

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, March 26, 2017 | Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Tone 7 – Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus).

Leavetaking of the Annunciation.

Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel.

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: Church Life Discussion Lecture on the History of the Divine Liturgy upstairs in Church following fellowship/coffee hour

Today: Mission Service – Saint Mark's Orthodox Church
452 Durham Road | Wrightstown, PA 18940-9633
Time: 4:00pm Phone: 215.860.9640
Website: <http://www.stmarksoca.org>

Wednesday: March 29 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts begins at 6:30PM

~~Thursday: March 30 – Canon of St Andrew of Crete begins at 6:30PM – **Service Cancelled!**~~

Friday: March 31 – Akathist beginning at 6:30PM!

Saturday: April 1 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: April 2 – Fifth Sunday of Great Lent! Saint Mary of Egypt!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. /
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy. / and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O
Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Annunciation)

Today is the beginning of our salvation, / the revelation of the eternal mystery! /
The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin / as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. / Together with
him let us cry to the Theotokos: / “Rejoice, O Full of Grace, // the Lord is with thee!”

Troparion (Tone 4 – Archangel)

Gabriel, commander of the heavenly hosts, / we who are unworthy beseech thee, / by thy prayers encompass
us beneath the wings of thine immaterial glory, / and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry to thee: //
“Deliver us from all harm, for thou art the commander of the powers on high!”

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Archangel)

Supreme commander Gabriel, thou art the glorious intercessor and servant / before the all-radiant, worthy,
all-powerful, infinite and awesome Trinity. / Ever pray now that we may be delivered from all tribulations
and torments, // so that we may cry out to thee: “Rejoice, protection of thy servants!”

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Annunciation)

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! / We, thy servants delivered from evil / sing our grateful thanks to
thee, O Theotokos. / As thou dost possess invincible might set us free from every calamity / so that we may
sing: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 7)

The Lord shall give strength to His people / The Lord shall bless His people with peace!
v. Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 7)

- v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:17-31

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not. He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

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

All of creation rejoices in you, 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 your body into a throne, / and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. // Glory to thee!

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. 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.)

Our **Charity collection for Today** is earmarked for the Diocese appeal to aid Fr. George and Matushka Larissa Volkovinsky & family.

Fr. George has been working on getting legal paperwork in place to become a citizen for the last **4** years. Fr. George came to us from Belarus and serves St. John the Baptist in Edwardsville, PA. Presently, his wife and two children are unable to work until they receive green cards.

So far the Diocese has received \$5,170 over the last few years to cover application fees and legal fees, which includes \$2,625 from our most recent appeal. So far, \$5,305 has been paid out. This process is quite lengthy and expensive, requiring an experienced attorney familiar with the process and deadlines for filing. Presently, he needs another \$1,500 just for the attorney fees to file his I-485 form. The application fee for the I-485 form was \$4,900.

As you know dealing with government offices can be difficult and time consuming. We hope to at least secure a green card for Matushka Larissa and his two children before his daughter turns **21** this fall. Once she turns 21, she would be deported if the paperwork is not complete.

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 issues with the printer is there is no Internet connection to perform wireless remote printing (say from an iPad or a smart phone), there is no USB port connections, and it only prints black & white copies. 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.

Attendance: Third Week of Great Lent Services

Saturday (3/18) – Vespers = 11

Sunday Mission Service (3/19) = 3 attended from our parish.

Wednesday (3/22) – Presanctified Liturgy = 11

Friday (3/24) – Vesperal Divine Liturgy (Annunciation) = 11

[Note: Today's readings for the Theotokos are as follows:

Epistle – Hebrews 2:11-18 and Gospel - Luke 1:24-38

and Today's readings for Saint John of the Ladder are as follows:

Epistle – Eph 5:9-19 and Gospel - Matthew 4:25-5:12]

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Simon and Mary Herbert offered by Jack Drimak
Nina Patterson offered by Melanie Albrecht
Marie Fortner offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

William and Julia Brasko offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Robert offered by Pete Witiak

May Their Memories Be Eternal

The Red and White Flowers decorating the cross on the Tetrapod for the Veneration of the Cross last Sunday were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Simon and Mary Herbert in Memory of Michael, Mary, Helen, Maxim, Anna, Benjamin, Sophie, and Rose Mary.

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Please remember in your prayers: Fr. Mark; Dave Albrecht Sr (on his recovery and rehabilitation); Emelie Albrecht (on her recovery & rehabilitation); Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); 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 (March)

	<u>Week of Mar 13 to Mar 19</u>	<u>March Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	35	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,268.00	\$ 3,947.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 7,550.88
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 232.00)	(\$ 3,603.88)

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 – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy.

PASCHA FLOWERS. We are still collecting for Pascha (Easter) flowers during the Lenten Season. There are special envelopes available to use for your offering for Pascha flower donations (envelopes located near the Prosfora table in the vestibule area). Please give the envelopes to the person overseeing the candle desk in the back of the church. Thank you!

TODAY - Church Life Discussion after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship hour in the church.
The Topic – History of the Divine Liturgy. Please note the Church Life Discussions on the History of the Divine Liturgy are held on the **4th Sunday** of each month.

Tuesday, March 28 – Painting Project in the Hall around 10:00am

During last Sunday's Property Committee meeting, it was decided that those available on the above date and time would meet to perform some of the priming and painting needed over at the Hall in order to get it ready for the new tenants.

Sunday, April 2 – Mission Service at 4:00pm.

Saint Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church * 1855 Middletown Road
Gradyville, PA 19093. Phone #610.459.5310
Website: <http://www.sthermansoca.org>

The Schedule of Services during the Lenten Season (for both here at our parish and the Sunday Mission Services) have been posted on the church bulletin boards (in the church vestibule and the church basement) Please check them often for the dates and times of the services. As always, if there are any changes to the service schedule, they will be announced in church, noted in the bulletin, and posted on the parish's social media outlets (i.e. parish website and parish Facebook page).



Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Saint John Climacus (of the Ladder) [March 26th]

Saint John Climacus (or Saint John of the Ladder) was a monk of Mt. Sinai who lived and wrote in the seventh century. He is venerated in the Orthodox Church on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent because of his spiritual struggles and his authorship of the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, a book that describes the spiritual struggle to climb closer to God through acquiring ascetic virtues.

There are among 30 steps on the ladder that correspond to the 30 years of Christ's life, with the entire volume divided into three main sections: 1) general virtues; 2) instructions on overcoming vices and building up the corresponding virtues; and 3) higher virtues that lead to the goals at which ascetic life aims, including prayer, stillness, dispassion, and finally love (agape).

The Ladder was originally written at the request of the abbot of a neighboring monastery, but now its use is widespread in the Church and even in the broader Christian community. Orthodox Christians are called upon to read this book during Lent, and monasteries in particular often read the entire text in the refectory during the Lenten season.

This book calls all to purification through a series of cleansing steps, including denial of self and caring for others. We are invited to examine ourselves in order to learn our faults and purify. Caring for others is a way of cleansing through decreasing our focus on the self. Ultimately, if one is able to follow Saint John's steps, the final goal – the love of others – is accomplished. Saint John's message is one of repentance, of changing around one's life. Saint John wrote, "Do not be surprised that you fall everyday; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience. He who really keeps account of his actions considers as lost every day in which he does not mourn, whatever good he may have done in it."

[Source: Gayle E. Woloschak, PhD from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the IOCC (2016)]