

## 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

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 \* Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

### Sunday, March 5, 2017

Tone 4 – Sunday of Orthodoxy. Martyr Conon of Isauria (1<sup>st</sup> c.)  
Finding of the Relics of Rt Blv. Theodore, Prince of Smolensk and  
his children Ss. David and Constantine, Wonderworkers of Yaroslavi.

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

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Parish President - Peter Parsells

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### Weekly Schedule

Today: Choir Rehearsal in the church after fellowship/coffee hour

Today: Mission Service – Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church  
1406 Philadelphia Pike | Wilmington, DE 19809  
Time: 4:00pm Phone: 302.798.4455  
Website: <http://www.sspeterandpauluoc.org>

Wednesday: March 8 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts begins at 6:30PM

Friday: March 10 - Akathist begins at 6:30PM

Saturday: March 11 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

### **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS! SET CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR!**

Sunday: March 12 – Second Sunday of Great Lent!  
Saint Gregory of Palamas!  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: March 12 – Property Committee Meeting in Church School Room after the Divine Liturgy.

## 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 2 – Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; / and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. / Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. / Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: / “Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, // for Thou alone hast come to save the world.”

### **Kontakion (Tone 8 – Lenten Triodion)**

No one could describe the Word of the Father; / but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, / and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty // We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Song of the Fathers)**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!  
v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

### **Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2**

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. Moses and Aaron were among His priest; Samuel also was among those who called on His name. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. They called to the Lord and he answered them. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51**

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

All of creation rejoiceth in thee, O Full of Grace: / the assembly of Angels and the race of men. / O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, / the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: / our God before the ages. / He made thy body into a throne, / and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoiceth in thee, O Full of Grace. // Glory to thee!

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

**Announcements**

**A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests** 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.)

A Special "Thank You" to both Robert Wanenchak and Emily Gerasimoff for all of their hard work in cleaning up around the outside of the church. Both spend time either during the week or especially on Saturdays continuously cleaning up debris and trash around the church and maintaining the grandeur of the parish area neighborhood. May God Grant You Many Healthy and Happy Years!!!

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Thank you to all parishioners who contributed to last week's charity collection earmarked for the Father John Nightingale Appeal. Through your generous donations, the parish will be forwarding **\$350** towards the appeal.

Fr John is considered a paraplegic after a fall from his porch last year left him with injuries to his neck, vertebrae and spinal cord. He has been in the VA hospital in the Bronx, NY for the past year. Matushka Kyra has not only traveled to the VA hospital to care for Fr John, she is also caring for her own parents. There has been work done in their home for handicap accessibility including a doorway and ramp to the house along with a handicap bathroom. More details in a letter from the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania is posted on the bulletin board.

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The parish has a HP Printer with a toner cartridge available for anyone who wants it. Also included is a CD disc with instructions and setup along with the original packaging box. The only issue with the printer is there is no Internet connection to perform wireless remote printing (say from an iPad or a smart phone) and there are no USB port connections. This printer is available due to the parish upgrading its printer last year that includes copying and scanning capabilities. If interested, please see either Kenny Kavalkovich or Matt Andrews for additional details. Even though the printer is being presented, a free will offering for the printer that will go towards future office supply purchases for the parish would be very much appreciated.

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### **Attendance: First Week of Great Lent Services**

Monday (2/27) – St Andrew of Crete = 17  
Tuesday (2/28) – St Andrew of Crete = 14  
Wednesday (3/1) – St Andrew of Crete = **22** (Nice turnout!)  
Thursday (3/12) – St Andrew of Crete = 15  
Friday (3/3) – Presanctified Liturgy = 10

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Emelie Albrecht, David Albrecht, Olga Macalush offered by M/M Herbert  
Emelie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson  
Margaret Pellack offered by Pellack Family  
Albrecht Family offered by Pellack Family  
Father Mark Koczak (on the anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood) offered by the parishioners of the Church

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Sophie Herbert, Alfonso Vasallo, Helen Herbert, Reader Leonty Macalush offered by M/M Herbert

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Dave Albrecht Sr (on his recovery from surgery and rehabilitation); Emelie Albrecht (on her recent mishap and hospital stay); 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!

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**Parish Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on January 22, 2017 and the minutes from the Special Parish Meeting held on February 5, 2017 have been posted on the bulletin board in the church basement (bulletin board where the sign up sheets are located) for your reading pleasure. Please ensure you review these minutes before our next parish meeting (scheduled to be held sometime during the month of May) since a motion to accept these minutes will be voted on during said meeting.

**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 (February)**

	<u>Week of Feb 20 to Feb 26</u>	<u>February Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	35	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 3,224.00	\$ 8,144.00
Funds Out:	\$ 565.78	\$ 8,472.09
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 2,658.22	(\$ 328.09)

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

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

**PASCHA FLOWERS.** We are collecting for Pascha (Easter) flowers during the Lenten Season. There are special envelopes available to use for your offering for Pascha flower donations. Please give the envelopes to Debbie Kavalkovich or to a member of the parish council for your offering.

**Pussywillows Blooming!** With the abnormal warm weather we had during the month of February, the pussywillow buds came into full bloom this past week. Luckily, the tree in the Church Yard was trimmed last week producing a decent amount of branches with nice blooming buds. However, as of yesterday (March 4), many of these buds now have the Catkins growing on them. Please check your trees and trim ASAP before the Catkins reach full bloom.

### **March 12 – Mission Service at 4:00pm. (TWO LOCATIONS)**

Philadelphia Pan-Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood Mission Service location:  
Saint Michael's Russian Orthodox Church \* 4<sup>th</sup> St & Fairmount Ave,  
Philadelphia, PA 19123. Phone #215.627.6148  
Website: <http://www.saintmichaelsroc.org>

Philadelphia Deanery of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (OCA) Mission Service location:  
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church \* 1236 Juniper Street  
Pottstown, PA 19464. Phone #610.323.4183  
Website: <http://www.holytrinitypottstown.org>

**March 12 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. An agenda was forwarded by email as to what will be discussed in this meeting and the responsibilities assigned to the committee members to be addressed by the March 12 meeting.

**Bible Study – Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30pm in the church basement.** The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and has already begun reading the next book in the bible. They will continue reading and discussing the Book of Leviticus.



## **First Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy** [March 5<sup>th</sup>]

Originally, the Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

Today we commemorate the "Triumph of Orthodoxy," the restoration of the holy icons in the reign of the holy Empress Theodora (February 11).

## **First Saturday of Great Lent: The Miracle of the Boiled Wheat**

Yesterday, we remember the miracle of Saint Theodore and the boiled wheat. Fifty years after the death of Saint Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians during the first week of Great Lent, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. Saint Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather to eat cooked wheat with honey (kolyva).

In memory of this occurrence, the Orthodox Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit on the first Saturday of Great Lent. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the ambo, the Canon to the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by Saint John of Damascus, is sung. After this, kolyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The celebration of the Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397).

The Troparion to Saint Theodore is quite similar to the Troparion for the Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths (December 17, Sunday Before Nativity). The Kontakion to Saint Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).

Saint Theodore the Recruit is also commemorated on February 17.