

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, July 7, 2019 | 3rd Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 2 – Venerable Thomas of Mount Maleon (10th c.) and
Venerable Acacius of Sinai, who is mentioned in *The Ladder* (6th c.)
All Saints of Britain and Ireland

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

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

Saturday: July 13 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: July 14 – Holy Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: July 14 – Archbishop MARK Visitation!
He will be serving pontifical Divine Liturgy. His visit is in coordination with the ordination of the Reader Michael McCartney to the Holy Diaconate AND the ordination of the Reader Daniel Kenneth Kavalkovich to Sub Deacon. We hope you all can attend this service and celebrate this great occasion! AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!

Please make every effort to be in church this Sunday by 9:00AM!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion (Tone 4 - Saints)

O God of our Fathers, / always act with kindness towards us; / take not Thy mercy from us, / but guide our lives in peace // through the prayers of Saints Thomas and Acacius!

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Saint Acacius)

Forsaking the world, thou didst follow Christ from childhood. / emulating His voluntary humility, thou didst cast down the prideful tyrant. / All-wise and venerable Acacius, / unceasingly pray for us all!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Saint Thomas)

Inflamed with divine love, you courageously showed us a great victory: / you spurned the mortal king and all earthly beauty. / You completed your worldly sojourn on Mount Maleon, / from where you went up to Heaven to the King of kings. / Unceasingly pray for us all, O Thomas.

Prokeimenon (Tone 2)

The Lord is my strength and my song / He has become my salvation.
v. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1-10

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 2)

- v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x's)
v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:22-33

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

“Be the first to arrive at church for services and the last to leave, especially for the Divine Liturgy.”

St Symeon the Studite (also called Symeon the Pious; +1021)

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

Now that the Fourth of July has passed, it time for the next great American event...

“Getting ready to go Back to School”

With this in mind, the parish is looking to put together ten backpacks this year. The parish is looking for donations of back packs and school supplies. A list of items will be made available shortly for those who wish to donate to this annual project. For more information, please see one of the Parish Council members. Thank You!

ATTENTION – ATTENTION – ATTENTION!!!

Please do not over stuff the freezer. This past week a parishioner stopped by the church and noticed the freezer motor was running fast and very loud. This was due to the freezer door being ajar. The freezer door wasn't closed all the way since the freezer was overstuffed. The motor was running to attempt to reach the freezing temperature, which it could not because the door could not be closed completely.

Also, with all the items in the freezer, the air flow vents that bring in the cold air were blocked, thereby also causing the motor to run higher than normal. The cold air flow is needed to keep the items frozen. Please be cognizant when placing item in there.

Parish Restoration Project:

Please visit the parish website and click on the Restoration Project section to read a brief note on the additional work needed to restore the parish. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time, at your convenience, and providing the talents God has given you, please contact anyone on the Parish Council or the Property Committee to schedule a date, time, and task. Thank

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:

Daria and Rick LeRoy offered by Nina Patterson
David Albrecht Sr (Birthday) offered by Nina Patterson
David Albrecht Sr (Birthday) offered by Melanie Albrecht
John Herbert (85th Birthday) offered by M/M Herbert
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy
M/M Gregory David Walker offered by the Pellack Family
Patricia, Catherine, Albert, Barbara, Matthew, Anastasia, Colin, Alexander, Selena, Susan, John,
Katherine offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Reader Michael McCartney offered by Emily Gerasimoff
Reader Kenneth Daniel Kavalkovich offered by Emily Gerasimoff

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Mary and Robert McKinney offered by brother Joseph Rabik
Stanley Wazelek offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 6/30/19:

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Catherine Kavalkovich; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Father Mark Koczak (bad back); Matushka Jan Koczak (recovery after knee surgery); Sheba Patton; Margaret Pellack; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Cookbook Sale:

The parish cookout, *At Our Table*, is for sale in the church basement and also on Amazon.com website. Please speak with Dr. Janine McCartney for more information on the parish cookbooks.

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 (June)

	<u>Week of June 24 to June 30</u>	<u>June Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	45	41 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,421.41	\$ 11,687.61
Funds Out:	\$ 276.86	\$ 3,953.20
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 2,144.55	\$ 7,734.41

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.

Bible Study – Tuesday, July 9 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, July 14 – Archbishop MARK Visitation

His Eminence, Archbishop MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania will be visiting our parish and serving in a full pontifical Divine Liturgy.

His visit is in coordination with the ordination of the Reader Michael McCartney to the Holy Diaconate AND the ordination of the Reader Daniel Kenneth Kavalkovich to SubDeacon. AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE IN CHURCH BY 9:00AM!!!

Sunday, July 21 – 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 action taken during the Spring General Parish Meeting.

Monday, August 5 – Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of the Transfiguration of our Lord at 6:00PM!

Father Mark will bless Fruit (and vegetables) after the service.

Saturday, August 24 – 3:00PM – Back Pack Assembly

On this date the parish is looking for volunteers to put together all of the school supplies and package them in the back packs. No need to sign up. Just show up earlier for Vespers that Saturday and assist in organizing the school backpacks.

A Saturday in September (Date TBD) – Joint Picnic with Gods House

Our parish along with Gods House's congregation will be having a joint picnic on one of the Saturdays in September. The parish is currently looking for volunteers to help coordinate this event. For additional information regarding the picnic, please see a member of the Parish Council. Thank You!

Cleaning Teams:

Today (July 7): Saint John of Kronstadt
(Lena Helen, Paul Filanowski, Matthew Andres, Martha Palubniak).

Next Week (July 14): Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre
(John Spack, Debbie Kavalkovich, David Pellack).



Venerable Acacius of Sinai, who is mentioned in *The Ladder* **[July 7th]**

Saint Acacius of Sinai lived during the sixth century and was a novice at a certain monastery in Asia. The humble monk distinguished himself by his patient and unquestioning obedience to his Elder, a harsh and dissolute man. He forced his disciple to toil excessively, starved him with hunger, and beat him without mercy. Despite such treatment, Saint Acacius meekly endured the affliction and thanked God for everything. Saint Acacius died after suffering these torments for nine years.

Five days after Acacius was buried, his Elder told another Elder about the death of his disciple. The second Elder did not believe that the young monk was dead. They went to the grave of Acacius and the second Elder called out: “Brother Acacius, are you dead?” From the grave a voice replied, “No, Father, how is it possible for an obedient man to die?” The startled Elder of Saint Acacius fell down with tears before the grave, asking forgiveness of his disciple.

After this he repented, constantly saying to the Fathers, “I have committed murder.” He lived in a cell near the grave of Saint Acacius, and he ended his life in prayer and in meekness. Saint John Climacus (March 30) mentions Saint Acacius in *THE LADDER* (Step 4:110) as an example of endurance and obedience, and of the rewards for these virtues.

Saint Acacius is also commemorated on November 29.

Venerable Thomas of Mount Maleon [July 7th]

Saint Thomas of Mt. Maleon was a military commander before he became a monk. Strong and brave, he had participated in many battles, and brought victory to his countrymen, for which he gained glory and esteem. But, striving with all his heart towards God, Thomas abandoned the world and its honors, and he took monastic vows.

With great humility he visited monastic Elders, asking for guidance in the spiritual life. After several years Thomas received the blessing for solitary wilderness life and, led by a pillar of fire at night by the holy Prophet Elias, he settled on Mount Maleon (on the eastern part of Athos). Dwelling in complete seclusion, Saint Thomas fought with invisible enemies with as much courage as he had displayed against the visible enemies of his country.

The life and deeds of Saint Thomas could not be concealed from the surrounding area. People began to flock to him seeking spiritual guidance, & even those suffering from sickness, since he received from God the blessing to heal infirmities. Many believers received help through the prayers of the holy monk. Even after his death, he does not cease to heal those who seek his aid, from every passion and sickness.