

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



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

Sunday, April 10, 2016 | Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Tone 4 – Saint John the Ladder (Climacus)

Martyrs Terence, Pompeius, Africanus, Maximus, Zeno, Alexander, Theodore, Macarius,
and 33 others, beheaded at Carthage (3rd c.).

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Parish President – Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Mission Service – **HERE AT OUR PARISH! 4:00pm**

Tuesday: April 12 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the Church Basement!
Continue reading the Book of Genesis.

Wednesday: April 13 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts begins at 6:30pm

Thursday: April 14 – Canon of St Andrew of Crete service begins at 6:30pm

Friday: April 15 – Akathist service begins at 6:30pm

Saturday: April 16 - Great Vespers at 5:00pm.

Sunday: April 17 – Fifth Sunday of Great Lent! St Mary of Egypt!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: April 17 – Mission Service – St Michaels Orthodox Church
2300 West Huntington Drive | Wilmington, DE 19808
Time: 4:00pm Website: www.stmichael-delaware-oca.org

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 1 – St John Climacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

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 – St John Climacus)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, / to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, // O our father and teacher John.

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: Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. 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: Mark 9:17-31

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not. He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

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

All of creation rejoices 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 righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guest who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

Announcements (cont.)

Remaining 2016 Lenten Mission Service Vesper's Schedule

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 Orthodox Cathedral (OCA) | 8598 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19111 | Phone: 215.342.0866 (church)
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.

The Red & White Flowers that decorated the cross on the tetrapod for the Veneration of the Cross Sunday were donated in memory of parents Michael and Mary Spack offered by the Herbert Family! Thank you for your donation of the decorated flowers!

The parish has decided to purchase a new vestment robe for Reader Daniel (Kenneth) Kavalkovich. Kenny has only two robes to wear during services (a gold and a reddish/purple vestment) and they have become pretty worn over the years. We have requested Ivan Adamovich to tailor Kenny with a new robe that will fit his build. Ivan (who only does tailoring work part time now) has made vestment covers and robes for our parish in the past. Ivan is only charging the parish for the cost of materials (high quality materials); he his donating his time and labor. The cost for the materials to tailor a new robe (along with cuffs and a stole) is \$800. Parish is requesting donations to assist in underwriting most of the cost for the robe set.

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 offered by Nina Patterson
Danielle, Judith, Patricia, Edward, Catherine, Albert, Family, Friends, Matuska Jan, Father Mark offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Kim Hughes offered by Melanie Albrecht
Stephen Spack & Father John Udics offered by Emelie Albrecht
Parents offered by Margaret Pellack
John & Julia Jugan offered by David Pellack
Michael & Anna Bondira offered by Hourahan 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; Matushka Jan Koczak; 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: Fourth Week of Great Lent Services

Saturday (4/2) – Memorial (Soul) Saturday = 14
Sunday (4/3) – Mission Service = 9 of our parishioners attended
Wednesday (4/6) – Presanctified Liturgy = 10
Friday (4/8) – Akathist = Service was Cancelled

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/April)

| | <u>Week of Mar 28 to Apr 3</u> | <u>March Month (Unaudited)</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Attendance: | 45 | 38 (average) |
| <i>Sat Vespers (4/2)</i> | <i>13</i> | |
| Funds In: | \$ 2,152.14 | \$ 7,040.14 |
| Funds Out: | \$ 3,784.82 | \$ 8,598.35 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit): | (\$ 1,632.68) | (\$ 1,158.21) |

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 Holy Virgin Orthodox Church ← **(That's Here)!!!**
28th St & Snyder Avenue | Philadelphia, PA 19145 | Phone #610.468.3535
Website: www.holyassumptionphilly.org

Fifth Week of Great Lent - Mon, April 11 – Sat, April 16

Service schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, April 12 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement
Wednesday, April 13 - The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:30pm
Thursday, April 14 – Canon of St Andrew of Crete – 6:30pm
Friday, April 15 – Akathist service - 6:30pm
Saturday, April 16 – Great Vespers at 5:00pm

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

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.

St. Herman of Alaska exhibition at Villanova University!

In honor of the 45th Anniversary of the Glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska, an exhibition – “Russian America: The Alaskan Native Spiritual Legacy” – is being held at Villanova University from January 22, 2016 and will run until **through May 16, 2016**. The exhibit is organized by Archpriest John J. Perich.

Detail information:

www.ArtGallery.Villanova.edu

www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/artgallery/current_exhibit.html

Villanova University Art Gallery location
2nd Floor Connelly Center (University Campus)
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085
Phone: 610-519-4612
Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday: 8am-11pm | Sat-Sun: 11am-11pm



Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder) [April 10th]

Saint John Climacus (or Saint John of the Ladder) was a monk of Mt. Sinai who lived and wrote in the seventh century. He is venerated in the Orthodox Church on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent because of his spiritual struggles and his authorship of the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, a book that describes the spiritual struggle to climb closer to God through acquiring ascetic virtues.

There are among 30 steps on the ladder that correspond to the 30 years of Christ's life, with the entire volume divided into three main sections: 1) general virtues; 2) instructions on overcoming vices and building up the corresponding virtues; and 3) higher virtues that lead to the goals at which ascetic life aims, including prayer, stillness, dispassion, and finally love (agape).

The Ladder was originally written at the request of the abbot of a neighboring monastery, but now its use is widespread in the Church and even in the broader Christian community. Orthodox Christians are called upon to read this book during Lent, and monasteries in particular often read the entire text in the refectory during the Lenten season.

This book calls all to purification through a series of cleansing steps, including denial of self and caring for others. We are invited to examine ourselves in order to learn our faults and purify. Caring for others is a way of cleansing through decreasing our focus on the self. Ultimately, if one is able to follow Saint John's steps, the final goal – the love of others – is accomplished. Saint John's message is one of repentance, of changing around one's life. Saint John wrote, "Do not be surprised that you fall everyday; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience. He who really keeps account of his actions considers as lost every day in which he does not mourn, whatever good he may have done in it."

[Source: Gayle E. Woloschak, PhD from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the IOCC]