

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, October 4, 2015 | 18th Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 1 – Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens (1st c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Substitute Rector

Parish President – Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856-217-8075

Weekly Schedule

Thursday: October 8th – Tree Cutting of the dead tree on the yard property. All other tree cutting and trimming around church property has been **Postponed** until further notice. **No volunteers are needed** to assist in cleaning up debris this week!! We will keep parishioners informed on tree trimming status as they develop. Thank you for your understanding and patience with this project.

Saturday: ~~October 10th – Clean up Day Outside of Church Property beginning at 9:30am.~~ **POSTPONED!!**

Saturday: Great Vespers – No Vespers on October 10th! We will have Vesper services next Saturday on **October 17 at 5:00PM!**

Sunday: October 11 – Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Troparion (Tone 1 – Hieromartyr Hierotheus)

We the faithful all praise Hierótheus, the disciple of Paul, / Hierarch of Athens, / the world’s teacher and a preacher of the Faith, / who revealed to us Christ’s Mysteries / and poured forth streams of godly doctrine. // His life was well-pleasing to God, Who is greatly merciful.

Kontakion (Tone 1)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Hieromartyr Hierotheus)

Like Hierarch of Athens, we praise thee / for thou hast instructed us in awesome and ineffable things, / and thou wast revealed to be a divinely-inspired writer of hymns. / Pray that we be delivered from every kind of sin, so that we may cry to thee: // Rejoice, divinely-wise Father Hierotheus!

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 1)

v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x’s)

v. He magnifies the salvation of His King and deals mercifully with David,
His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x’s)

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:31-36

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Communion Hymn:

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

Announcements

Welcome Very Reverend Mark W Koczak. The parish would like to welcome Father Mark & Matushka Janet to our church. Fr Mark will begin to serve the Divine Liturgy starting October 4 & then will begin serving regularly starting October 17 (he has a previous scheduled engagement the weekend of Oct 10-11). Fr Mark comes to us from the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and is currently “on loan” from the Archdiocese. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon & his Grace Archbishop Mark of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania have given permission for Fr Mark to serve as our parish priest; with just some “church” paperwork to be finalized. Fr Mark is no stranger to Holy Assumption. He filled-in & served as a substitute priest for both Father John Udics and Father Matthew Cantrell when either one was on vacation or unable to serve Liturgy. Please introduce yourself and give both Father and Matushka Koczak a warm South Philly welcome.

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.

Holiday Basket Brigade and Christmas Flower Donations!

The parish will begin accepting donations for both of these projects starting today Sunday, October 4. Please see Debbie Kavalkovich regarding donations to Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers. Holiday Basket Brigade details forthcoming in future bulletins.

Announcements (cont.)

In the News...Orthodox Church in America (OCA): oca.org

The OCA's Metropolitan Council concludes fall session & passes the 2016 budget. Internet link to the article is below:

<http://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-council-concludes-fall-session-passes-2016-budget>

Keeping up with the 18th All-American Council: Audios and videos available at the following internet links:

<http://oca.org/news/headline-news/keeping-up-with-the-council-audios-and-videos-available>

or go to direct link: http://www.ancientfaith.com/specials/18th_aac

The 18th All-American Council Approved Minutes and Power Point presentations posted. Internet link to the article is below:

<http://oca.org/news/headline-news/18th-all-american-council-minutes-powerpoint-presentations-posted>

In the News...Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (DOPEA): doepa.org

Proposed By-Laws for the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania to be voted upon at Diocesan Assembly in January 2016.

The internet link to article and by-laws is: <http://doepa.org/epabylaws.html>

Diocesan Council approves Proposed Resolution for the Transition to Proportional Giving Levels

The internet link to the report is: <http://doepa.org/financecommittee.html>

Diocese post the Revised OCA Statutes passed at 18th All-American Council and that will take affect on November1, 2015. The internet link to the 50 page OCA Statues is:

<http://doepa.org/files/Policies/OCA-Statutes/revised-statute-oca-2015-1.pdf>

Parishes and parishioners are encouraged to review these topics that are being presented to inform the parishes and parishioners, and hopefully will provide clarity and clear up any misconception or confusion.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

No Divine Liturgy served last week (September 27, 2015)

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

No Divine Liturgy served last week (September 27, 2015)

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.
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In our daily lives we are aware of the clock and the need to be on time, whether to our job, our medical appointments, or social engagements. This punctuality should also apply to church services, especially Sunday morning Divine Liturgy. Please make every effort to be in the church ready to be prepared for the Divine Liturgy.

2016 Annual Parish Census. The parish has received from the Diocese the 2016 Annual Parish Census. There is information in the census report for our parish that needs updating. Over the next two or three Sundays, parish council members may be asking for updated information from our parishioners, if needed, to complete and be in compliance with the census report. Thank you for your time and understanding regarding this census request.

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 (September)

	<u>Week of September 21 to 27</u>	<u>September Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	<u>No Liturgy Served</u>	29 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 0.00	\$3,332.00
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$6,103.81
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 0.00	(\$2,771.81)

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.

The September 27th (last Sunday's) church bulletin is available on the parish's website. Please take a look to review any information that would have been mentioned last Sunday if Divine Liturgy were served.

Calendar of Events

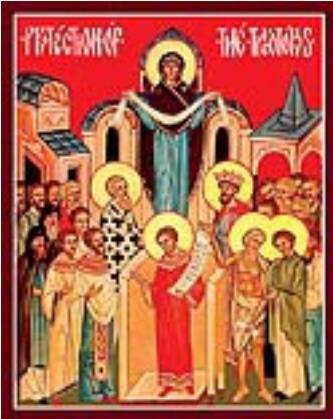
Tree Cutting and Branch Trimming To Begin Tuesday, October 6 to Thursday, October 8. The Tree Cutting and Trimming around the Church Yard ONLY will occur on Thursday October 8. Cutting down of the one dead tree only near the Laundry Mat building. At this time, the parish does not need people to assist with clearing branches, piling wood, and assist with feeding tree limbs into the mulch feeder machine on Thursday October 8. We will keep the parishioners informed on the tree trimming status as they develop. Thank You for your understanding and patience with this project!

Clean-up Day Outside of Church Property— Scheduled for Saturday, October 10 at 9:30am. UPDATED: POSTPONED!! The only tree cutting and branch trimming that will be done during the week is cutting down the one dead tree in the church yard. Therefore, your help with cleaning up any leftover debris is not needed on Saturday, Oct 10th.

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.

Saturday Great Vespers resumes on Saturday, October 17 at 5:00pm. The parish will once again hold Great Vespers on Saturday evenings beginning on October 17 at 5:00pm. Fr Mark will inform the parish regarding his schedule for the remaining Saturdays in October (24th & 31st) as to whether he will be able to serve Vespers on those two Saturdays. Beginning in November, Vespers will be served every Saturday unless otherwise mentioned by Fr Mark. Please make every effort to attend and enjoy being a part of this wonderful service.

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.



The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary [October 1st]

Last Thursday the Church celebrated the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos: “Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of Saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and Bishops venerate Her, Apostles and prophets rejoice together, Since for our sake she prays to the Eternal God!”

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ St Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. St John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop’s Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed “more than the rays of the sun.” St Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, “Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” Epiphanius answered, “I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe.”

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, “O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them not go away from my icon unheard.”

Sts Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and “for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation.”

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, “Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you.”