

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, April 2, 2017 | Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

Tone 8 – Saint Mary of Egypt.
Venerable Titus the Wonderworker (9th c.).
Martyrs Amphianus and Edesius of Lycia (306).

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, 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: Property Committee Meeting!! (*See Calendar of Events for details*)
- Today: Mission Service – Saint Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church
1855 Middletown Road | Gradyville, PA 19039
Time: 4:00pm Phone: 610.459.5310
Website: <http://www.sthermansoca.org>
- Wednesday: April 5 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts begins at 6:30PM
- Friday: April 7 – Akathist beginning at 6:30PM!
- Saturday: April 8 – Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy at **9:00AM!**
- Saturday: April 8 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**
(along with the Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)
- Sunday: April 9 – Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (**Palm Sunday!**)
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am (*Church Procession after Liturgy!*)
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Troparion (Tone 8 – Saint Mary of Egypt)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, / for thou didst take up the Cross and followed Christ. / By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passeth away; / but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. // Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoiceth with the angels.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Saint Mary of Egypt)

Having been a sinful woman, / thou becomest through repentance a bride of Christ. / Having attained angelic life, / thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. // Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

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

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:11-14

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:32-45

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again. Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

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 righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. 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.)

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed to last week's charity collection earmarked for the Father George Volkovinsky Appeal. Through your generous donations, the parish will be forwarding **\$250** towards the appeal.

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: Fifth Week of Great Lent Services

Sunday Mission Service (3/26) = 8 attended from our parish.

Wednesday (3/29) – Presanctificied Liturgy = 12

Thursday (3/30) – Canon of St Andrew of Crete = Service was Cancelled!

Friday (3/31) – Akathist Service = Service was Cancelled!

[Note: Today's readings for Saint Mary of Egypt are as follows:

Epistle – Galatians 3:23-29 and Gospel - Luke 7:36-50]

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Gary Race offered by Pellack Family
John Perrozi offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Family offered by Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Michael Zuzulock offered by Pellack Family
Paul Kavcsak (anniversary of his fallen asleep) offered by Daria LeRoy
John and Julia Drimak offered by Jack Drimak Jr.
Grandparents Michael and Anna Bondira offered by Hourahan Family
Grandparents Dimitri and Mary Drimak offered by Hourahan Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

The Blue Flowers on the Tetrapod for the Feast of the Annunciation last weekend were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Simon and Mary Herbert for the health of all the Herbert and Spack family members.

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Please remember in your prayers: Fr. Mark; Dave Albrecht Sr (on his recovery&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 20 to Mar 26</u>	<u>March Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	38	37 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,995.00	\$ 5,942.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,274.42	\$ 8,825.30
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 720.58	(\$ 2,883.30)

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 – **Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room!** All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Status of work performed by the Committee and by the contractor Dan, the final walk-thru scheduled for April 9, the lease agreement, plumbing concerns for 2111 house, and any other open items regarding the Hall before it is rented will be on the agenda for discussion. **Note Change in Date – 1st Sunday of month!**

Sunday, April 9 – Bridegroom Matins Service at 4:00pm.

Saint Stephens Orthodox Cathedral * 8598 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19111. Phone #215.745.3232 (Rectory)
Website: <http://www.ststephenscathedral.org>

Bible Study – Tuesday, April 18 at 6:30pm in the church basement. The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and is reading the next book in the bible. They will continue reading and discussing the Book of Leviticus. **Note Change in Date – 3rd Tuesday of month!**

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).



Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: Saint Mary of Egypt [April 2nd]

On the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, the Church provides us with one final theme of prayer and repentance before we enter Holy Week, the life of Saint Mary of Egypt. Saint Mary explained to Abba Zosimas, “I was born in Egypt, and when I was 12 years old, I left my parents and went to Alexandria. There I gave myself to unrestrained sensuality. For more than 17 years I lived like that.”

Saint Mary described how she boarded a ship of pilgrims on its way to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Upon arrival she attempted to enter the church, but a force prevented her entrance. She realized that she had to repent of her sinful ways, and the Blessed Theotokos revealed to her that salvation awaited her in the desert beyond the Jordan River by means of continual prayer and fasting.

Abba Zosimas asked her, “How many years have passed since you began to live in the desert?” She replied, “It is 47 years.” Abba Zosimas asked, “What food do you find here?” She said, “I had two and a half loaves of bread when I crossed the Jordan. Eating a little at a time, I finished them after a few years.”

On this Sunday of Great Lent, the Church encourages us to emulate this powerful example of lifelong repentance by prayer and fasting. While we all surely eat more than two and a half loaves of bread in a few years, our meager fasting should heighten our compassion for the poor and the hungry, and whatever resources we are able to preserve by fasting become available for “the least of these my brethren.” Let us reach out to the poor and destitute throughout the world with the inspiration of Saint Mary of Egypt, especially during this time of tumult and suffering.

[Source: Very Reverend Father Michael Ellias from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the IOCC (2016)]

NOTE: If anyone wishes to read more about the life of both Saint Mary of Egypt and Abba Zosimas, please go on the OCA website (www.oca.org) and click on the Feast & Saints link, then select today’s date, and then click on the “Read the Life” box for 5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt.