

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 18, 2018

Tone 8 – Saint John Climacus of the Ladder

The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Repose of St Nikolai of Zhicha (1956) / St Cyril of Alexandria (386)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Parish President - Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Mission Service at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church
West 3rd Street & Ward Street * Chester, PA at **4:00PM!**

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

Thursday: March 22 – St Andrew of Crete Canon Service at 6:30pm.

Saturday: March 24 - Church Cleaning – **9:00AM**

Saturday: March 24 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: March 25– Fifth Sunday of Great Lent! St Mary of Egypt

Annunciation of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: March 25 - Mission Service hosted by our Parish at 4pm!

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 1 – St John Climacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – St John Climacus)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, / to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, // O our father and teacher John.

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – St John Climacus)

Let the Saints be exalted in glory / let them sing for joy on their couches.

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 8)

- 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 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 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!
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

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Spring Season:

The 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign is in its final week (ending 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

The Parish Mailing Address is the PO Box address!!!

Please be aware that our mailing address is the PO Box address noted at the top on the front of the bulletin. The church location is no longer a valid mailing address and the mail will no longer be delivered to it. This includes any one of the following combinations below that will no longer be accepted:

- 2101 South 28th Street * Philadelphia, PA 19145
- 28th Street and Snyder Avenue * Philadelphia, PA 19145
- 2800 Snyder Avenue * Philadelphia, PA 19145

Mission Service at our Parish on Sunday, March 25 at 4:00PM!

As a result of hosting this service on St. Mary of Egypt and the Annunciation, a church cleaning is scheduled the day before **on Saturday, March 24** with a start time around **9:00AM!**

Attendance: Third Week of Great Lent Services

Sunday Mission Service (3/11) = 1 from our parish attended!

Wednesday (3/14) – Presanctified Liturgy = 12

Friday (3/16) – Presanctified Liturgy = 10

Saturday (3/17) – Vespers = 13

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Joseph Herbert offered by MM Herbert

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Emelie Albrecht, Robert Corba offered by MM Herbert

Robert Corba offered by Joseph Rabik

Emelie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson

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 Emelie Albrecht and Robert Corba.

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Please remember in your prayers:

- + On the Fortieth Day of the Newly Departed Handmaiden of God Emelie Albrecht (Feb 6)
- + On the Fortieth Day of the Newly Departed Servant of God Robert Corba (Feb 6)

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; 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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{Note: *Today's readings for Saint John of the Ladder are as follows:
Epistle – Ephesians 5:9-19 and Gospel – Matthew 4:25-5:12}*

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

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 (March)

	<u>Week of Mar 5 to Mar 11</u>	<u>March Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	41	40 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,441.00	\$ 4,525.00
Funds Out:	(\$ 358.13) <i>reimbursement</i>	\$ 3,463.12
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,799.13	\$ 1,061.88

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 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.

Sunday, March 18 – Mission Service at 4:00pm.

St Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church * Corner of 2499 West 3rd St & Ward St
Chester, PA 19013. Phone #610.497.1993
Website: N/A

Fifth Week of Great Lent Service Schedule – March 19th to March 25^h

Wednesday, March 21 – The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts beginning at 6:30PM
Thursday, March 22 – Canon of St Andrew of Crete beginning at 6:30PM
Friday, March 23 – Akathist to the Theotokos beginning at 6:30PM
Saturday, March 24 – Church Cleaning for Mission Service beginning at 9:00AM
Saturday, March 24 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM
Sunday, March 25 – Divine Liturgy (Annunciation) beginning at 10:00AM
Sunday, March 25 – Mission Vespers Service **AT OUR PARISH**

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

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

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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 a member of the parish council for your offering. Thank You!

Cleaning Teams: Today (Mar 18): *Saint Juvenaly (Jennifer Cantrell (and family) and Ronald & Cheryl Homa).* Next Week (Mar 25): *Saint Innocent (David Albrecht, Melanie Albrecht, and Robert Wanenchak.* NOTE: *Saint Juvenaly and Saint Innocent teams are switching weeks!!!!*



Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Saint John Climacus (of the Ladder) [March 18th]

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)]