, John Burychka, Michael Slivka, Mary Slivka, and John Homa offered by M/M Herbert.

Memory of Emma Burychka offered by the following:
Pellack Family, Nina Patterson, Catherine Kavalkovich, Barbara Andrews, and Kathy Renzetti

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

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Please keep in your prayers the victims and their families of the tragic shooting at the Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC that left nine dead including their pastor and associate pastor. The violation of sacred space with violence is unacceptable and the senseless tragedy that led to the death of these innocent people is beyond comprehension. **Memory Eternal!**

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Building Fund Donations: Memory of Emma Burychka - \$190.00

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|---------------------|---------------|
| - M/M K Kavalkovich | - M/M R LeRoy |
| - Nina Patterson | - Anonymous |

Thank you for your generosity! May her Memory Be Eternal!

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The Orthodox Church in America's 18th All-American Council (AAC) will be held July 20-24, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. As of Friday, June 5, 2015 the Hilton Atlanta Hotel (site of AAC) is fully booked and an additional hotel – the Hyatt Regency – is now accepting reservations for council participants. The Hyatt is rapidly selling out and the final day to make hotel reservations is Friday, June 26, 2015. **Reminder:** the AAC registration process will close on Friday July 10, 2015.

If you are interested in attending, please see Matt Andrews or Dan Herbert for further information, or logon to the OCA's website at www.oca.org.

This 18th AAC will be voting on Major Proposed Revised Statues & Resolutions that will affect the both the Dioceses and our local parishes!

Announcements (cont.)

Scheduling Confession: If you wish to receive confession during the summer, please speak with Father Christopher to discuss scheduling a time for confession on a Sunday well before the Divine Liturgy. Please understand the priest needs to prepare that morning the sacraments and prayers before Divine Liturgy. He may limit the number of people scheduled to hear confessions that Sunday morning.

Attending Services on Feast Days during the week: If you wish to attend Divine Liturgy services during the week during the summer for a Feast or Holy Day, please contact one of the following OCA parishes in the area:

St. Herman of Alaska – Gradyville, PA (Delaware County)
Parish Phone: 610.459.5310 Website: www.sthermansoca.org

St. Michael the Archangel Church – Wilmington, DE
Parish Phone: 302-995-6775 Website: www.stmichael-delaware-oca.org

St Stephen Cathedral – Philadelphia, PA (Northeast Philly)
Parish Phone: 215.342.0866 Website: www.ststephenscathedral.org

Church of the Holy Cross – Medford, NJ (Burlington County)
Parish Phone: 856.665.2491 Website: www.holycrossmedford.org

The Diocesan Finance Committee, established to investigate how the Diocese will continue to support the work of the Church made two recommendations to the Diocesan Council during their meeting on June 16. Please see the reports posted on the church's bullet boards for more info.

Orthodox Church Trivia: Which one of the following Feast Days is NOT considered one of The Twelve Great Feasts Days:

- A. The Universal Exaltation (*Elevation*) of the Lifegiving Cross
- B. The Protection (*Pokrov*) of the Most –Holy Theotokos
- C. The Entrance (*Presentation*) of the Theotokos into the Temple
- D. The Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



Weekly Schedule and Calendar of Events

- Wed: June 24 - Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John
- Saturday: Great Vespers – **There will be no Vespers served during the summer (June 1 to August 31).**
- Sunday: June 28 – Translation of the relics of the Holy and Wonderworking Unmercenaries Cyrus and John
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy
- 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 21: Bible Study – 6:30PM – Book of the Prophet Zechariah
- 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



Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John [June 24th]

On Wednesday, the Church celebrates the Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of St John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren.

Once St Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that St Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words. St Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. St John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon St Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked St Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and St Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79).

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, St Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. St Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.