

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 24, 2019

Tone 6 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

First (4th c.) and Second (452) Findings of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious
Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302-322-0943 | Mobile: 302-547-4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com

Parish President - Matthew Andrews

Phone: (856) 217.8075

Weekly Schedule

Today: Annual Roast Pork Luncheon after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement.

Today: Youth Outing to the Franklin Institute to view the exhibit:
Vikings – Beyond the Legend

[35 years ago tomorrow, Father Mark was ordained into the priesthood](#)
[May God Grant You, Father Mark, Many Happy, Healthy Years!!!](#)

Saturday: March 2– Great Vespers at **4:00PM!** *Note Time Change!*

Sunday: March 3 – Meatfare Sunday. Sunday of Last Judgement
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 4 – St John the Baptist)

The head of the Forerunner has shone from the earth, / sending forth rays of incorruption and healings to the faithful. / It gathers together a multitude of Angels above / and summons the human race below // to send up glory with one voice to Christ our God.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – St John the Baptist)

O Prophet of God and Forerunner of Grace, / we have found thy head as a sacred rose. / Therefore we always receive healings from it, / and, as in times past, now thou dost preach repentance to the world.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. / And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; / receive me as a penitent, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7)

The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall set his hope in Him

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 6)

- v. He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!' 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

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

2019 House Blessing

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 is Sunday, 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.

2019 Mission Service - Sunday, April 7, - At Our Parish

Our parish will be hosting a Mission Vespers Service on Sunday, April 7 (the 4th of Great Lent – St. John Climacus) 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, April 6 with a start time To Be Determined as we get closer to that date.

Choir Rehearsal schedule for Lent and Pascha

Please keep in contact with Choir Director Nina Patterson as to the schedule for choir rehearsals over the next two months. She will inform you when and where rehearsals will take place.

The OCA Metropolitan Council concludes Spring Session.

The Spring Session of the Metropolitan Council of the OCA concluded on Friday, February 15, 2019. You are encouraged to go online at www.oca.org and review the highlights of the three-day meeting prepared by Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary.

One item of importance is the Metropolitan Council members unanimously approved – with the blessing of the Holy Synod of Bishops – that Baltimore, MD would be the site of the 20th All-American Council [AAC], slated to convene from July 23 through July 30, 2021. The Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel will serve as the venue for the AAC.

Also, extensive discussions took place regarding the 50th Anniversaries of the Canonization of Saint Herman of Alaska and the Granting of Autocephaly both to be commemorated in 2020.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and parishioners offered by M/M Walker
Gary Race offered by Pellack Family
Lynn Brubaker offered by Pellack Family
Family offered by Nina Patterson
Baby Lucas Christopher Andrews offered by Emily Gerasimoff

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Emelie Albrecht offered by Emily Gerasimoff

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 2/17/19:

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich; Dr. Jane Kelly; Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces! In addition, please keep in your prayers the following: Lucas Christopher Andrews (**newly born – Feb 8**), Allison Andrews, Christopher Andrews, grandparents Barbara and Norman Andrews, and great grandparents Catherine and Albert Kavalkovich.

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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.)

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 – Youth Fund (*reactivated July 2018*)
- 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 February 11 to February 17</u>	<u>February Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	45	44 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 3,184.00	\$ 8,493.00
Funds Out:	\$ 783.93	\$ 4,823.65
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 2,400.07	\$ 3,669.35

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, February 24 – The Annual Roast Pork Sandwich Luncheon [Meatfare Sunday] after Divine Liturgy!

Plans on organizing the luncheon have begun. Please see Catherine Kavalkovich if you wish to provide a dish for this annual pre-Lenten luncheon. We do need volunteers to bring or prepare other food items!

Sunday, February 24 – Youth Outing to the Franklin Institute after the Parish Meatfare Luncheon. The Exhibit – Vikings: Beyond The Legend!

For those who wish to join our parish youth in experiencing the explorers, warriors, craftspeople, merchants and farmers the Vikings were, please get in contact with Lena Helen regarding the availability of tickets to this exhibit.

Sunday, March 3 – Holy Ghost’s Annual Spring Fling - Pasta Luncheon! 2310 South 24th Street * Philadelphia, PA! Doors open at 11AM & Lunch served at 12 noon.

Tickets (including admission and buffet) are \$15 for adults 13 and over and \$7 for children 12 and under. There will be a lunch and dessert buffet along with standard and premium raffle baskets. For more information on this event from one of our neighboring churches a few blocks away, please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board down in the church basement.

Sunday, March 10 - 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 – St Andrew of Crete Services

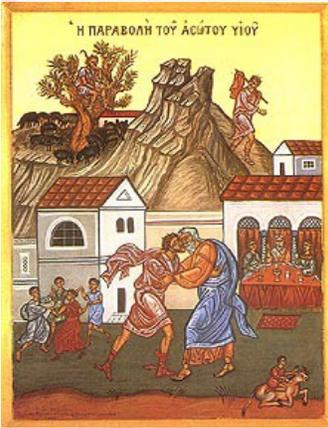
Monday, March 11 to Thursday March 14

The service for Saint Andrew of Crete will be held each night (weather permitting) beginning at 6:00PM. This is a change from previous years by moving up this service one-half hour earlier. Also, Daylight Savings begins on Sunday, March 10.

Cleaning Teams:

Today (Feb 24): Saint Innocent
(David Albrecht and Melanie Albrecht).

Next Week (Mar 3): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).



Sunday of the Prodigal Son [February 24th]

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

This parable of God’s forgiveness calls us to come to ourselves” as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being “in a far country” far from the Father’s house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only “arise and go,” confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that “home” where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn “By the Waters of Babylon.” It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today’s Gospel.

[Note: Today’s readings for St John the Baptist are as follows:
Epistle – 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 and Gospel – Matthew 11:2-15]