

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, February 25, 2018

Tone 5 – Sunday of Orthodoxy

The First Sunday of Great Lent

Saint Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (806)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Parish President - Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

**Today, 34 years ago, Father Mark was ordained into the priesthood
May God Grant You, Father Mark, Many Happy, Healthy Years!!!**

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

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

Saturday: March 3 – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy at **9:00AM!**

Saturday: March 3 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: March 4 – Second Sunday of Great Lent! St Gregory Palamas!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

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 rejoices 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 rejoices 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

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Spring Season:

The 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign has begun (Feb 14 to Sunday, March 25). This will be the largest campaign ever with peaceful vigils occurring in ALL 50 states at the same time!

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.

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 Delaware - Dover
Pennsylvania – Northeast Philadelphia, Bryn Mawr, Norristown, and West Chester

2018 House Blessing – Final week!

Please speak with Father Mark this week 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.

Attendance: First Week of Great Lent Services

Monday (2/19) – St Andrew of Crete = 20 (Nice turnout!)
Tuesday (2/20) – St Andrew of Crete = **25 (Even Better!!!)**
Wednesday (2/21) – St Andrew of Crete = 15 (Boooooo!!!!!!)
Thursday (2/22) – St Andrew of Crete = 23 (Again, nice turnout!)
Friday (2/23) – Presanctified Liturgy = 16

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Marie Fortner offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
The Rabik Family offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Emelie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson and Natalie Patterson
Emelie Albrecht and Robert Corba offered by Nina Patterson
John and Julia Jugan offered by the Pellack Family
Rabik Family members offered by Joseph Rabik
Emelie Albrecht and Robert Corba offered by the Albrecht Family
Emelie Albrecht offered by Daria LeRoy
William and Julia Brasko offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Emelie Albrecht, Robert Corba offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

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!

In addition, the Reverend William (Billy) Franklin Graham Jr who passed away on Wednesday, February 21 at the age of 99.

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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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 12 to Feb 18</u>	<u>February Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	42	40 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,569.00	\$ 6,686.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,814.05	\$ 5,239.86
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 754.95	\$ 1,446.14

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 - 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.

Today – 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.ststephencathedral.org>

Second Week of Great Lent Service Schedule - February 26th to March 4th

Wednesday, February 28 – The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts beginning at 6:30PM

Friday, March 2 – The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts beginning at 6:30PM

Saturday, March 3 – Memorial Saturday. Divine Liturgy at **9:00AM**

Saturday, March 3 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM

Sunday, March 4 – Divine Liturgy (St Gregory Palamas) beginning at 10:00AM

Sunday, March 4 – 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, March 4 – Mission Service at 4:00pm.

Philadelphia Pan-Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood

St George's Antiochian Orthodox Church * 8210 West Chester Pike

Upper Darby, PA 19082. Phone #610.853.1171

Website: <http://www.saintgeorgeupperdarby.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).



First Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy [February 25th]

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.