

ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH 2101  
South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> St. & Snyder Ave.) Philadelphia,  
PA 19145 \* Church Phone: (215) 468-3535 Website:  
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**Sunday, June 5, 2016 | Sixth Sunday of Pascha**

Tone 5 – Sunday of the Blind Man!

Hieromartyr Dorotheus of Tyre (ca, 362)

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

**V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector**

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### **Weekly Schedule**

Today: Spring General Parish Meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

Wednesday: June 8 – Great Vespers with Litya at 6:30PM!

Thursday: June 9 – The Ascension of Our Lord! Divine Liturgy at **9:00AM!**

Saturday: June 11 - Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: June 12 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha! Holy Fathers!

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: June 12 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church schoolroom.

## **Texts for the Liturgical Service**

### **Troparion (Tone 5)**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Pentecostarion)**

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, / and call to Thee in repentance: // Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.

### **Kontakion (Tone 8 – Pascha)**

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

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 8)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!  
v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

### **Epistle Reading: Acts 16:16-34**

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe. Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.” Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 8)

- v. Look upon me and have mercy on me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Guide my steps according to Thy word! Alleluia (3x's)

### **Gospel Reading: John 9:1-38**

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself. His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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!

**On-line resources on Holy & Great Council now available: Syosset, NY (OCA)**

In a [recent press release](#) on the web site of the [Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America](#) it was announced that a [special web site](#) providing background information and resources concerning the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, slated to convene in Crete June 16-27, 2016, is now available.

In a video on the Council site, His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople explains that “the foremost goal of this Pan-Orthodox Council is to demonstrate and declare the unity of the Orthodox Church as well as proclaim and pronounce a message of hope and love to the world.”

The historic gathering—in the planning stage since the 1960s—is being supported with digital communications and a multilingual team of experts. According to the GOARCH release, issues to be discussed at the Council span “the mission of the Orthodox Church in the modern world and its relations with other Christian churches to the importance of fasting and the sacrament of marriage.” Also on the agenda will be a discussion on “how the Orthodox Church determines autonomy and matters related to the Orthodox diaspora.”

The Council site features “other videos explaining the Holy and Great Council, resources for media and Orthodox parishes, and a listing of experts available for interviews” that includes the Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis, Theological Advisor to the Ecumenical Patriarch; the Rev. Dr. Nathanael Symeonides, Director of GOARCH's Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; the Rev. Dr. Nicolas Kazarian, who teaches political geography in Paris, France; and Dr. Brandon Gallaher of the United Kingdom, a Professor of theology who is a member of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Archdiocese of Russian Churches in Western Europe. Texts of Council documents also are available on the Council site.

## Announcements (cont.)

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

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

Christine Bava, Benjamin Bava, Jack Drimak offered by M/M Herbert  
Family offered by Pellack Family  
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
Mary McKinney offered by brother Joseph Rabik

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

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

In Memory of Emma Burychka on her one year anniversary of her passing away (6/5/15) offered from her Family  
All Veterans offered by Pellack Family  
Margie Ryan offered by the Hourahan Family

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

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Dolores Helms (Fr. Mark's Mother); Ronald Kavalkovich (on his upcoming surgery this week); 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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#### **2016 PARISH CALENDAR:**

A computer printout version of the 2016 church calendar for the months of May and June are located on the back pew in the church. If this version is acceptable, we will continue to generate the remaining months for 2016.

Also, for those who have access to the Internet, the calendar for May and June are posted in color on the parish website for your convenience under the "Service Schedule" tab section. Thank you!

**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 23 to May 29</u>	<u>May Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	27	47 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 721.00	\$ 9,788.00
Funds Out:	\$ 175.72	\$ 4,285.40
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 545.28	\$ 5,502.60

***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 - Spring General Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.**

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.

**Wednesday, June 8 – Great Vespers with Litva at 6:30pm!**

**Thursday, June 9 – The Ascension of Our Lord.** Divine Liturgy at **9:00AM!**

**Sunday, June 12 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

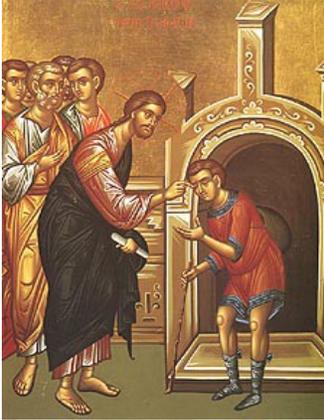
**Annual Pentecost (Pascha) Dinner – Sunday, June 19 after Vespers in the church basement.**

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 Blind Man** [June 5<sup>th</sup>]

After the Midfeast (John 7:14), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (John 8:2). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man “who was blind from his birth (John 9:1).

The miracle described in today’s Gospel (John 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. St Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, “Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes...”.

The Gospel says, “Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind” (John 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mark 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man’s empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

In his MENAION, St Demetrius of Rostov calls the blind man St Celidonius (see his account of St Lazarus in the Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles on January 4).