

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, September 20, 2015 | 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 7 – Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross.
Greatmartyr Eustathius (Eustace) Placidus with his wife and children of Rome

Fr. Archimandrite Christopher Grecu, Interim Rector

Parish President – Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856-217-8075

Weekly Schedule

TBD: September – An exact date has not been finalized for the Tree Cutting & Trimming around the church, hall, and yard property. When a definite date has been determined, we will inform the parishioners both in the bulletin and announcing the dates in church.

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

Sunday: September 27 – **There will be no Divine Liturgy served at our parish today due to the visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia this weekend. Please see bulletin boards both upstairs & downstairs for listing of OCA parish information within the Philadelphia area.**

Sunday: October 4 – Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy. /
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, //
granting the world great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 1 – Elevation of the Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Greatmartyr Eustathius)

Thy holy martyr Eustáthius and his wife and sons, O Lord, / through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God. / For having Thy strength, they laid low their adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through their intercessions, save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 7)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / “The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Greatmartyr Eustathius)

Having openly imitated the Passion of Christ, / and having eagerly drunk of His cup, O Eustáthius, / thou becamest a partaker and fellow-heir of His glory, // receiving divine forgiveness from on high from the God of all.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Elevation of the Cross)

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy pow'r, / granting them victories over their adversaries // by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

Prokeimenon (Tone 7)

Extol the Lord our God; / worship at His footstool for He is holy!
v. The Lord reigns; let the people tremble!

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations,

in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old!

Alleluia (3x's)

v. God is our King before the ages; He hath worked salvation in the midst of the earth. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

(Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing:)

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord! / Thou art a mystical Paradise, O Theotokos, / who, though untitled, hast brought forth Christ; / through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. / Now at its exaltation, // as we bow in worship before it, we magnify thee.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
The light of Thy countenance is signed upon us, O Lord. Alleluia (3x's)

[Note: The readings for the Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross are as follows: Epistle – Gal 2:16-20 and Gospel – Mark 8:34-9:1]

Announcements

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 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.

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.

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!

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Albrecht Family offered by M/M Herbert
Family & Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Helen Yarabinee offered by Emily Albrecht
Health of Anastasia, Alexander, Catherine, Family & Friends offered by Debbie Kavalkovich
May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Helen (Paytas) Wallace, Nancy Starecky, John Libak Sr., John Libak Jr. offered by M/M Herbert
Helen Wallace offered by Emily Albrecht
Helen Gerasimoff, Anne Ashmore offered by Debbie Kavalkovich
May Their Memories Be Eternal

#####

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.

#####

Congratulations to Father Victor Gorodenchuko! Father Victor has been elevated to the position of Archpriest as of this weekend. Father Victor is the rector of St Stephens Cathedral in Philadelphia and is the Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery of the Dioceses of Eastern Pennsylvania. May God Grant Him Many, Blessed Years! Mnohaya I Blahaya L'ita!

A special "Thank You" to Archimandrite Christopher Grecu: The parish wishes to thank Archimandrite Christopher for all of his love and support with serving the Divine Liturgy over the summer during the parish's time of need. Many God Grant Him Many, Blessed Years! Mnohaya I Blahaya L'ita!

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!

Announcements (cont.)

In the News...Dioceses of Eastern Pennsylvania:

The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania website is <http://doepa.org>.

The Dioceses has posted on its home page information, reports and links that parishes and parishioners are encouraged to review. These topics are being presented to inform the parishes and parishioners of the Diocese, and hopefully will provide clarity and clear up any misconception or confusion before the Diocesan Assembly in January 2016.

Two topics are proposed Diocesan By-Law revisions & proposed transition from assessment method to proportional giving levels from the parishes.

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 (September)

	<u>Week of September 7 to 13</u>	<u>September Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	33	29 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,313.00	\$1,951.00
Funds Out:	\$ 350.00	\$5,245.45
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$963.00	(\$3,294.45)

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

Date To Be Determined: As of the printing of this week's bulletin, the date for the Tree Cutting and Trimming around the Church property, the hall, and the yard has yet to be finalized. Once everything is in place and scheduled, we will inform the parishioners both in the bulletin and announcing it in church when the tree cutting 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 the week scheduled, your time will be very much appreciated and will assist in keeping our cost low. Thank You!

Bible Study – Tuesday, October 13 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.

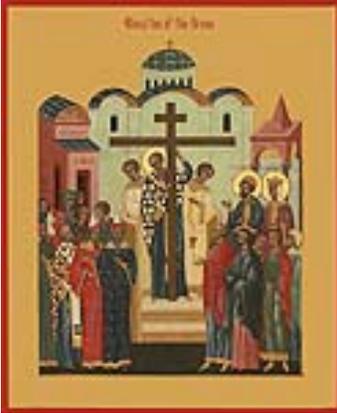
The **Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood** will be sponsoring a conference seminar entitled *The Holy Mysteries and Family Life* on **Saturday, October 24** at St Michael the Archangel Russian Orthodox Church located at the corner of 4th St & Fairmount Avenue in Philadelphia. Registration begins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

[...continue Elevation of the Cross from last page...]

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Cyriacus & afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem.

St Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. St Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on Sep 13, 335. On the following day, Sep 14, the festal celebration of the Elevation and Life-Giving Cross was established



The Universal Exaltation (Elevation) of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross [September 14th]

Last Monday, the Church observed the The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of toleration extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.