

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>

Sunday, September 13, 2015 | 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 6 – Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday Before
Elevation of the Cross. Commemoration of the Founding of the
Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem (355)

Fr. Archimandrite Christopher Grecu, Interim Rector

Parish President – Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856-217-8075

Weekly Schedule

Today: September 13 - After Liturgy, we will have a brief, informal group discussion whether to serve Divine Liturgy on Sunday September 27th when Pope Francis visits Philadelphia.

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

Wednesday: September 16 – Bible Study – 6:30PM – Church Basement. Book of the Prophet Zechariah.

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

Sunday: September 20 – Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross.
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy

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 4 – Commemoration)

Thou hast revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Thy glory on earth / to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord. / Through the prayers of the Theotokos, / strengthen it for ever and ever / and accept our supplication / which we ceaselessly offer Thee therein, // the life and resurrection of all!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross)

We offer in supplication / the life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, O Lord, / which Thou hast granted to us / although we are unworthy. // Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!

Kontakion (Tone 6)

When Christ God the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Commemoration)

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light, / which enlightens all the faithful. // Standing within it we cry: Establish this house, O Lord!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross)

Your precious Cross rises like the sun / and mystically makes all things holy and pure. // Let us prepare to welcome it with faith.

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4 - Commemoration)

Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18 and 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. //

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. Alleluia (3x's)

v. For My hand shall defend him, and My arm shall strengthen him.

Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17 and Matthew 22:35-46

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. //

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David."

He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son? And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
I have loved the beauty of Thy house, O Lord, and the place where Thy glory dwells. Alleluia
(3x's)

[Note: The above Epistle and Gospel readings of the Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross and the Resurrection are read as one]

*[Note: The readings for the Commemoration are as follows:
Epistle – Hebrews 3:1-4 and Gospel – Matthew 16:13-18]*

Announcements

Status of Archimandrite Christopher Grecu: The parish council was officially informed this week that Father Christopher will no longer be serving Liturgy at our parish effective as of last Sunday (Sep 6). This confirms as to what Fr Christopher mentioned after his sermon last week. In the meantime, we will have a substitute priest serving Liturgy on Sundays until further notice. Also, Father Victor Gorodenchuk, Dean of the Philadelphia Diocese, along with the Dioceses of Eastern Pennsylvania are actively pursuing a priest to assign to our parish. We all hope to hear some information on the status of a parish priest in the near future.

The parish wishes to thank Archimandrite Christopher for all of his love and support with serving the Divine Liturgy over the summer during our time of need. May God Grant Him Many, Blessed Years! Mnohaia I Blahaia L'ita!!!

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.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Albrecht Family, Russell & Jeri King, Michael Lyons, Cheryl Lyons, Claire Remington offered by M/M Herbert

Ronald Kavalkovich, Al Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich Family & Friends offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

Jim & Lynne Brubaker offered by Pellack Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Michael and Mary Spack, Mary Spack, Nancy Starecky, Julia and William Brasko, Michael Bondira offered by M/M Herbert

Joyce Lepo offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

William & Julia Brasko, William Brasko Jr., John Libak Sr. offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

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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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.

Scheduling Confession: If you wish to receive confession, please speak with the priest 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.

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 31 to September 6</u>	<u>August Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	26	27 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 638.00	\$5,699.00
Funds Out:	\$4,895.45	\$4,713.09
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$4,257.45)	\$985.91

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.

Calendar of Events

A brief, informal group discussion will take place after Divine Liturgy TODAY 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 – WEDNESDAY, September 16 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. **PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE IN THE DATE, WHICH IS NOW WEDNESDAY 9/16 OF THIS WEEK!!!**

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 will be announced in church and also noted in next week’s bulletin), your time will be very much appreciated and will assist in keeping our cost low. Thank You!

The **Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood** will be sponsoring a conference seminar entitled *The Holy Mysteries and Family Life* on **Saturday, October 24** at St Michael the Archangel Russian Orthodox Church located at the corner of 4th St & Fairmount Avenue in Philadelphia.

Registration begins at 9:00am with the first session starting at 10:00am. There is no fee for the Conference but donations would be gratefully accepted. Please see the bulletin boards for the flyers for more information.

You will notice with today’s bulletin a slight change in the format order on how information is laid out. Rest assured, the content of information has not changed and as much of the same announcements to keep the parishioners informed continues to still remain. Thank you for your patience as we make every attempt to keep everyone pleased with the content of the parish bulletin. ~ *AHVOC Bulletin Staff*



Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection at Jerusalem [September 13th]

The Dedication of the Temple of the Resurrection of Christ at Jerusalem celebrates the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, built by St Constantine the Great and his mother, the empress Helen.

After the voluntary Passion and Death on the Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the holy place of His suffering was long trampled on by pagans. When the Roman emperor Titus conquered Jerusalem in the year 70, he razed the city and destroyed the Temple of Solomon on Mount Moriah, leaving there not a stone upon a stone, as even the Savior foretold (Mt. 13:1-2).

Later on the zealous pagan emperor Hadrian (117-138) built on the site of the Jerusalem destroyed by Titus a new city named Aelia Capitolina for him (Hadrian Aelius). It was forbidden to call the city by its former name.

He gave orders to cover the Holy Tomb of the Lord with earth and stones, and on that spot to set up an idol. On Golgotha, where the Savior was crucified, he constructed a pagan temple dedicated to the goddess Venus in 119. Before the statues they offered sacrifice to demons and performed pagan rites, accompanied by wanton acts.

In Bethlehem, at the place the Savior was born of the All-Pure Virgin, the impious emperor set up an idol of Adonis. He did all this intentionally, so that people would forget completely about Christ the Savior and that they would no longer remember the places where He lived, taught, suffered and arose in glory.

At the beginning of the reign of St Constantine the Great (306-337), the first of the Roman emperors to recognize the Christian religion, he and his pious mother the empress Helen decided to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. They also planned to build a church on the site of the Lord's suffering and Resurrection, in order to reconsecrate and purify the places connected with memory of the Savior from the taint of foul pagan cults.

The empress Helen journeyed to Jerusalem with a large quantity of gold, and St Constantine the Great wrote a letter to Patriarch Macarius I (313-323), requesting him to assist her in every possible way with her task of the renewing the Christian holy places.

After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress Helen destroyed all the pagan temples and reconsecrated the places desecrated by the pagans. She was zealous to find the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and she ordered the excavation of the place where the temple of Venus stood. There they discovered the Sepulchre of the Lord and Golgotha, and they also found three crosses and some nails.

In order to determine upon which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius gave orders to place a dead person, who was being carried to a place of burial, upon each cross in turn. When the dead person was placed on the Cross of Christ, he immediately came alive. With the greatest of joy the empress Helen and Patriarch Macarius raised up the Life-Creating Cross and displayed it to all the people standing about.

The holy empress quickly began the construction of a large church which enclosed within its walls Golgotha, the place of the Crucifixion of the Savior, and the Sepulchre of the Lord, located near each other. The holy Apostle and Evangelist John wrote about this: "Now in the place where He was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day, for the tomb was nearby" (John 19:41-42). The Church of the Resurrection was ten years in building, and the holy empress Helen did not survive to see its completion. She returned to Constantinople, and reposed in the year 327. After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress built churches in Bethlehem, on the Mount of Olives, at Gethsemane and in many other places connected with the life of the Savior and events in the New Testament.

The construction of the church of the Resurrection, called "Martyrion" in memory of the sufferings of the Savior, was completed in the same year as the Council of Tyre, and in the thirtieth year of the reign of St Constantine the Great. Therefore, at the assembly of September 13, 335, the consecration of the temple was particularly solemn. Hierarchs of Christian Churches in many lands: Bythnia, Thrace, Cilicia, Cappadocia, Syria, Mesopotamia, Phoenicia, Arabia, Palestine, and Egypt, participated in the consecration of the church. The bishops who participated in the Council of Tyre, and many others, went to the consecration in Jerusalem. On this day all the city of Jerusalem was consecrated. The Fathers of the Church established September 13 as the commemoration of this remarkable event.