

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 18, 2018

Tone 4 – Sunday of Cheesefare. Forgiveness Sunday
The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise
Saint Leo the Great, Pope of Rome (461)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately after Divine Liturgy!

Beginning of Great Lent (Strict Fasting Observed)

Service Schedule for the First Week of Great Lent is
noted under Calendar of Events (page 7) of this bulletin!

Saturday: February 24 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: February 25 – First Sunday of Great Lent! Sunday of Orthodoxy!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 25 – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy!
Topic: Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. Its history and the stories
displayed on them.

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!”

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Lenten Triodion)

O Master, Teacher of wisdom, / Bestower of virtue, / Who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the poor, / strengthen and enlighten my heart! /
O Word of the Father, / let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: /
Have mercy on me, a transgressor, // O merciful Lord!

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: Romans 13:11-14:4

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 6)

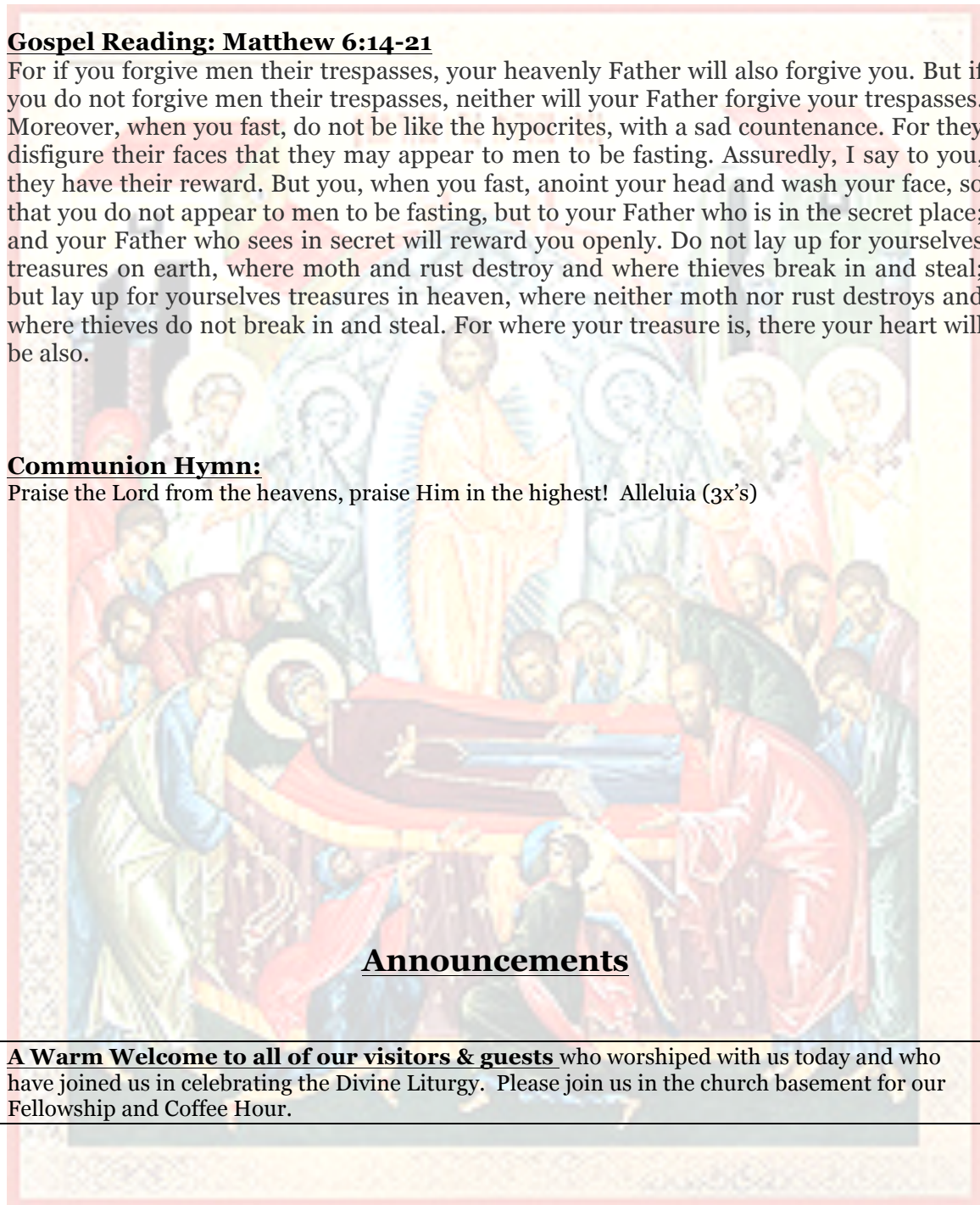
- v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High Alleluia (3x's)
- v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:14-21

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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 & 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

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Spring Season:

The 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign began on February 14 and continues until Sunday, March 25. This will be the largest campaign ever with peaceful vigils occurring in ALL 50 states at the same time! Meanwhile the killing still continues at Planned Parenthood. Thank you so much in advance for signing up for this list and being willing to continue standing up for those that can't speak for themselves.

Information:

- * Contacts: Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084
- * Email: roobearoo@hotmail.com
- * Website: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/philadelphia/>

- * Prayer vigil located at 12th & Locust St, Philadelphia – Planned Parenthood
- * Vigils open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.
- * Try to have at least one person there to cover the hour.
- * There are more abortions performed there than at any other Planned Parenthood in Pennsylvania!

The 40 Days For Life is not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a peaceful physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves.

Other peaceful vigils located in the surrounding areas include:
New Jersey – Cherry Hill
Pennsylvania – Northeast Philadelphia, Bryn Mawr, Norristown, and West Chester
Delaware - Dover

2018 House Blessing – Only a couple weeks remain!!!

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany which was on Saturday, January 6. 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.

Our parish will be hosting a Mission Vespers Service on Sunday, March 25 – St. Mary of Egypt beginning at 4:00PM. As a result of hosting this service, during the Lenten Season, a church cleaning is scheduled the day before on Saturday, March 24 with a start time To Be Determined.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Joseph Herbert offered by M/M Herbert

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Emelie Albrecht offered by her son Dr. David Albrecht

Emeilie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson

Emelie Albrecht, Robert Corba, Arthur Phelps offered by Emily Gerasimoff

Arthur Phelps offered by Joseph Rabik

Emelie Albrecht, Robert Corba, Helen Herbert, Reader Leonty Macalush offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed handmaiden of God Emelie Albrecht (Feb 6)

+ Newly Departed servant of God Robert Corba (Feb 6)

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Nancy Brasko Rabik; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Also, please keep in your prayers the victims (14 students and 3 teachers), those injured, and the first responders assisting them from the terrible and senseless tragedy that occurred on Wednesday, February 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Memory Eternal!

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2018 St Tikhon's Lectionary Church Wall Calendars!

We no longer have any 2018 calendars for sale. Also, if you still owe for your calendar (\$5), please settle up your balance with a member of the parish council or someone at the candle desk. 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 (2016-18)
- 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 5 to Feb 11</u>	<u>February Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	35	40 (average)
Vespers (2/10)	5	
Funds In:	\$ 1,257.00	\$ 4,117.00
Funds Out:	\$ 150.83	\$ 3,425.81
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,106.17	\$ 691.19

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 Divine Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

Today - Forgiveness Sunday Vespers 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!

First Week of Great Lent Service Schedule - February 19th to 25th

Monday, February 19 – Saint Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Tuesday, February 20 – Saint Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Wednesday, February 21 – Saint Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Thursday, February 22 – Saint Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Friday, February 23 – The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts beginning at 6:30PM
Saturday, February 24 – Great Vespers beginning at 5:00PM
Sunday, February 25 – Divine Liturgy (Orthodoxy Sunday) beginning at 10:00AM
Sunday, February 25 – Mission Vespers Service (See below for location and details)

Any changes in the schedule or time will be announced in our parish media outlets (church bulletin, the parish website and parish FaceBook page).

Sunday, February 25 – Mission Service at 4:00pm.

Philadelphia Deanery of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (OCA)
Archbishop Mark presiding
St Stephen Cathedral * 8598 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19111. Phone #215.745.3232
Website: <http://www.ststephenscathedral.org>

February 25 - Church Life Discussion class after Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour. (The 4th Sunday of the month)

The Topic – Icons, Iconography, and Iconostas. It’s history and the stories displayed on them.



Sunday of Cheesefare, Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

[February 18th]

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendents became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

Taking Lent Seriously: (an excerpt from Fr Steven Kostoff's column in Reflection in Christ from the oca.org website)...

"What can we do during Great Lent? How do we not squander this time that we should set aside for God?"

- **Prayer** - Make provision to be in church for some of the Lenten services. Start with the first week of Great Lent and the Canon of Repentance of Saint Andrew of Crete. Assume or resume a regular Rule of Prayer in your home. Read the psalms and other Scripture carefully and prayerfully. Pray for others.
- **Charity** – Open your heart to your neighbor. If you believe that Christ dwells within you, then try to see Christ in your neighbor. Make your presence for the "other" encouraging and supportive. Restrain your "ego" for the sake of your neighbor. Help someone in a concrete manner this Great Lent.
- **Fasting** – Set domestic goals about the manner in which you will observe the fast. Test yourselves. Resist minimalism. If you "break" the fast, do not get discouraged or "give up," but start over. Assume that your Orthodox neighbor is observing the fast. Seek silence. Allow for a different atmosphere in the home."

2018 Lenten Schedule

1st Week of Lent

Monday February 19, 2018 - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - 6:30 PM
Tuesday February 20, 2018 - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - 6:30 PM
Wednesday February 21, 2018 - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - 6:30 PM
Thursday February 22, 2018 - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - 6:30 PM
Friday February 23, 2018 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:30 PM
Saturday February 24, 2018 - Great Vespers - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2018 - MISSION VESPER - ST. STEPHEN'S - 4:00 PM
ADDRESS: 8598 VERREE ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111
WEBSITE: <http://www.ststephenscathedral.org>

2nd Week of Lent

Wednesday February 28, 2018 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:30 PM
Friday March 2, 2018 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:30 PM
Saturday March 3, 2018 - Memorial Saturday - Divine Liturgy - 9:00 AM
Saturday March 3, 2018 - Great Vespers - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY MARCH 4, 2018 -MISSION VESPER - ST. GEORGE'S - 4:00 PM
ADDRESS: 8210 W. CHESTER PIKE, UPPER DARBY, PA 19082
WEBSITE: <https://www.saintgeorgeupperdarby.org>

3rd Week of Lent

Wednesday March 7, 2018 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:30 PM
Friday March 9, 2018 - Akathist - 6:30 PM
Saturday March 10, 2018 - Great Vespers 5:00 PM

SUNDAY MARCH 11, 2018 - MISSION VESPER - ST. VLADIMIR'S - 4:00 PM
ADDRESS: 812 GRAND STREET, TRENTON, NJ 08610
WEBSITE: <http://saintvladimir.org/>

4th Week of Lent

Tuesday March 13, 2018 - Bible Study - 6:30 PM
Wednesday March 14, 2018 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:30 PM
Friday March 16, 2018 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:30 PM
Saturday March 17, 2018 - Great Vespers - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY MARCH 18, 2018 - MISSION VESPER - ST. MARY'S
ADDRESS: 3 WARD STREET, CHESTER, PA 19013

5th Week of Lent

Wednesday March 21, 2018 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:30 PM

Thursday March 22, 2018 - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - 6:30 PM
Friday March 23, 2017 - Akathist - 6:30 PM
Saturday March 24, 2018 - Great Vespers - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY MARCH 25, 2018 - MISSION VESPER - **OUR CHURCH!**

6th Week of Lent

Wednesday March 28, 2018 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:30 PM
Friday March 30, 2018 - Vespers of Lazarus Saturday - 6:30 PM
Saturday March 31, 2018 - Lazarus Saturday - Divine Liturgy - 9:00 AM
Saturday March 31, 2018 - Great Vespers at 5:00pm (after Vespers - Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)

SUNDAY APRIL 1, 2018 - BRIDEGROOM MATINS - ST. STEPHEN'S - 4:00 PM

ADDRESS: 8598 VERREE ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111

WEBSITE: <http://www.ststephenscathedral.org>

Holy Week

Monday, April 2, 2018 - Bridegroom Matins - 6:30 PM
Tuesday, April 3, 2018 - Bridegroom Matins - 6:30 PM **with Archbishop Mark**
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 - Holy Unction with Archbishop Mark 6:30 PM at St. Herman's of Alaska Orthodox Church: 1855 Middletown Rd, Gradyville, PA 19039
Thursday, April 4, 2018 - Holy Thursday - Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil - 10:00 AM
Thursday, April 4, 2018 - Holy Thursday - Friday Matins with reading of the 12 Passion Gospels - 6:00 PM
Friday, April 5, 2018 - Holy Friday - Vespers - 4:00 PM
Friday, April 6, 2018 - Holy Friday - Matins with Lamentations - 6:30 PM
Saturday, April 7, 2018 - Holy Saturday - Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great (*with All 15 Readings*) - 10:00 AM
Sunday, April 8, 2018 - Pascha Service (Procession, Matins, Divine Liturgy) - 8:30 AM
Sunday, April 8, 2018 - Pascha Vespers approximately 15 minutes after the Blessing of the Easter Baskets

No services at the parish during Bright Week (Monday thru Friday) - Vespers on Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday April 15, 2018 - St. Thomas Sunday - Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM
Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery (weather permitting)

NO Confessions will be heard during Holy Week. The last time Father Mark will hear confessions will be BEFORE Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday!