

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

Sunday, April 3, 2016 | Third Sunday of Great Lent

Tone 3 – Veneration of the Cross

Venerable Nicetas (Nikita) the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion (824).

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Reader's Class after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room

Today: Mission Service – Assumption of the Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
2412 West Third Street | Chester, PA 19013
Time: 4:00pm Phone: 610.497.1993

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

Friday: April 8 – Akathist service begins at 6:30pm

Saturday: April 9 - Great Vespers at 5:00pm.

Sunday: April 10 – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent! St John Climacus!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: April 10 – Mission Service – **HERE AT OUR PARISH! 4:00pm**

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 first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 1 – Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

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 7 – Cross)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; / it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. / The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vainquished; / for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell: // Enter again into Paradise!

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

Before Thy Cross / we bow down in worship, O Master / and Thy holy Resurrection // we glorify.
(3x's)

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”; Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

v. Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old! Alleluia (3x's)
v. God is our King before the ages; He hath wrought salvation in the midst
of the earth! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-9:1

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing the following

All of creation rejoiceth in thee, O Full of Grace: / the assembly of Angels and the race of men. / O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, / the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: / our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, / and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoiceth in thee, O Full of Grace. // Glory to thee!

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
The light of Thy countenance is signed upon us, O Lord. Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

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, April 3, 2016 – 4:00pm (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 – 4:00pm (Fourth Sunday of Great Lent)

AT OUR PARISH!!!!!!

Sunday, April 17, 2016 – 4:00pm (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>

Sunday, April 24, 2016 – 4:00pm – Bridegroom Matins Service

Saint Stephen Cathedral Orthodox Church (OCA) | 8598 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19111 | Website: <http://www.ststephenscathedral.org>

PASCHA FLOWERS. We are 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.

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed to last week's charity collection for the American Friends of Georgia, Inc. non-profit public charity. Through your generous donations, the parish will be forwarding \$200 to this organization. If you wish to read more information on this worthwhile organization, please see their website: <http://www.afgeorgia.org>

This month's Sunday Charity collection taken on April 24 will be earmarked for the Father Matthew Baker Fund. As many of you remember, a little over a year ago, Father Matthew passed away after a terrible automobile accident while driving during a winter storm. All six of his children were in the vehicle at this time and God's will, they all survived. This parish provided a donation to a fund in memory of Father Matthew last year and we received a lovely thank you note from his family. Today, the family is doing well. The thank you note is posted on the bulletin board in the basement above the display counter.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Friends offered by Melanie Albrecht
Sharon Orr, Anastasia Kavalkovich, Ronald Andrew offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John Pellack offered by the Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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

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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 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!

Please remember those who perished and the injured in the senseless and brutal attacks that occurred last week in Brussels, Belgium!

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Attendance: Third Week of Great Lent Services

Sunday (3/27) – Mission Service = 5 of our parishioners attended
Wednesday (3/30) – Presanctificied Liturgy = 10
Friday (4/1) – Akathist = 16

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 – 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 21 to Mar 27</u>	<u>March Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	36	38 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,001.00	\$ 7,038.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,419.84	\$ 8,198.35
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 418.84)	(\$ 1,160.35)

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.

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church
2412 West Third Street | Chester, PA 19013. Phone #610.497.1993

Fourth Week of Great Lent - Mon, April 4 – Sat, April 9

Service schedule is as follows:

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

Friday, April 8 – Akathist service - 6:30pm

Saturday, April 9 – Church Cleaning (for Mission Service) at 1:00PM

Saturday, April 9 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM

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

Church Cleaning for Mission Service – Saturday, April 9 at 1:00pm. We will clean the church on this Saturday in preparation for the Mission Service. The only exception will be cleaning up around the outside of the church, wiping down the pews, and vacuuming the carpet in the church...these three tasks will be done the next day after Liturgy.

Our parish will be hosting the Mission Vesper Service during Lent next week (Sunday, April 10 - Fourth Sunday of Great Lent – St John of the Ladder (Climacus))

We will finalize the Lenten meal menu TODAY with the mission service next Sunday!

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.

April 10 (Rescheduled for Sunday, April 17) – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. A walk thru of both row homes is scheduled during this time to identify concerns and list problems that need addressing and repairing.



Third Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross [April 4th]

Through the Cross joy has come into all the world.

At the midpoint of Great Lent, Orthodox Christians are invited to the Veneration of the Cross of Christ. In the Lenten journey, we are taught to be mindful of the importance of repentance, fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and forgiveness.

Without these, our spiritual pilgrimage is lacking in meaning. We cannot be disciples of Christ without these marks of Christian life and practice.

After an enthusiastic beginning of Great Lent, little by little we show signs of being tired, our attention begins to flag, our love for God and neighbor begins to wear out. In other words, our own comfort again becomes the priority.

The veneration of the Cross renews and refocuses our Lenten journey by bringing our attention back to Christ, back to the love of God for us. This love is given as a gift to us in the form of the Cross, the symbol both of Christ's suffering and of the resurrection. We are taught by Jesus Christ to take up our own cross and follow Him. To venerate the Cross of Christ is to be inspired, strengthened, and enabled to carry our cross.

All of the above is true. Yet it is incomplete. An important dimension is missing – the dimension of joy. “Through the Cross joy has come into all the world.” These words in a hymn of the Resurrection reveal the dimension of joy as central and essential. Where there is faith without joy, faith is deficient. Where there is almsgiving without joy, charity is deficient. Where there is love, there is joy. Where there is Christ, there is joy.

As we walk the pilgrimage of Great Lent, let it be full of joy, and therefore full of Christ.

[Source: Father Leonid Kishkovsky from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the IOCC]