

ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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<http://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionphilly>

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Sunday, May 1, 2016 | HOLY PASCHA
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
(BEGINNING OF THE PENTECOSTARION)
CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Weekly Schedule (Bright Week)

(NO FASTING THIS WEEK!!!!)

Today: Also occurring in Philadelphia is the BlueCross Broad Street Run! Drive safely when leaving church services

Today: Pascha Vespers will begin approximately 15 minutes after the Blessing of the Easter Baskets (which will occur after Divine Liturgy)

No Services to be held at the parish during Bright Week!

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

Sunday: May 8 – AntiPascha. 2nd Sunday of Pascha
St. Thomas Sunday. Mother's Day

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: May 8 – Blessing of Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery
(For those that stay at the cemetery after the grave blessing, a Paschal picnic will be held near the Spack family site)

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead, / trampling down death by death, / and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Hypakoe (Tone 8)

Before the dawn Mary and the women / came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. / They heard the angelic voice: “Why do ye seek among the dead as a Man / the One Who is everlasting Light? / Behold the clothes in the grave; go and proclaim to the world: / “The Lord is risen; He has slain death, // as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man.”

Kontakion (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women, // granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, / have put on Christ.
Alleluia. (3x's)

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

This is the day which the Lord has made! / Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
v. O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!

Epistle Reading: Acts 1:1-8

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

v. Thou didst arise and have mercy on Zion. Alleluia (3x's)

v. The Lord looked down from heaven and saw all the sons of men. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but 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 bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: / "Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
/ Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! /
With Himself He has raised all the dead." / Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! / The glory of the Lord has shone on you. / Exult now, /
and be glad, O Zion! / Be radiant, / O pure Theotokos, / in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn:

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality! 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.)

Thank You to all who donated towards the PASCHA FLOWERS. A special Thank You to Debbie Kavalkovich who selected the variety of flowers and plants that are in the church today. They look beautiful! May God Grant You Many Blessed Years for the continuous work you do for the church!

Thank You to all who donated towards the purchase of a new white vestment robe for Reader Daniel (Kenneth) Kavalkovich. We received over \$1,000 for this new robe that tailor Ivan Adamovich made. Ivan only charged the parish for the cost of materials (high quality materials); he donated his time and labor. The robe looks absolutely beautiful and fits Reader Daniel's build very well. The robe was blessed by Father Mark before services on Holy Saturday. Reader Daniel is wearing the robe today. Please take a look at the robe and feel the material used to make it. Once again, Thank You for your donations in assisting to offset the cost of this new vestment set. May God Grant All of You Many Blessed Years!!!

Check out our Parish FaceBook page and the Diocese website (www.doepa.org) for pictures of our services during Holy Week. If you haven't done so already, please look at the above sites for pictures from this past week of services here at the parish. Who knows, you may even see yourself in a picture or two.

Paschal Greetings from Around the World

Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Qeshi fuhuole!
English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Georgian:	Kriste ahzdkhah!	Chezdmardet!
German:	Christus ist erstanden!	Wahrlich ist er erstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Italian:	Cristo e risorto!	Veramente e risorto!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Korean:	Kristo gesso!	Buhar ha sho nay!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adeverat a inviat!
Russian:	Christos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Serbian:	Cristos vaskres!	Vaistinu vaskres!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Barbara Andrews offered by Pellack Family
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Nina Patterson
Ronald Kavalkovich & Sharon Orr offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Walker Family offered by Pellack Family
Health of Family offered by Mary Brodie
Ronald Kavalkovich, Sharon Orr, & Norman Andrews offered by Barbara Andrews
Ronald, Sharon, Norman, Jim, Catherine, Albert, Patricia, Edith, offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Andrew & Susan Mohnach offered by Pellack Family
Dimitri & Mary Drimak, Michael & Anna Bondira, John & Julia Drimak, Neil & Jean Hourahan offered by Hourahan Family
Gerasimoff, Kavalkovich & Kapusnik Families offered by M/M Albert Kavalkovich
Zuzulock, Sabato, Renzetti Families & Fr John Udics offered by Kathy Renzetti
Antonette, Monirlouka, Anne, Vito, John, Anthony, Denise, Dennise offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Matushka Jan Koczak; Father Mark Koczak; Julia Makara; Sharon Orr; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; + Father John Udics; + Father Athanasz 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!

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Attendance: Holy Week

Sunday (4/24) - Bridegroom Matins (at St Stephens) = 4 attended from our parish
Mon (4/25) - Bridegroom Matins = 13 Tue (4/26) - Bridegroom Matins = 11
Wed (4/27) - Presanctificied Liturgy = 31 Thu (2/28) - Vespereal Divine Liturgy = 4
Thu (4/28) - Passion Gospels = 46 Fri (4/29) - Royal Hours = 8
Friday (4/30) - Holy Friday Vespers = 55 Sat (4/30) - Holy Saturday = 22

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 (April)

	<u>Week of Apr 18 to Apr 24</u>	<u>April Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	58	44 (average)
<i>Sat Vespers (4/23)</i>	19	
Funds In:	\$ 2,347.00	\$ 9,000.00
Funds Out:	\$ 350.00	\$ 6,183.22
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,997.00	\$ 2,816.78

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

Sunday, May 8th – St Thomas Sunday (Mother’s Day)!

After Divine Liturgy and if the weather cooperates, we will have our annual Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery. For those that stay at the cemetery after the grave blessing, a Paschal picnic will be held near the Spack (Onufer&Julia) family site. Please bring your favorite Pascha food, beverages, and lawn chair(s).

Bible Study – Tuesday, May 10 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.

The weekend of May 13 to May 15, the YES Group will be staying at our parish. Just like last year, the YES Youth Group will be undertaking service projects in Philadelphia this weekend. They will be staying at our parish and attending service on Sunday. We will host a light luncheon for them after Liturgy on Sunday before they depart.

Sunday, May 15 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Follow up reports on the walk thru of both row homes and Church Hall will be discussed and to decide a consensus of identified concerns & problems that need addressing and repairing.

Spring General Parish Meeting to be held Sunday ~~May 22~~ June 5 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. Discussions will include events since the Annual Parish Meeting, activities over the summer months, and the status on Property Committee and other committee reports.

The Great and Holy Council of the Orthodox Church is to take place from June 16 thru June 27, 2016, on the island of Crete. This Council will, for the first time ever, gather representatives from all fourteen autocephalous Orthodox Churches from around the globe. There will be five topics of discussion to be covered during this time ranging from: a common calendar; adapting an ancient faith to a modern reality; regulations of fasting and marriage in a multicultural and interreligious world; role of Orthodox Church in non-Orthodox countries (often referred to as Orthodoxy in the “diaspora”); and the manner of achieving the proper canonical status of one bishop per diocese (or city) when an existing diocese currently has a number of ethnic Orthodox Churches and, therefore, more than one bishop.



The Resurrection of Our Lord (HOLY PASCHA (Easter))

[May 1st]

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith; receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness.

(Sermon of St John Chrysostom, read at Paschal Matins)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Christian faith. St Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and faith are in vain (I Cor. 15:14).

Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no

Christian preaching or faith. The disciples of Christ would have remained the broken and hopeless band which the Gospel of John describes as being in hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They went nowhere and preached nothing until they met the risen Christ, the doors being shut (John 20: 19). Then they touched the wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the basis of everything they said and did (Acts 2-4): “. . . for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Luke 24:39).

The resurrection reveals Jesus of Nazareth as not only the expected Messiah of Israel, but as the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . the holy city, new Jerusalem. And I heard a great voice from the throne saying “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. . . He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away (Rev. 21:1-4).

In His death and resurrection, Christ defeats the last enemy, death, and thereby fulfills the mandate of His Father to subject all things under His feet (I Cor. 15:24-26).

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing (Rev. 5: 12).

THE FEAST OF FEASTS

The Christian faith is celebrated in the liturgy of the Church. True celebration is always a living participation. It is not a mere attendance at services. It is communion in the power of the event being celebrated. It is God’s free gift of joy given to spiritual men as a reward for their self-denial. It is the fulfillment of spiritual and physical effort and preparation. The resurrection of Christ, being the center of the Christian faith, is the basis of the Church’s liturgical life and the true model for all celebration. This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore (Irmos 8, Paschal Canon). CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!