

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>

Sunday, September 6, 2015 – 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Commemoration of the Miracle of the
Archangel Michael at Colossae

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

Fr. Archimandrite Christopher Grecu, Interim Rector

Parish President – Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856-217-8075

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

roparion (Tone 4 – Archangel Michael)

O Michael, commander of the heavenly hosts, / we who are unworthy beseech thee: / by your prayers encompass us beneath the wings of thine immaterial glory, / and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry out to thee: // “Deliver us from all harm, for thou art the commander of the Powers on high!”

Kontakion (Tone 5)

Thou didst descended into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, / resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, // and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Archangel Michael)

O Michael, commander of God’s armies / and minister of the divine glory, / prince of the bodiless Angels / and guide of mankind; / ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy, // as supreme commander of the Bodiless Hosts.

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: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)

v. For Thou have said: "Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens." Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

Hear And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding." "But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 'Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen.

Communion Hymn:

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

Announcements

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

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 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.

A brief, informal group discussion will take place after Divine Liturgy next Sunday (Sep 13). The parish will need to decide whether to serve Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 27th when Pope Francis visits Philadelphia. Travel restrictions around the city will be in place that weekend especially that Sunday morning when the Pope celebrates Mass on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Bible Study – Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30pm in the church basement. The Bible Study Group will continue to get together and informally meet. During the next gathering the group will continue to discuss the Book of the Prophet Zechariah.

Saturday, September 12th from 12PM to 8PM: Councilman Kenyatta Johnson presents the 8th Annual Community Appreciation Day (Education Matters) located at Point Breeze and 22nd Street. Contact Councilman Johnson's Office for more information. A Flyer has been posted on all of the parish bulletin boards.

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 24 to 30</u>	<u>August Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	32	27 (average)
Funds In:	\$1,473.00	\$5,699.00
Funds Out:	\$450.00	\$4,677.09
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$1,023.00	\$1,021.91

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.

[...Nativity of the Theotokos continued from back page...]

prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

John Herbert, Michael Lyons, Cheryl Lyons, John Spack, Jane Kelly, Claire Remington offered by M/M Herbert

Jane Brasko (on her Birthday) offered by Nina Patterson

Margaret Pellack offered by Pellack Family

Witiak Family offered by Pete Witiak

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Mary and Michael Spack, Mary Spack, Nancy Starecki, Virginia Herbert, Mary Paytas offered by M/M Herbert

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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During the Week of September 21st: Tree Cutting and Trimming around the Church property, the hall, and the yard will commence. The parish is looking for able body people to assist with clearing branches, piling wood, and assist with feeding tree limbs into the mulch feeder machine. All work will be “ground work” (no climbing of trees to cut down). Currently, it appears the work will take about three days to complete. If you can offer any assistance during this week (details as to the exact dates should be noted in next week’s bulletin), your time will be very much appreciated and will assist in keeping our cost low.

[...Nativity of the Theotokos continued from opposite page...]

also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: “the East Gate...bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls” (2nd Stikhera on “Lord, I have Cried”, Tone 6).

This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

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.

As many of you are aware, Father Matthew Cantrell was granted a three month leave of absence back in May that took effect immediately (from June 1st to August 31st). During this leave of absence, Father Matthew had time to reflect on his situation and his future. Father Matthew did meet with Archbishop Mark to discuss where he was on his journey, and after careful thought and deep soul searching, Father Matthew finally made a very difficult decision; he has ask to be relieved of his pastoral responsibilities at our parish. Furthermore, Father Matthew requested to be removed from the ranks of the clergy. His request was accepted and approved by Archbishop Mark.

As of Sunday, August 30, Father Matthew is no longer attached to our parish as our rector. Archbishop Mark will also request from the Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA for the removal of Father Matthew from the ranks of the clergy. This process will take place over the next couple of weeks.

In the meantime, Archimandrite Christopher Grecu will continue to serve the Sunday Divine Liturgy as interim rector for now. Father Victor Gorodenchuk, Dean of the Philadelphia Diocese, along with the Dioceses of Eastern Pennsylvania will continue to pursue a priest to assign to our parish.

Father Matthew served our parish for six years (June 7, 2009 to May 31, 2015). Ironically, Father Matthew's first and last services at our parish were both on Pentecost Sunday. Father Matthew accomplished many goals he set out during his time as our spiritual leader in the church; whether it be the Bible Study and the Theology Study groups or bringing back home to the Orthodox faith and to our parish people from the neighboring community, he should be complemented for his tireless effort and dedicated work to the church and community!

May God Grant Father Matthew Cantrell, Matuska Jennifer, Joachim, Henry, Theodore, and Miryam many, blessed, and healthy years!

Weekly Schedule and Calendar of Events

Tuesday: September 8 – The Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos

Saturday: September 12 – Councilman Kenyatta Johnson presents the 8th Annual Community Appreciation Day (Education Matters). See the bulletin for details and the flyer posted on the bulletin boards.

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

Sunday: September 13 – Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross. Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem (355)
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: September 13 - After Liturgy, a brief, informal group discussion whether to serve Divine Liturgy on Sunday September 27th when Pope Francis visits Philadelphia will occur. See the bulletin for more information on this discussion.

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

Sept 15: Bible Study – 6:30PM – Book of the Prophet Zechariah

Week of: September 21 – Tree Cutting around Church, Hall, and Yard to begin. Parish is asking for volunteers to assist in some of the “ground work” needed during the week. Currently, it appears the work will take approximately three days to complete. Specific details to follow in next week’s bulletin.

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The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary [September 8th]

On Tuesday, the Church commemorates The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary. The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reach such a degree of

moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their

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