

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
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Sunday, November 1, 2015 | 22nd Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 5 – Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian
of Asia Minor (Mesopotamia) & their mother St. Theodota

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Saturday: November 7 – Annual Fall Bazaar Festivals!
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church – Pottstown, PA
St. Stephens Orthodox Cathedral – Philadelphia, PA
St. Herman of Alaska – Gradyville, PA
See Calendar of Events section in bulletin for details

Saturday: November 7 - Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: November 8 – Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and
the Other Bodiless Powers
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Halupki Dinner to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: November 8 – Annual Fall Food Festivals!
St. Herman of Alaska – Gradyville, PA – 12p to 4p

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion (Tone 8 – Saints Cosmas & Damian)

O holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, / O Cosmas and Damian, heal our infirmities. // Freely ye have received; freely ye give unto us.

Kontakion (Tone 5)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Saints Cosmas & Damian)

Having received the grace of healing, / ye grant healing to those in need. / Glorious wonder-workers and healers, Cosmas and Damian, / visit us and put down the insolence of our enemies, // and bring healing to the world through your miracles!

Prokeimenon (Tone 5)

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!
v. Save, me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!

Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18

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.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 8:26-39

Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you. And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

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 since 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 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.

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 begun 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, Michele Spack, Valentina Godgnin Winsky, Kimberly Herbert, Michael Spack, Nina Patterson, Catherine & Albert Kavalkovich, Andrew & Helen Horun, Michael & Janine McCartney offered by M/M Herbert

Martha Palubniak, offered by Nina Patterson

Ana, Alex, Albert, Barbara, Catherine, Martha, Edward, Patricia, Marc, William, William, Liam, John, Paul Priest John offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

Dr Harry Borgersen offered by Mrs. Emily Albrecht

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Pauline Hudak Cardow, Joseph Slivka, Helen Paytas Wallace, Allen Littlefield, Rosemarie Ebert offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: 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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BULLETIN INFO:

If you did not pick up a bulletin because there was none left on the Tetrapod, don't worry...copies can be made. Please inform Dan Herbert or one of the parish council members that you would like that week's bulletin and a copy will be made for you. We also keep any extra bulletins back in the vestibule from the past three (3) months. They are located on the shelf where the prosfora is located.

Also, for those who have access to the Internet, bulletins since June 2009 are posted on the parish website for your convenience. Thank you!

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 19 to Oct 25</u>	<u>October Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	36	31 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,522.00	\$5,232.00
Funds Out:	\$ 50.31	\$4,255.87
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$1,471.69	\$976.13

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.” ~Beatitude Metropolitan Ireney 1965

Calendar of Events

November 3 – Election Day (get out and vote!)

November 8 - The Synaxis of the Archangel Michael

November 11 – Veterans Day

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 Halupki Dinner – Sunday, November 8 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. The Halupki 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. We are requesting for a contribution towards the dinner. Whether you are able to donate or not, please join us for dinner next Sunday. Thank you!

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.



Holy Wonderworkers Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor [November 1st]

The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian and their mother St Theodota were natives of Asia Minor (some sources say Mesopotamia). Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, St Theodota preserved her children in purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Freely have you received, freely give." (Mt. 10:8). The fame of Sts Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

When St Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. St Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where St Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia).

Many miracles were worked after the death of the holy unmercenary. There lived at Thereman, near the church of Cosmas and Damian, a certain man by the name of Malchus. One day he went on a journey, leaving his wife all alone for what would be a long time. He prayerfully entrusted her to the heavenly protection of the holy brothers. But the Enemy of the race of mankind took on the appearance of one of Malchus' friends, and planned to kill the woman. A certain time went by, and this man went to her at home and said that Malchus had sent him to bring her to him. The woman believed him and went along. He led her to a solitary place intending to kill her. The woman, seeing that disaster threatened her, called upon God with deep faith.

Two fiercesome men then appeared, and the devil let go of the woman and fled, falling off a cliff. The two men led the woman home. At her own home, bowing to them deeply she asked, "My rescuers, to whom I shall be grateful to the end of my days, what are your names?"

They replied, "We are the servants of Christ, Cosmas and Damian," and became invisible. The woman with trembling and with joy told everyone about what had happened to her. Glorifying God, she went up to the icon of the holy brothers and tearfully offered prayers of thanksgiving for her deliverance. And from that time the holy brothers were venerated as protectors of the holiness and inviolability of Christian marriage, and as givers of harmony to conjugal life. From ancient times, their veneration spread also to Russia.

The Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor should not be confused with the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Rome (July 1), or the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Arabia (October 17).