

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, August 30, 2015 – 13th Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 4 – Saints Alexander, John, and Paul, Patriarchs of Constantinople

Fr. Archimandrite Christopher Grecu, Interim Rector

Parish President – Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856-217-8075

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 2 – Saint John the Baptist)

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, / but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. / Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, / for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the steams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. / Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, / thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, / Who takes away the sin of the world, // and grants us great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4–Saints Alexander, John & Paul the New)

O God of our Fathers, / always act with kindness towards us; / take not Thy mercy from us, / but guide our lives in peace // through the prayers of the Patriarchs Alexander, John, and Paul!

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 8–Saints Alexander John & Paul the New)

Set a flame by the love of Christ, O glorious ones, / ye took up the yoke of His precious Cross, revealing yourselves as followers in His footsteps by your way of life, / and ye became partakers of His divine glory, / divinely-wise Alexander, with wonderful John and glorious Paul. // As ye stand before His throne, earnestly pray for our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 5 – Saint John the Baptist)

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner / became an act of divine dispensation, / for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. / Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, / loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life, // but that which is false and temporal.

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

O Lord, how manifold art thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.
v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

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 4)

- v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! Alleluia (3x’s)
- v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and dost hate iniquity. 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’?

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

Contact information for anyone in need of a priest or if wanting to attend an OCA parish for Holy Day or Feast Day services held during the week will now be posted up on the bulletin boards!

No Vespers will be served until further notice! Vespers will not be served on Saturdays or during the weekday the day before a feast day until further notice.

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.

Archimandrite Christopher Grecu will continue to serve Sunday Divine Liturgy as the Interim Rector of the parish until further information is received from the Dioceses.

Bible Study – September class is still To Be Determined. The Bible Study Group will meet to discuss when to schedule the September class.

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.

Cash Flow Activity (August)

	<u>Week of August 17 to 23</u>	<u>August Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	22	25 (average)
Funds In:	\$577.00	\$4,226.00
Funds Out:	\$225.00	\$4,227.09
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$352.00	(\$1.09)

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.

Women's Retreat – South Canaan: Over seventy women attended the 16th Women's Retreat on Saturday, August 22 at St. Tikhon's Seminary Dining Hall. Presentations were given by Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery & Carole J. Fair, Award Winning Author, and a member of Holy Apostle's Mission, Mechanicsburg.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Katherine Kavalkovich
Edward Gerasimoff offered by Katherine Kavalkovich
Parishioners offered by Pellack Family
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Barbara Andrews

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Father Matthew Cantrell and the Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia.

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Dioceses of Eastern Pennsylvania News and Announcements:

The following changes and responsibilities will occur effective Tuesday, September 1, 2015:

The V. Rev John Kowalczyk (St Michael Orthodox Church, Jermyn, PA) will step down from his position as Chancellor of the Dioceses. Over the past 29 years, Fr. John tirelessly served in the positions of Secretary and Treasurer of the Dioceses before serving as Chancellor. Fr. John will continue to serve as secretary of the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), work as a Minister for SCI Waymart, teach at St. Tikhon's Monastery, in addition to his primary responsibilities as pastor of St Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church in Jermyn, PA.

The Rev Raymond Martin Browne (St Mark Orthodox Church, Wrightstown, PA – Philadelphia Deanery) will be appointed the new Chancellor of the Dioceses.

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.

The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania has posted on its website [doepa.org] information and reports regarding the structure of the Diocese and how this transformation will effect the parishes within the Diocese. These topics are being presented to inform the parishioners of the Diocese, and hopefully will provide clarity and clear up any misconception or confusion before the Diocesan Assembly that will occur on January 28-29, 2016 in Jermyn, PA.

Topics posted on the Dioceses website include:

- * Proposed Diocesan By-Laws have been revised and parishioners are urged to review them.
- * Proposed Resolution for the Transition from an Assessment Method to Proportional Giving Levels from the parishes to the Diocese (in accordance with the resolution passed by the Diocesan Assembly back in 2008).
- * Diocesan Finance Committee's development of a standardized Microsoft Excel Parish Financial Spreadsheet to provide consistency in financial reporting.

The Deans will be scheduling a meeting in the coming months to discuss the Proposed By-Laws and Proposed Resolution to Transition to Proportional Giving in anticipation for action taken at our Diocesan Assembly in January 2016.

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Also posted on the Dioceses website is a link to the Orthodox Church in America's (OCA) website [oca.org] that includes the approved minutes of the 18th All-American Council (AAC) and the PowerPoint presentations that were presented during the AAC.

Weekly Schedule and Calendar of Events

Tuesday: September 1 – Church New Year (Indiction)

Saturday: Great Vespers – **There will be no Vespers served until further notice.**

Sunday: September 6 – Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae.
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy

September: Bible Study – **TBD** – Book of the Prophet Zechariah

Sept 8: The Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos

Sept 14: The Universal Exaltation (Elevation) of the Lifegiving Cross. ***Strict Fast Day!***

October 24: The Holy Mysteries and Family Life Conference at St Michaels Church – 4th & Fairmount St - sponsored by The Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood. No Fee but donations welcomed.

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[...St John the Baptist continued from the last page...]

with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of St John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of St John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

Today the Church makes remembrance of Orthodox soldiers killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of Russia's war with the Turks and the Poles.



The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John [August 29th]

Yesterday, the Church remembered The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, St John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee.

(After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of St John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of St John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated (February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of St John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12). The judgement of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced

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