

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, May 5, 2019 | Second Sunday of Pascha

Tone 1 – Saint Thomas Sunday

Greatmartyr Irene of Thessalonica (1st - 2nd c). St Ephraim of Nea Makri

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Blessing of Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery
(For those that stay at the cemetery after the grave blessing,
a Paschal picnic will be held near the Spack family gravesite)
(Weather Permitting!!!)

Saturday: May 11 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: May 12 - 3rd Sunday of Pascha Holy Myrrhbearing Women
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Tuesday: May 14 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement.
The class will continue reading the Books of Samuel.

Sunday: May 19 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7 – Pentecostarion)

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! / Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ God. / Renew in us through them an upright spirit, // by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

Kontakion (Tone 8 - Pentecostarion)

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, / when Thou didst come to Thy Apostles through closed doors. // He cried out with all: “Thou art my Lord and my God!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power! / His understanding is beyond measure!
v. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.

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. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing the following

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: / "Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice, / Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! / With Himself He has raised all the dead." / Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! / The glory of the Lord has shone on you. / Exult now, / and be glad, O Zion! / Be radiant, / O pure Theotokos, / in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! 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

Friends of Mount Moriah Cemetery Inc. – Grass Cutting Events

The Friends of Mount Moriah Cemetery Inc. (FOMMCI) have scheduled grass cutting and weed whacking the first and third Saturdays of the month. Volunteers are welcome to join the FOMMCI on these Saturdays to help cut grass and/or whack weeds. FOMMCI has limited amount of equipment and encourages volunteers to bring a mower or weed whacker. Volunteers are to meet at the entrance to the Philadelphia side of the cemetery (6201 Kingsessing Ave.) by 8am sharp. The event is scheduled from 8am to 12 noon.

Saturday Dates: 5/18, 6/1, 6/15, 7/6, 7/20, 8/3, 8/17, 9/7, 9/21, and 10/5.

On a different note but similar topic, please keep in your prayers Paulette Rhone, president of the Friends of Mount Moriah Cemetery Inc., who passed away back on February 11, 2019 at the age of 64. She was a tremendous force in getting the cemetery back to its current condition. She even joined our parish once or twice when we blessed graves and “picnicked” afterwards. Memory Eternal!

SPRING OUTDOOR CLEANUP – DATE/TIME TBD

As spring begins to wind down and the hot, hazy, humid days of summer begin to move in, the parish would like to have volunteers to perform an outdoor clean up, specifically, cleaning up the backyard area over at the 2111 home, the yard area behind the garage, and the area behind the Church Hall. These three areas have tremendous growth of grass and weeds during the summer. Performing a routine maintenance of these grounds in the spring will assist in a more manageable Fall cleanup later at the end of the year. The Date and Time is yet To Be Determined, but the parish would like this project to be performed on a Saturday in either May or June before the summer begins and before the work begins to repair the roof and wall from the water damage.

AMAZON SMILE!

When ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

Wool Donations:

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:

Family and Friends offered by Nina Patterson
Peggy Pellack-Walker offered by Pellack Family
Renzetti Family offered by Kathy & Joe Renzetti
Kavalkovich and Andrews Families offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Dan Herbert offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Nancy Brasko Rabik offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Parents John and Anna Rabik offered by Joseph Rabik
Anna and Sam Sabato offered by Kathy & Joe Renzetti
William Zuzulock offered by Kathy & Joe Renzetti
Mary Zuzulock offered by Kathy & Joe Renzetti
Parents Paul and Irene Kavcsak offered by M/M R LeRoy
Parents Paul and Julia Gavula offered by Walter Gavula

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 4/28/19:

One Large Votive Cross - Memory of John Pellack and Zuzulock Family offered by David and Margaret Pellack.

One Small Votive Cross – Health of Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Catherine and Albert Kavalkovich.

Remaining Votive Cross Candles –

Memory of Paul and Irene Kavcsak offered by Nina Patterson
Memory of Emelie Albrecht offered by Melanie Albrecht
Memory of Spack Family offered by Michael Spack
Health of Matesy Herbert offered by Sal Herbert
Health of Spack Family offered by John Spack

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Catherine Kavalkovich; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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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 (April)

	<u>Week of April 22 to April 28</u>	<u>April Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	125	64 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 3,920.00	\$ 12,539.65
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,446.58
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 3,920.00	\$ 7,093.07

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 - St Thomas Sunday

After Divine Liturgy and if the weather cooperates with us, we will have our annual Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery. For those that stay at the cemetery after the grave blessing, a Paschal picnic will be held near the Spack (Onufer & Julia) family gravesite. Please bring your favorite Pascha foods, beverages, and lawn chairs. Please dress appropriately for that day's weather (jackets, windbreakers, hats, sunscreen, etc...).

Bible Study – Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will continue the readings and discussing the section in the Bible – The Books of **Samuel**.

Sunday, May 19 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd 3rd Sunday this month – Please Note Change in Date)! All property committee members are asked to attend this important meeting. Discussions will include the work to repair the roof and wall as a result of the water damage, and in preparation for the Spring Parish Meeting in June.

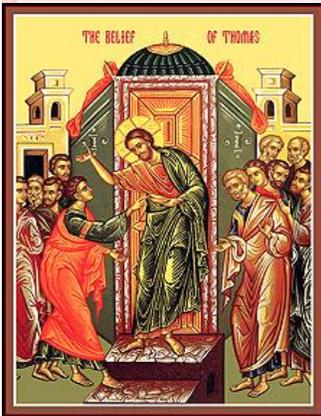
Sunday, May 26 - Church Life Discussion class after Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour. (The 4th Sunday this month)!

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

The Spring Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2019 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

In addition to its regular scheduled business to discuss church matters, the parish will hear from representatives from the Property Committee who will present proposals on the necessary work that needs to be performed on the roof and walls where the water damage has occurred. As evidence as to what occurred this past week during Holy Week, this is an important meeting where the parishioners will decide on how and where funds from the insurance proceeds and the parish's building funds are to be dispersed. An official call to meeting will be in a few weeks.

Cleaning Teams: Today (May 5): Saint Juvenaly
(Jennifer Cantrell & Family, Ronald & Cherly Homa).
Next Week (May 12): Saint Innocent
(Dave Albrecht, Melanie Albrecht).



ANTIPASCHA:
Saint Thomas Sunday
[May 5th]

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” When St Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as “Antipascha.” This does not mean “opposed to Pascha,” but “in place of Pascha.” Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection. Sunday is called “Resurrection” in Russian, and “the Lord’s Day” in Greek.

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Father Mark wishes to thank ALL of those who offered their talent during Lent and Holy Week with the cleaning of the church, the setting up and breaking down of the tomb and flower stands, the constant picking up and relaying down the carpet where the water was leaking in the church, the group who picked up the French fries on Holy Friday, to everyone who read during the services, and all of the Pascha preparations. To Debbie Kavalkovich for this year’s flower selections. To Nina Patterson and the choir for the lovely singing all throughout Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha. To those who served behind the altar. And finally, Matthew Andrews for all of the procession preparations last week!

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

She tended Mount Moriah until her death. Now, her friends hope to bury her in the abandoned cemetery.

Mike Newall – Phillynews.com – March 1, 2019

Ken Smith had already draped the iron gates of Mount Moriah Cemetery in Southwest Philadelphia in purple mourning bunting. On Friday morning, he drove through them onto the snowy, abandoned grounds, heading to a grave he hopes will hold a friend.

He drove past the ruins of the original gatehouse, past century-old evergreens as broad as rowhouses, and the marble statue of Father Time keeping watch above the brush. Past the Civil War graves and over a gentle hill, stopping, finally, at a tilted stone near the roadway, marked “Rhone.”

It is where Paulette Rhone wished to be buried. It was her dying wish: to spend eternity in the forgotten cemetery she fought to reclaim. To rest there, in the valley, beside her husband, Gilbert.

Gilbert, a truck driver and father of four, arrived at the cemetery in 1993, after a heart attack at the age of 47. Paulette, a budget analyst for the U.S. Department of Labor, always felt close to him in the historic cemetery, founded in 1855. She would confide in friends that she could feel his spirit in the beautiful grounds, which even then were falling into disrepair.

By 2011, Mount Moriah had already suffered decades of neglect and mismanagement. What beauty remained poked through a thicket of underbrush and trash, cars, tires, and couches. Whole sections of the graveyard had reforested. Even in the most accessible spots, the grass was waist high, enveloping Gilbert’s grave and so many others.

That year, the cemetery operators interred one last soul, locked the gates, and walked away. When the gates closed, Paulette was one of the first people to bust back through them with a push mower.

A short woman not much over 5 feet, Paulette was sweet but ferocious. And her aura of protection soon expanded from Gilbert’s grave to the whole cemetery. She became president of the Friends of Mount Moriah Cemetery.

“If you disrespected the grounds, or disrespected one of the other volunteers on the grounds, that’s when she stood her ground,” Smith said. She would stand in front of trucks that drove into the cemetery grounds to dump, and, when she caught them, made dumpers pick up every last piece of trash.

After a day of cleaning with the volunteers, Paulette, and the small band of regulars that form the heart of the Friends, would stand atop the highest point in the cemetery, looking down to the valley, and the ever-growing circle of reclaimed land around it. “Wow,” she would whisper.

She developed a green thumb: “She became engrossed in plants and the earth and those things that grow,” recalled her son, Brandon Rhone. She became engrossed, too, in the history of the cemetery, helping others find their loved ones, scouring old records.

“On a headstone, there is the date someone was born and the day passed,” she would say. “And in between, a life.”

And though she lived in the Northeast, she became a defender of the neighborhood around the cemetery, which she felt had been abandoned just as much as Mount Moriah had.

Brian Abernathy, the city managing director, remembers his first meeting with Paulette in 2011. She made a compelling case, he said, for the impact the cemetery had on the neighborhood. The two became friends. Paulette’s passion and dedication, he said, became a reminder “of why we’re doing this.”

He now sits on the board of the preservation organization, run by the city and the Borough of Yeadon, that now has stewardship of the cemetery — and wants to continue to restore it, for the relatives of those buried there, and for the community. As Paulette would have wanted.

Like Gilbert before her, Paulette was struck by a heart attack. Her death on Feb. 11, 2019 at 64 hit the Friends of Mount Moriah hard. “Like a torpedo under the waterline,” Smith said.

The group, with help from Abernathy, is petitioning the Orphans’ Court, which for now has final say on the cemetery’s affairs, to allow Paulette to be buried there. She would be the first person laid to rest there since the cemetery closed. For now, she lies in a mausoleum at nearby Fernwood Cemetery.

In the meantime, the Friends of Mount Moriah make their rounds without their leader.

The Friends tend toward the spiritualistic – how could they not, spending so much time in a cemetery? Paulette would sometimes feel her husband near, and sometimes the Friends catch a whiff of an old perfume, or feel a tug on their jacket, or sense movement out of the corner of their eye. And as they wait to bury her according to her wishes, they don’t doubt that their friend has already joined them in the valley.

“She always said that one day she’d be gone,” Smith said. “But she’d always be here, in the cemetery.”

Poway, CA faithful witness attack on Chabad Synagogue

Poway, CA – April 30, 2019 – courtesy of oca.org

As Archpriest Alexander Federoff and the faithful of Saint John of Damascus Church were finishing the Old Testament prophecies during the Vespereal Liturgy of Great and Holy Saturday—April 27, 2019—they were alarmed by what sounded like gunshots.

Saint John’s located next to the Chabad Synagogue that was attacked on that day.

“We had just finished the prophecies and the choir was in the middle of the church, finishing the canticle,” Father Alexander explained. “I stopped the service and told parishioners to call 911 and then went to the back of the church to see what was happening. I decided there was nothing we could do but continue to pray. Several folks were on the phone with the 911 dispatch asking detailed questions.”

Several parishioners stationed themselves around the inside parameter of the church.

“It was difficult to concentrate, but we finished the Liturgy, receiving Communion,” Father Alexander said. “Near the end of the service, I asked one of our parishioners who is a former County Sheriff to see if he could find out what happened. And that’s when we learned that three people were shot, including the Rabbi, at the Chabad Synagogue.”

At the end of the service, the displaced Jewish worshipers were standing around outside the church. “We invited them into our hall for water and refreshments, which were limited because all we had was leavened bread,” Father Alexander reported. “One lady commented that they had eight more hours of fasting.

“Our Jewish neighbors and our 78 parishioners who attended the Holy Saturday Vespereal Liturgy were detained until 3:30 p.m. before anyone was permitted to leave,” Father Alexander continued. “Everyone had to give their name, address, phone number and ID to an officer before they could leave. Many of the law enforcement personal were so appreciative to be able to use our facilities—after all, the synagogue was a crime scene.”

Word quickly spread that Espola Road would be closed until noon on Pascha morning.

“I went out at 6:00 a.m. to talk to whoever was in charge to let them know we canceled midnight services and that this Sunday was our Easter,” Father Alexander said. “Any other Sunday we could have canceled the Sunday Liturgy and encouraged parishioners to go to other Orthodox churches. It was a miracle that Espola Road was open before our scheduled 10:00 a.m. Paschal Liturgy.”

“The media kept showing beautiful photos of our church, and it was comical that one reporter finally asked, ‘since when does a synagogue have a cross on it?’” Father Alexander related. “Our church was on the New York Times website, Associated Press, NBC, ABC, CBS and other local channels, and I was interviewed twice on Sunday morning.”

The best statement of the day, said Father Alexander, was “This is the day that the Lord has made.”

“On an ordinary Saturday morning, we probably would not have been in church; we would not have been around to offer Christian hospitality to our neighbors,” Father Alexander added. “Many people have commented on the anti-semitism of this attack. Thankfully, we were not victims, but many of our faithful were traumatized as the attack absolutely affected our community.”

Upon learning of the Chabad attack, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon attempted to contact Father Alexander, but calls were not going through. On Bright Monday, he was able to connect with the parish and offered words of support.

“Christ is risen and overcame the devil, who is the source of all these recent acts of violence!” Father Alexander concluded.

A video link from NBC is available for viewing at www.nbcsandiego.com.

