

ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
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Philadelphia, PA 19145 \* Church Phone: (215) 468-3535  
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**Sunday, May 8, 2016 | Second Sunday of Pascha**

Tone 1 – Saint Thomas Sunday

Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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**Weekly Schedule**

- Today: 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)
- Tuesday: May 10 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the Church Basement!  
Continue reading the Book of Genesis.
- Friday to Sunday ~~May 13 to May 15 – YES Youth Group visit to Philadelphia area & staying at the parish. **CANCELLED!!!**~~
- Saturday: May 14 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!
- Sunday: May 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha! Holy Myrrhbearing Women!  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*
- Sunday: May 15 – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 7 - Pentecostarion)**

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! / Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ God. / Renew in us through them an upright spirit, // by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

### **Troparion (Tone 2 – Saint John)**

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God, / hasten to deliver a defenseless people! / He who allowed thee to recline on His breast, / receives thee as thou dost bow before Him. / Implore Him, O John the Theologian, / to dispense the persistent threat from the heathens, // entreating for us peace and great mercy!

### **Kontakion (Tone 2 – Saint John)**

Who shall declare thy greatness, / O virgin disciple, / for thou dost pour forth wonders and art a source of healings, // and prayest for our souls as theologian and friend of Christ.

### **Kontakion (Tone 8 – Pentecostarion)**

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, when Thou didst come to Thy Apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all: “Thou art my Lord and my God!”

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 3)**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power! / His understanding is beyond measure!  
*v.* Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

### **Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20**

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)  
v. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31**

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

**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:**

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!  
Their proclamation hath gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!  
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.)

**Happy Mother's Day!!!** A Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers here in church today. We remember and pray for the health of all the mothers who are not in attendance today with us in the parish. Also, we remember and pray for the memories of all the mothers who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!!

**PASCHA FLOWERS!** As today is Mother's Day and also the Blessing of Graves at Mount Moriah, please...Please take any and all flowers that are in the church (except for the two trees on the altar steps). Give them to our mother's or take them out to the cemetery and plant them on your loved one's gravesite. With the upcoming wedding & also anniversary marriage blessing in two weeks, the church may have additional flowers for these events.

**Correction!!! Speaking of flowers:** It was brought to the *AHVOC Bulletin Staff's* attention that it was not Debbie Kavalkovich who selected the variety of Easter Flowers for Pascha last week (as mentioned in last week's bulletin). But it was her daughter, Anastasia Kavalkovich, who actually made the selections, which were lovely and received high praise from many of the parishioners and guest with us last week for Pascha. Thank you Ana and we apologize for the confusion. May God Grant You Many Years!!! CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI!

### **Metropolitan Tikon offers prayers after fire at NYC's Serbian Cathedral Syosset, NY**

On Bright Monday, May 2, 2016, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, sent a letter to His Grace, Serbian Orthodox Bishop Mitrophan, offering prayers and concern in the wake of a four-alarm fire that engulfed [Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral](#) near West 25th Street and Broadway in New York City.

According to media reports, the blaze started at 6:50 p.m. on Pascha—May 1. Heavy flames burst through the roof and shot out of the large rose window on the façade of the cathedral, which was designated as a New York City landmark in 1968. Originally known as Trinity Chapel, the Gothic Revival edifice was designed in 1850 by noted architect Richard M. Upjohn. The Serbian Orthodox Church purchased the church from the Episcopal Diocese of New York in 1943.

Over 700 parishioners had celebrated Pascha earlier in the day and had enjoyed a luncheon, but the cathedral was empty when the fire started. The cathedral's caretaker attempted to rush inside when he noticed the fire, but was turned back by the flames, fire officials said. He suffered from minor smoke inhalation. Media reports indicate that five others, including four firefighters, had been injured, none seriously.

## Announcements (cont.)

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

#### **Health for the Living:**

Ronald Kavalkovich, Family, Parishioners offered by Pellack Family  
Ronald Kavalkovich, Family offered by Nina Patterson  
Ronald Kavalkovich, Sharon Orr, and Family offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Maryanne offered by Patricia Ferguson  
Danielle offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich  
Renzetti Family, Rabik Family offered by Renzetti Family  
Marie Fortner, Rabik Family, Brasko Family offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

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

#### **Memory for the Departed:**

John Pellack, M/M William Zuzulock, M/M Paul Koran, M/M Peter Zuzulock, Father John Udics,  
Father Sergius Willis, and Parishioners offered by Pellack Family  
John & Julia Drimak offered by Jack Drimak  
Andrew & Helen Gerasimoff, Albert & Marion Kavalkovich, Anna Kapusnik, Father John Udics,  
and departed Family Members offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Anna & Sam Sabato, John, Mary, William Zuzulock, offered by Renzetti Family  
Brasko Family and Rabik Family offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

#### **May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Julia  
Makara; Sharon Orr; 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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#### **Ancient Faith Radio live broadcast on Great and Holy Council TONIGHT at 8PM.**

On Sunday evening, May 8, 2016, [Ancient Faith Radio](#) (internet website) will air a special edition of "Faith Encouraged Live" during which Father Barnabas Powell will host Archpriest Dr. Alexander Rentel and Archdeacon John Chryssavgis for a call-in program titled "The Great Council of the Orthodox Church: The Time Has Come." The program will air at 8:00p.m. Eastern time.

**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/May)

	<u>Week of Apr 25 to May 1</u>	<u>April Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	81	44 (average)
Pascha Vespers (5/1)	25	
Funds In:	\$ 3,358.07	\$ 9,002.07
Funds Out:	\$ 2,361.72	\$ 6,804.85
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 996.35	\$ 2,197.22

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 – St Thomas Sunday | Mother’s Day | Grave Blessing!**

After Divine Liturgy and Weather Permitting, 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 foods, 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. ~~EVENT CANCELLED!~~** 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 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.



**ANTIPASCHA:  
Saint Thomas Sunday**  
[May 8<sup>th</sup>]

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” When St Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as “Antipascha.” This does not mean “opposed to Pascha,” but “in place of Pascha.” Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection. Sunday is called “Resurrection” in Russian, and “the Lord’s Day” in Greek.

**Apostle and Evangelist John Theologian**  
[May 8<sup>th</sup>]

The Church commemorates St John on this day because of the annual pilgrimage to his grave.

When St John was more than one hundred years old, he took seven of his disciples and went to a spot outside the city of Ephesus. There he told them to dig a grave in the form of a cross. Then he climbed into the grave and told his disciples to cover him with earth. Later, the grave was opened and the saint’s body was not there.

Each year on May 8 a red dust would arise from the grave which the faithful collected in order to be healed of their illnesses.

St John’s main Feast is on September 26.