

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, March 17, 2019

Tone 1 – First Sunday of Great Lent | Sunday of Orthodoxy
Venerable Alexius, the Man of God (411)
St Patrick, Bishop of Amagh, Enlightener of Ireland (ca. 461)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement schoolroom.

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

Saturday: March 23 – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy at **9:00AM!**

Saturday: March 23– Great Vespers at **4:00PM!** *Note Time Change!*

Sunday: March 24 – 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

Sunday: March 24 – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.
Topic: Don't Be Tone Deaf!

Monday: March 25 – Divine Liturgy – Annunciation - **9:00AM!**

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

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)

Prayer during the Service of The Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers

+ The Triumph of Orthodoxy +

This is the Faith of the Apostles, this is the Faith of the Fathers, this is the Faith of the Orthodox, this is the Faith which has established the whole Universe!

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 arrived (Mar 6 to Sunday, April 14). This campaign of peaceful vigils will occur 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
- * Prayer vigil located at 777 Appletree Street, Philadelphia – Phila. Women Center
- * 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

Saturday, April, 6 - Lenten Retreat - Holy Cross in Medford, NJ

Topic: How to Be a Sinner – Finding Yourself in the Language of Repentance

Speaker: Dr Peter Bouteneff Time: 10AM to 3PM with Lunch Break

Please see Flyer posted on our bulletin boards in the church and church basement

Sunday, April 7, 2019 - Mission Service - 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.

Attendance: First Week of Great Lent Services

Monday (3/11) – St Andrew of Crete = 21

Tuesday (3/12) – St Andrew of Crete = 23

Wednesday (3/13) – St Andrew of Crete = 18

Thursday (3/14) – St Andrew of Crete = 23

Friday (3/15) – Presanctified Liturgy = 26

Saturday (3/16) – Great Vespers = 10

(Overall, Nice Turnout this Week!!!)

The Parish is now accepting either actual donations of wool or monetary donations to purchase wool to knit blankets and hats. Please see Dr. Janine McCartney for more details on this project!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Marie Bilaski offered by Nina Patterson
Kyra Skoog offered by Nina Patterson
Matesy Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
John Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Anastasia and Colin on their engagement offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich
Family and Friends offered by M/M Ken Kavalkovich
Anastasia and Colin on their engagement offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Helen Wanenchak offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – Today 3/17/19:

Memory of Joseph Herbert offered by Mr. & Dr. McCartney
Health of Kavalkovich & Andrews Families offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed handmaiden of God Helen Wanenchak (March 2)
Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich; Margaret Pellack; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those
who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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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 six weeks. She will inform you when and where rehearsals will take place.

MONDAY, MARCH 25 – THE HISTORY CHANNEL – JESUS: HIS LIFE
8:00PM TO 10:00PM. AIRING EVERY MONDAY UNTIL APRIL 15.

**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 (March)

	<u>Week of March 4 to March 10</u>	<u>March Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	44	37 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 3,277.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,481.22	\$ 3,905.12
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 401.22)	(\$ 628.12)

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 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of each month)!

All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting; Church status from the water damage on north side of building; Hall status update; tenant situation at 2109 house; and the work performed on 2111. **RESCHEDULED FROM THIS WEEK!**

Second Week of Great Lent Service Schedule – March 18th to 24th

Wednesday, March 20 – The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts beginning at 6:00PM
Friday, March 22 – The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts beginning at 6:00PM
Saturday, March 23– Memorial Saturday beginning at 9:00AM
Saturday, March 23– Great Vespers beginning at 4:00PM
Sunday, March 24 – Divine Liturgy (St Gregory Palamas) beginning at 10:00AM
Sunday, March 24 – 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 24 – Mission Service at 4:00pm.

Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit Romanian Orthodox Church
1323 Ashbourne Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027-2678 Phone #248.808.2465 (Fr. Sabin Pop's #)
Website: <http://www.dhs-ro.org>

Sunday, March 24 - Church Life Discussion class (The 4th Sunday of the month)

The Topic: Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Arrangements and Beauty of the Eight Tones during all Liturgical Services.

Monday, March 25 – Divine Liturgy at 9:00AM!

The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary

Cleaning Teams: Today (Mar 17): Saint John Kochurov
(Daria LeRoy, Rick LeRoy, Michael Wanenchak).

Next Week (Mar 24): Saint Alexander Hotovitzky
(Breet McKenna, Tanya Krawchuk, Pete Witiak).



First Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy [March 17th]

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.