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, February 12, 2017
Tone 1 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son
St Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch (381).
St Aleksy (Alexius), Metropolitian of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1378).

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector
615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302-322-0943 | Mobile: 302-547-4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com or mkoczak05@aol.com

Parish President - Peter Parsells *Phone: (908) 872.5657*

Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church schoolroom. Discussions to include the lease agreement and the work performed in the Hall.

Tuesday: February 14 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the Church Basement! Continue reading the Book of Exodus.

Saturday: February 18 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: February 19 – Sunday of Meatfare. Sunday of the Last Judgement
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 19 – Annual Roast Pork Sandwich Luncheon after Divine Liturgy.

Sunday: February 19 - Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.
Topic: History of the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!"

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. / And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: / "I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; / receive me as a penitent, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants!"

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v. God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.
Alleluia (3x's)
v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David,
His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!' 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

Communion Hymn:

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.

Announcements (cont.)

2017 House Blessing – Only a couple weeks remain!!
If you wish to have your home blessed before Great Lent begins, please make sure you speak with Father Mark for remaining date availability to schedule a house blessing. The last day Father plans on blessing homes this winter season is Sunday, February 26. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

****

Action taken during the Special General Parish meeting
Last Sunday (February 5) a special general parish meeting was held to discuss the current vacancy of the office of the Parish President. The nomination of Peter Parsells was cast for said position. Upon hearing no other nominations on the floor and his willingness to serve in that capacity, Mr. Peter Parsells was unanimously elected as the Parish President for 2017.
Thank you Peter for running for this position and congratulations to you on your election as Parish President. You have the support from the parish.

Also, Congratulations goes out to both Peter and his lovely wife Heather who announced they will be starting a family. May God grant both of you a many healthy and blessed years!

****

Thank you to all who prepared and thoroughly enjoyed the tasty and delicious soups/stews/chili last week during Soup 'N Bowl II Challenge.
For the second year in a row it was a close race with Mr & Mrs Michael Spack's "A Chili Surprise???" edging out Heather & Peter Parsells Canadian Cheddar Soup by one vote. Congratulations to the Spacks on a delicious dish. Other contestants were Mr & Mrs John Spack's Black Bean Soup, Peter Witiak's Ukranian Borscht, David Pellack's Clam Chowder, Mr & Mrs Herbert Old Fashion Chicken Soup, Sandra Hourahan's Butternut Squash Soup, and Anastasia Kavalkovich's Broccoli and Cheddar Soup. A good afternoon of hot delicious food was had by all.

****

Our parish will NOT be hosting a Mission Vesper service during Lent this year. Once the parish has been informed of this year's Lenten schedule, it will be announced in church and also printed in the bulletin. Please keep checking your bulletin regularly for the Mission Service locations and times.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:
Emily & David Albrecht, Matesy Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Olga Macalush, Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Dave Albrecht Sr. offered by Nina Patterson
Dave Albrecht Sr. offered by Albrecht Family
Judi Currier offered by Albrecht Family
Dave Albrecht Sr. offered by the Pellack Family
Ronald Kavalkovich Sr, Dave Albrecht Sr, offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Dave & Emelie Albrecht offered by Hourahan Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:
Benjamin Macalush, Sophie Herbert, Al Vasallo offered by M/M Herbert
Al Vasallo offered by Hourahan Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

##

Please remember in your prayers: + Father John Udics (on his one year anniversary of his falling asleep); + Archimandrite Athanasy [Mastalski] (on his one year anniversary of his falling asleep); Matushka Juliana Ossorguine Schmemann (newly fallen asleep)

Dave Albrecht Sr (on his recovery from surgery and rehabilitation); Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery); Julia Makara; Margaret Pellack; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; 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 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 (2016-17)
- 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 (January/February)

	Week of Jan 30 to Feb 5	January Month (Unaudited)
Attendance:	43	36 (average)
Funds In:	$ 2,013.15	$ 7,403.15
Funds Out:	$ 3,205.54	$10,005.01
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	($ 1,192.39)	($ 2,601.86)

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

1st Sunday of each month – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.*(if needed)*
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy.

TODAY - Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy!
Property Committee members are asked to attend this meeting to discuss the continued preparation of the lease agreement for the Hall and further details on the next phase of the Hall construction project.

Bible Study – Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 6:30pm in the church basement. The bible study group will gather together at this time and continue reading and studying the Book of Exodus. Keep attentive in your reading and be prepared to continue learning about God's rescue of his people from Egypt, their journey to Sinai, and the covenant between them.

Annual Roast Pork Sandwich Luncheon on Sunday, February 19 [Meatfare Sunday] after Divine Liturgy! Plans on organizing the luncheon have begun. Please see Catherine Kavalkovich if you wish to provide a dish for this annual pre-Lenten luncheon. Catherine will prepare the roast pork. We do need volunteers to bring or prepare other food items!

Church Life Discussion Lecture - Sunday, February 19 after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship hour in the church. [Note Change of Date]
The Topic – History of the Divine Liturgy!
Please note that Forgiveness Sunday occurs on the **4th Sunday** this month (along with having Forgiveness Sunday Vespers right after Divine Liturgy), this month's Church Life Discussions on the History of the Divine Liturgy will be held on **February 19,** which is the **3rd Sunday** of the month!

Forgiveness Sunday Vespers – Sunday, February 26 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The parish traditionally serves this vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading "Vouchsafe, O Lord") that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
[Feburary 12th]

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.