

ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH
2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
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Sunday, May 29, 2016 | Fifth Sunday of Pascha

Tone 4 – Sunday of the Samaritan Woman!
Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre (307 - 308)
CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Weekly Schedule

This Weekend: May 28 to 30 - Memorial Day Pilgrimage at Saint Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA.

Monday: May 30 – Memorial Day!
Please remember all the Veterans who sacrificed their lives for this great country we live in.

Saturday: June 4 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: June 5 – 6th Sunday of Pascha! Blind Man!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: June 5 – Spring General Parish Meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

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 8 - Midfeast)

In the middle of the feast, O Savior, / fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety, / as Thou didst cry to all: “If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!” // O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Pentecostarion)

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith; / she saw Thee, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly. // She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Pascha)

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, / cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law: / “Come and draw the water of immortality!” / We fall before Thee and faithfully cry: // Grant us Thy mercies, for Thou art the Fountain of our life!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v. Clap thy hands, all ye people, shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Epistle Reading: Acts 11:19-26,29-30

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. 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: John 4:5-42

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly. The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship. Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ? Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

Communion Hymn:

Receive the Body of Christ, taste the fountain of immortality!
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! 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.

During the Reading of Hours! When entering the church after the bells have rung at 9:30am, the Reading of the 3rd and 6th Hours takes place. As you enter the church, **PLEASE** remain as quiet as you can! Remember that you are in God's House, and that the Reading of the Hours is just as important as Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy. In addition, with people talking (sometimes even talking over the person who is reading the Hours), it is not only distracting to those who are already in church praying or listening to the Reading of the Hours, but also distracting to the individual themselves who is actually reading the Hours.

If it is important that you must speak to someone who is in church, please go out to the vestibule area in the back of the Church or meet them downstairs in the church basement and discuss your business before entering the church. Just please remember when entering back into the church to remain as quiet as you can. Thank you for your understanding regarding this matter!

Friendly reminder...when putting out the Candles...

When putting out the candles on the candle stands behind the icon of the Lord and the icon of the Theotokos, and the four candles on the table in the center of the church (Tetrapod), please use the candle snuffer tool to put the candles out.

When you blow out these candles, the melted wax on top of the candle is then blown on the candle stands and on the glass top of the Tetrapod. It actually takes more time trying to scrap or wipe away these splatter droplets of wax and keep the candle stands and glass top as clean as possible.

Also, when burning candles on the candle stands, please use the brass candle followers (burners). This allows the candles to burn more evenly and prevents the wax from running down the candles & onto the candle stands.

Thank you very much for your understanding regarding this matter!



GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS!!!



Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Debbie & Kenny Kavalkovich on the Blessing of their marriage, Kathy & Michael Gerty on their Wedding Day, & Matushka Jan offered by M/M Herbert
Albrecht Family & Louisa Sutera offered by Emelie Albrecht
Kenny & Debbie Kavalkovich (Anniversary) offered by Barbara Andrews
Kenny & Debbie Kavalkovich (Anniversary) offered by Pellack Family
Kathy & Michael Gerty (Wedding) offered by Sharon & James Orr
Maryanne & Annette offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich
Witiak Family offered by M/M Pete Witiak
Kenny & Debbie Kavalkovich (Anniversary), Ronald Kavalkovich offered by M/M Albert Kavalkovich
Wanenchak Family, Gerty Family and Friends offered by M/M Michael and Kathy (Wanenchak) Gerty

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Bernadine Marczyk, Maxim & Anna Herbert, Helen Herbert, Mary Herbert, Virginia Herbert, Reader Leonty Macalush, David O'Shura, John O'Shura offered by M/M Herbert
Elizabeth Prendergast offered by Barbara Andrews
John Pellack offered by Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his upcoming surgery); Julia Makara; Sharon Orr; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; 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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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 (May)

	<u>Week of May 16 to May 22</u>	<u>May Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	62	52 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,958.00	\$ 9,067.00
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,109.68
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 2,958.00	\$ 4,957.32

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

Spring General Parish Meeting - Sunday, June 5, 2016 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #3 of 3. According to Article 10, Section 1, of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the meeting. The Spring General Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 5. Discussions will include events since the Annual Parish Meeting; activities over the summer months; the status of the Property Committee and other committee reports; and any other business that needs to be discussed. Meeting should take about an hour but should not exceed past 90 minutes.

Sunday, June 12 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of each month) All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting and any additional action needed to be taken as a result of deliberations that occurred during the Spring General Parish Meeting.

Bible Study – Tuesday, June 14 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.

Annual Pentecost (Pascha) Dinner – Sunday, June 19 after Vespers in the church basement. The parish will hold its annual Pentecost Dinner with Pascha food. If you wish to bring or donate Pascha food, beverages, or kitchen supplies, please see Catherine Kavalkovich to discuss what items the parish will need for our dinner. The dinner will be a free will offering and any monetary donations towards the dinner are always appreciated! Thank You!

Sunday, June 26 - Readers Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! All Readers are asked to attend the meeting. Father Mark, and those knowledgeable with the readings, will offer additional instructions and information regarding the readings for both the Hours and the Epistle.

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.



Sunday of the Samaritan Woman [May 29th]

The Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, her sons Victor (named Photinus) and Joses; and her sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva, Kyriake; Nero's daughter Domnina; and the Martyr Sebastian: The holy Martyr Photina was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob's Well (John. 4:5-42).

During the time of the emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, St Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed military commander in the city of Attalia (Asia Minor). Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to St Victor, "I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret."

St Victor replied, "I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother." Sebastian said, "O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother." Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber.

For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, "The God of the Christians is the only true God." St Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, "Because Christ is calling me." Soon he was baptized, and immediately regained his sight. St Sebastian's servants, after witnessing the miracle, were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, "Fear not, for I am with you. Nero, and all who serve him, will be vanquished." The Lord said to St Victor, "From this day forward, your name will be Photinus, because through you, many will be enlightened and will believe in Me." The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage St Sebastian to persevere until the end.

All these things, and even future events, were revealed to St Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome.

At Rome the emperor ordered the saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. Then the emperor gave orders to smash the martyrs' finger joints. During the torments, the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed.

Nero ordered that Sts Sebastian, Photinus and Joses be blinded and locked up in prison, and St Photina and her five sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva and Kyriake were sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero's daughter Domnina. St Photina converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer, who had brought her poisoned food to kill her.

Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Sts Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified.

Nero then gave orders to crucify the saints, and to beat their naked bodies with straps. On the fourth day the emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants fell blind. An angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized.

[Due to length of article, the above is just an excerpt of the life of the Samaritan Woman]