

## **Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church**

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> St. & Snyder Ave.)

Philadelphia, PA 19145 \* Church Phone: (215) 468-3535

Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionphilly>

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

### **Sunday, March 20, 2016 | First Sunday of Great Lent**

Tone 1 – Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Holy Fathers who were slain at the Monastery of St Sabbas:

Venerable John, Sergius, Patrick and others (796)

### **V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector**

615 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020

Phone: Home: 302-322-0943 | Mobile: 302-547-4952

Email: [mwkoczak@gmail.com](mailto:mwkoczak@gmail.com) or [mkoczak05@aol.com](mailto:mkoczak05@aol.com)

*Parish President – Matthew Andrews*

*Phone: 856-217-8075*

### **Weekly Schedule**

Today: Mission Service – St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church  
4<sup>th</sup> St & Fairmount Avenue | Philadelphia, PA 19123  
Time: 4:00pm Phone: 215.627.6148  
Website: <http://www.saintmichaelsroc.org>

Wednesday: March 23 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts begins at 6:30pm

Friday: March 25 – **Divine Liturgy - 10:00am** (Feast Day)  
Annunciation of Our Most-Holy Lady, Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary

Saturday: March 26 - Great Vespers at 5:00pm.

Sunday: March 27 – Second Sunday of Great Lent! St Gregory Palamas!  
Reading of Hours – **9:30am [note time change]**  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
Fellowship Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: March 27 – Mission Service – Ss. Peter & Paul Albanian Church 9230 Old  
Bustleton Avenue | Philadelphia, PA 19115  
Time: 4:00pm Phone: 215.676.3311  
Website: <http://www.sspeterpaulphila.org>

## **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 2 – Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; / and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. / Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. / Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: / “Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, // for Thou alone hast come to save the world.”

### **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 – Lenten Triodion)**

No one could describe the Word of the Father; / but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, / and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty // We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 4)**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Thy Name foreve!  
v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

### **Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:24-26,32-12:2**

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted,

tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

v. Moses and Aaron were among His priest; Samuel also was among those who called on His name. Alleluia (3x's)

v. They called to the Lord and he answered them. Alleluia (3x's)

### **Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51**

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

### **Communion Hymn:**

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

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

## **Announcements**

**PASCHA FLOWERS.** We will begin collecting for Pascha (Easter) flowers during the Lenten Season. There are special envelopes available to use for your offering for Pascha flower donations. Please give the envelopes to Debbie Kavalkovich or to a member of the parish council for your offering.

**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.

## Announcements (cont.)

### **2016 Lenten Mission Service Vesper's Schedule**

Sunday, March 20, 2016 – 4:0pm (First Sunday of Great Lent)  
Saint Michael's Russian Orthodox Church | 4<sup>th</sup> St & Fairmount Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19123 | Website: <http://www.saintmichaelsroc.org>

Sunday, March 27, 2016 – 4:0pm (Second Sunday of Great Lent)  
Saints Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church | 9230 Old Bustleton Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19115 | Website: <http://sspeterpaulphila.org>

Sunday, April 3, 2016 – 4:0pm (Third Sunday of Great Lent)  
Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
2412 West Third Street | Chester, PA 19013 | Phone: 610.497.1993

Sunday, April 10, 2016 – 4:0pm (Fourth Sunday of Great Lent)  
**AT OUR PARISH!!!!**

Sunday, April 17, 2016 – 4:0pm (Fifth Sunday of Great Lent)  
Saint Michael's Orthodox Church (OCA) | 2300 West Huntington Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19808 | Website: <http://www.stmichael-delaware-oca.org>

**American Friends of Georgia, Inc. (AFG)** is a non-profit, non-political public charity with 501[c](3) status that was formed in 1994 to help the people of the country of Georgia during a difficult post-Soviet transitional period. The organization's mission is to provide practical humanitarian assistance to the peoples of Georgia and the Caucasus Mountain Region in order to improve educational, economic, social, medical and environmental conditions. AFG raises and send donated funds to Georgian hospitals, orphanages and new non-profits (NGOs) that might otherwise be overlooked by larger donors. AFG works with international humanitarian organizations based in Georgia and with Georgian organizations known for their honesty and professionalism. AFG only fund projects where relief is sure to reach the needy. AFG's website is <http://www.afgeorgia.org>

Father Mark and Matushka Jan know both the Executive Directors in the US and in Georgia along with Mother Mariam, Abbess of the Transfiguration Convent in the center of Tbillisi and AFG's first partner in Georgia

This month's Charity collection (Sunday, March 27) will be earmarked for the American Friends of Georgia, Inc. Charity. Thank you in advance for your support and offering to this charity.

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Family and parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
Family, friends and parishioners offered by M/M A Kavalkovich  
Anastasia, Kenneth, Catherine, Veronica, Edith, Edward, offered by  
M/M K Kavalkovich

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Helen, Anne, John, Bridget, William, Margaret offered by  
M/M K Kavalkovich

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

Building Fund – In Memory of Father John Udics  
\* Emily Gerasimoff \* Matt Andrews  
\*\* M/M Ken Kavalkovich

#####

**Please remember in your prayers:** Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Anastasia Kavalkovich; Nina Patterson; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; + Father John Udics; + Father Athanasy Mastalski; 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!

#####

**Attendance: First Week of Great Lent Services**

Monday (3/14) – St Andrew of Crete = 16  
Tuesday (3/15) – St Andrew of Crete = 16  
Wednesday (3/16) – St Andrew of Crete = 15  
Thursday (3/17) – St Andrew of Crete = 12  
Friday (3/18) – Presanctificied Liturgy = 17

**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. 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~~ Icon Fund (2016)
- 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 (March)**

|                              | <u>Week of Mar 7 to Mar 13</u> | <u>March Month-to-Date</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Attendance:                  | 38                             | 40 (average)               |
| <i>At Vespers (Sat 3/12)</i> | 9                              |                            |
| Funds In:                    | \$ 1,755.00                    | \$ 3,618.00                |
| Funds Out:                   | \$ 2,967.60                    | \$ 6,448.62                |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit):       | (\$ 1,212.60)                  | (\$ 2,830.62)              |

*Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!*

**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

### **Today – Mission Service 4:00pm.**

Saint Michael's Russian Orthodox Church \* 4<sup>th</sup> St & Fairmount Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19123.  
Phone #215.627.6148  
Website: <http://www.saintmichaelsroc.org>

### **Second Week of Great Lent - Mon, March 21 – Sat, March 26**

Service schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, March 23 - The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:30pm

Friday, March 25 – **Divine Liturgy - 10:00am** (Feast Day)  
Annunciation of Our Most-Holy Lady, Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary

Saturday, March 26 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM

Any changes in the schedule or time will be announced in church & bulletin.

### **Saturday, April 2 – Lenten Retreat – The Great and Holy Council of the Orthodox Church!**

Location: Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation Cultural Center | 7921 Old York Road | Elkins Park, PA 19027 | Phone: 215.635.0316.

Cost: Free and open to the public!

Lecturer: Archon George E Demacopoulos, PhD, Professor of Theology Co-Director, Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University, Bronx, NY

**Our parish will be hosting a Mission Vesper Service during Lent on Sunday, April 10 (Fourth Sunday of Great Lent – St John of the Ladder (Climacus))** We will begin coordinating TODAY the Lenten meal menu with the service only three weeks from today.

**April 10 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussion will continue as the committee's role regarding the upkeep and status of the church properties.

**Bible Study – Tuesday, April 12 at 6:30pm in the church basement.** The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Genesis.



## First Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy [March 20<sup>th</sup>]

Originally, the Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

Today on this first Sunday of Lent, we commemorate the "Triumph of Orthodoxy," the victory of the Orthodox faith over heresies, and the restoration of the holy icons during the reign of the holy Empress Theodora (February 11).

The Holy Fathers who assembled in the Ecumenical Councils between the fourth and eighth centuries established the correct teaching about the divinity of the Son of God and the Holy Spirit, as well as the true veneration of icons. The Sunday of Orthodoxy reminds us about this struggle against and victory over heretics, one that is synthesized in the reestablishment of the veneration of icons.

The icon is a window toward the Absolute that reveals to us the transfigured world, the world of those who partake in divine grace and bring us this transfiguration, which is holiness. The representation of saints in icons, following the representation of the Savior, is justified by the incarnation of the Word of God: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (*John 1:14*). But the icon is based not only on the incarnation of the Son of God but also on His resurrection.

Without Christ's resurrection the icon would not be a representation of transfigured life but only a commemorative painting. This means that the icon brings God among us, while it also raises us to the understanding of our life as participation in the life of God. This is Christian life revealed by the icon – the human person restored as the image of God, the human person moving toward holiness, toward the brightness of the image of God shining on his face.

This image of God restored in the face of one's neighbor is revealed by IOCC in its entire ministry of help to our brethren in need. In the face of our suffering brother, we discover the suffering Christ. In helping one who is suffering, we discover the image of Christ and give it back to the world. The one who is saved from suffering and helped in his need becomes again the bearer of the luminous image of Christ, the Christian on the pathway of holiness.

We who participate become partakers in the ministry of God fulfilled in the world unto our own healing and sanctification. The proper veneration of icons is an opportunity for us to penetrate the mystery of our own life and our neighbor's life, to understand the value of the human person – our own, but also that of our neighbor

[Source: + Archbishop Nicolae, Romanian Orthodox Archdioceses in the Americas from the *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet published by the IOCC]