

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
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Sunday, October 18, 2015 | 20th Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 3 – Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke (1st c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Today: St Herman's of Alaska – Gradyville, PA hosting a BaBa's Attic. The parish is having a Huge Yard Sale. Tables available to rent. The event is open to the public. For more information you may phone the parish office at 610.459.5310. The parish is located at 1855 Middletown Road (Route 352) in Glen Mills, PA

Saturday: October 24 - Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: October 25 – Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius the Notaries, of Constantinople (ca. 355)
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the firstborn of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 3 – Apostle Luke)

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, / entreat the merciful God, // to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

Kontakion (Tone 3)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Apostle Luke)

Let us praise the godly Luke; / he is the true preacher of piety, / the orator of ineffable mysteries / and the star of the Church, / for the Word, Who alone knows the hearts of men, // chose him, with the wise Paul, to be a teacher of the Gentiles!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v. Clap our hands, all ye people, shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Epistle Reading: Galatians 1:11-19

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 3)

v. In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame.

Alleluia (3x's)

v. Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me.

Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 8:5-15

A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold. When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out & are choked with cares, riches, & pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it & bear fruit with patience.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

Welcome Very Reverend Mark W Koczak. The parish would like to welcome Father Mark & Matushka Jan to our church. Fr Mark began serving the Divine Liturgy on Sunday October 4 & will begin serving regularly starting today Sunday, October 17 (he had a previous scheduled engagement last weekend). 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. 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.

Announcements (cont.)

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.

Introducing OCareview: A free, monthly hard-copy digest of OCA website highlights. With the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon & in response to a growing number of requests from individuals who do not have internet access, the Orthodox Church in America's web team is now producing monthly PDFs that highlight a selection of major stories featured on the OCA web site during the previous month. Titled "OCareview: The Orthodox Church in America's Monthly Hard-Copy Digest," each edition will highlight eight to ten "capsulized" news stories & photos gleaned from the dozens that appear monthly on the web site. Parishes are encouraged to print and distribute each monthly edition as needed, either in full color or black and white, as local capabilities permit. "OCareview" makes an ideal monthly bulletin insert & communications resource. The October 2015 digest, which features eight stories posted on the OCA web site during September, is available on the table (tetrapod) in the middle of the church.

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. Today will be the last day we will 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.

Poinsettias/Christmas Flowers! We have begun collecting for Christmas flowers. There will be special envelopes available to be used for your offering for flower donations. Please give the envelopes to Debbie Kavalkovich or a member of the parish council. Thank you for your support!

Holiday Basket Brigade! The parish will begin accepting donations for the Holiday Basket Brigade starting today (Sunday, October 18) starting with the traditional Thanksgiving items. Currently, the parish plans on providing two baskets to families in the community. If you know of a family unable to provide a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal, please inform a parish council member and we will plan accordingly. We will have a list available shortly of those items to be donated and the list will be located in the basement. The Thanksgiving Baskets will be delivered on Sunday, November 22!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Sharon Orr offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Grace Corba offered by Nina Patterson
Kavalkovich Family & Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family
Sharon, Albert, William, Catherine, & Patricia offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family
May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Joseph Corba offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
John Pellack offered by the Pellack Family
Barbara Super offered by M/M Alex Mackiewicz
Alexander, Helen, Marion, Vito, Andrew, William, Anne, Margaret, Julia, Tom, David, John, Bridget, Anthony, Michael, James, Eric, Dominic, and Michael offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family
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 John Udics; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!
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Minutes and reports of the Fall 2015 Metropolitan Council meeting are posted on the OCA website. The minutes and reports of the Fall Metropolitan Council meeting that was held September 22 to the 24, 2015 are now available on the OCA website at the following link:

<http://oca.org/news/headline-news/minutes-reports-of-fall-2015-metropolitan-council-meeting-posted>

Due to the extensive presentations offered at the 18th All-American Council in July 2015, there are fewer reports than usual.

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 (October)

	<u>Week of Oct 5 to Oct 11</u>	<u>October Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	25	30 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 859.00	\$2,096.00
Funds Out:	\$ 362.00	\$2,307.53
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 497.00	(\$ 211.53)

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.

[Note: Today's readings for Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke are as follows: Epistle – Colossians 4:5-9, 14, 18 and Gospel – Luke 10:16-21]

Calendar of Events

Saturday Great Vespers resumes on Saturday, October 17 at 5:00pm. The parish has resumed serving Great Vespers on Saturday evenings beginning last evening Saturday, 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.

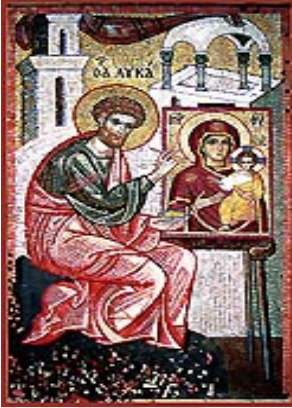
The **Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood** will be sponsoring a conference seminar entitled *The Holy Mysteries and Family Life* on **Saturday, October 24** at St Michael the Archangel Russian Orthodox Church located at the corner of 4th St & Fairmount Avenue in Philadelphia. Registration begins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

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church – Pottstown, PA hosting their Annual Fall Bazaar – Saturday, November 7 – 8am to 2pm. The parish is located at 1236 Juniper St (Corner of Mervine) in Pottstown, PA and their phone # is 610-327-1542. Besides traditional foods, the parish will also have a flea market. Please see flyers posted on the bulletin boards

St. Herman's of Alaska – Gradyville, PA hosting their Annual Food Festival and Shopping Extravaganza – Weekend of November 6 to November 8. The parish is located at 1855 Middletown Road (Route 352) in Glen Mills, PA. Friday, Nov 6 - 12pm to 8pm. Saturday, Nov 7 - 12pm to 8pm. Sunday, Nov 8 – 12pm to 4pm. Please see the big colorful flyer downstairs on the bulletin board!

Parish Pre-Advent Dinner – Sunday, November 8 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. The dinner will be prepared & provided by one of our parishioners. We are requesting volunteers to bake or donate one of their favorite deserts for the dinner.

Bible Study – Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30pm in the church basement. The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and begin reading and discussing the Book of Genesis.



Apostle and Evangelist Luke [October 18th]

Today the Church remembers the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, St Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied St Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's coworkers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, St Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits St Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. St Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. St Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), St Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51).

In St Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance.

St Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" (John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

The holy relics of St Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. Perhaps this was during the infamous Crusade of 1204. In 1992, Metropolitan Hieronymus (Jerome) of Thebes requested the Roman Catholic bishop in Thebes to obtain a portion of St Luke's relics for the saint's empty sepulchre in the Orthodox cathedral in Thebes.

The Roman Catholic bishop Antonio Mattiazzo of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of St Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of St Vico in Prague.

The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. In 2001, a tooth found in the coffin was judged to be consistent with the DNA of Syrians living near the area of Antioch dating from 72-416 A.D. The skull in Prague perfectly fit the neck bone of the skelton. The tooth found in the coffin in Padua was also found to fit the jawbone of the skull.