

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>

Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, October 25, 2015 | 21st Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 4 – Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius the Notaries (ca. 355)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302-322-0943 | Mobile: 302-547-4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com or mkoczako5@aol.com

Parish President – Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856-217-8075

Weekly Schedule

Saturday: October 31 - Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: November 1 – Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries
Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor

Reading of Hours – 9:40am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship & Coffee Hour follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 3 – Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius)

In holy zeal ye dispelled the error of Arius / and proclaimed the Trinity, one in essence. / Holy martyrs Marcian and Martyrius, / unshaken bulwarks of Orthodoxy, // entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius)

From your youth ye were good athletes, wise Marian and Martyrius, / vanquishing the Arian heretics; / ye kept the faith perfect by following in the footsteps of your bishop and teacher Paul, / therefore, ye are worthy to be with him in eternal life, // as respected defenders of the Holy Trinity.

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! / In wisdom hast Thou made them all!
v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

Epistle Reading: Galatians 2:16-20

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! Alleluia (3x's)
v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.' And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'

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 Jan to our church. Fr Mark began serving the Divine Liturgy on Sunday October 4 & started serving regularly last Sunday, October 17. 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 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.

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia campaign. The 40 Days For Life is not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves. They offer support to mothers and fathers who would like an alternative to abortion but do not know where to turn. They encourage healing for families who have chosen abortion and have a deep feeling of sadness and regret. Their message is one of compassion and love for all people as well as hope for an end to this “culture of death” which we have embraced in our world.

Contacts: Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084
Email: roobearoo@hotmail.com
Website: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/philadelphia/>

Prayer vigil located at 12th & Locust St, Philadelphia – Planned Parenthood
Vigils open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.
Try to have at least one person there to cover the hour.
It’s the belly of the beast! There are more abortions performed there than at any other Planned Parenthood in Pennsylvania!

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 has begin accepting donations for the Holiday Basket Brigade. We will start 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:

John & Michele Spack, Justine Spack, Jack Drimak, Michael & Joyce Spack, Susan Freeh, Daniel Herbert, Thomas Herbert, Vera Bortnick, Bernadine Marczyk offered by M/M Herbert
Margie Pich offered by Pellack Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Mary Quashnog, Joseph Slivka, Michael Slivka, Anna Slivka, Rosemary Ebert offered by M/M Herbert
Pellack and Zuzulack Families offered by Pellack Family

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 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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2016 Annual Parish Census. The annual parish census has been submitted to the Diocese for 2016. Thank you all for your cooperation with updating your current addresses and age categories. The parish included two names to the census list; however, one name was removed as a result of the parishioner passing away this year. The census list includes a total of 38 adult parishioners (both active and invalid) and 4 children who are attached to this parish for 2016.

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 12 to Oct 18</u> | <u>October Month-to-Date</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Attendance: | 29 | 30 (average) |
| Funds In: | \$ 1,614.00 | \$3,710.00 |
| Funds Out: | \$ 1,898.03 | \$4,205.56 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit): | (\$ 284.03) | (\$ 495.56) |

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.

“We must remember that we are warriors of Christ, that the Church is not to serve us, but that we are servants of the Church and that, by the grace and mercy of God, we are called to be coworkers of the Lord Himself.” ~ His Beatitude Metropolitan Ireney 1965

Calendar of Events

November 1 - Saints Cosmas & Damian of Asia Minor

November 8 - The Synaxis of the Archangel Michael

November 15 - Beginning of Advent (Nativity Fast)

November 21 - Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

November 26 - Thanksgiving Day

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 Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral – Philadelphia, PA hosting their Old World Food Festival – Saturday, November 7 – 10am to 5pm.

The parish is located at 8598 Verree Road in Philadelphia, PA 19111; their phone number is 215.342.0866 (church) or 215.745.3232 (rectory); and their website is www.ststephenscathedral.org

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.



Martyr Longinus the Centurion, who stood at the Cross of the Lord [October 16th]

The Holy Martyr Longinus the Centurion, a Roman soldier, served in Judea under the command of the Governor, Pontius Pilate. When our Savior Jesus Christ was crucified, it was the detachment of soldiers under the command of Longinus which stood watch on Golgotha, at the very foot of the holy Cross. Longinus and his soldiers were eyewitnesses of the final moments of the earthly life of the Lord, and of the great and awesome portents that appeared at His death. These events shook the centurion's soul. Longinus believed in Christ and confessed before everyone, "Truly this was the Son of God"

According to Church Tradition, Longinus was the soldier who pierced the side of the Crucified Savior with a spear, and received healing from an eye affliction when blood and water poured forth from the wound.

After the Crucifixion and Burial of the Savior, Longinus stood watch with his company at the Sepulchre of the Lord. These soldiers were present at the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ. The Jews bribed them to lie and say that His disciples had stolen away the Body of Christ, but Longinus and two of his comrades refused to be seduced by the Jewish gold. They also refused to remain silent about the miracle of the Resurrection.

Having come to believe in the Savior, the soldiers received Baptism from the apostles and decided to leave military service. St Longinus left Judea to preach about Jesus Christ the Son of God in his native land (Cappadocia), and his two comrades followed him.

The fiery words of those who had actually participated in the great events in Judea swayed the hearts and minds of the Cappadocians; Christianity began quickly to spread throughout the city and the surrounding villages. When they learned of this, the Jewish elders persuaded Pilate to send a company of soldiers to Cappadocia to kill Longinus and his comrades. When the soldiers arrived at Longinus's village, the former centurion himself came out to meet the soldiers and took them to his home. After a meal, the soldiers revealed the purpose of their visit, not knowing that the master of the house was the very man whom they were seeking. Then Longinus and his friends identified themselves and told the startled soldiers to carry out their duty.

The soldiers wanted to let the saints go and advised them to flee, but they refused to do this, showing their firm intention to suffer for Christ. The holy martyrs were beheaded, and their bodies were buried at the place where the saints were martyred. The head of St Longinus, however, was sent to Pilate.

Pilate gave orders to cast the martyr's head on a trash-heap outside the city walls. After a while a certain blind widow from Cappadocia arrived in Jerusalem with her son to pray at the holy places, and to ask that her sight be restored. After becoming blind, she had sought the help of physicians to cure her, but all their efforts were in vain.

The woman's son became ill shortly after reaching Jerusalem, and he died a few days later. The widow grieved for the loss of her son, who had served as her guide.

St Longinus appeared to her in a dream and comforted her. He told her that she would see her son in heavenly glory, and also receive her sight. He told her to go outside the city walls and there she would find his head in a great pile of refuse. Guides led the blind woman to the rubbish heap, and she began to dig with her hands. As soon as she touched the martyr's head, the woman received her sight, and she glorified God and St Longinus.

Taking up the head, she brought it to the place she was staying and washed it. The next night, St Longinus appeared to her again, this time with her son. They were surrounded by a bright light, and St Longinus said, Woman, behold the son for whom you grieve. See what glory and honor are his now, and be consoled. God has numbered him with those in His heavenly Kingdom. Now take my head and your son's body, and bury them in the same casket. Do not weep for your son, for he will rejoice forever in great glory and happiness."

The woman carried out the saint's instructions and returned to her home in Cappadocia. There she buried her son and the head of St Longinus. Once, she had been overcome by grief for her son, but her weeping was transformed into joy when she saw him with St Longinus. She had sought healing for her eyes, and also received healing of her soul.