

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>



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

Sunday, February 16, 2020 | 35th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Martyr Pamphilius the Presbyter and those with him.

Saint Nikolai, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Japan (2/3/1912)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney

Parish President - Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule

Saturday: February 22 - Great Vespers at 4:00PM!

Sunday: February 23 – Sunday of Last Judgment. Meatfare Sunday
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 23 – Annual Roast Beef and Pork Luncheon on
Meatfare Sunday after Divine Liturgy

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!”

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 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: 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 2)

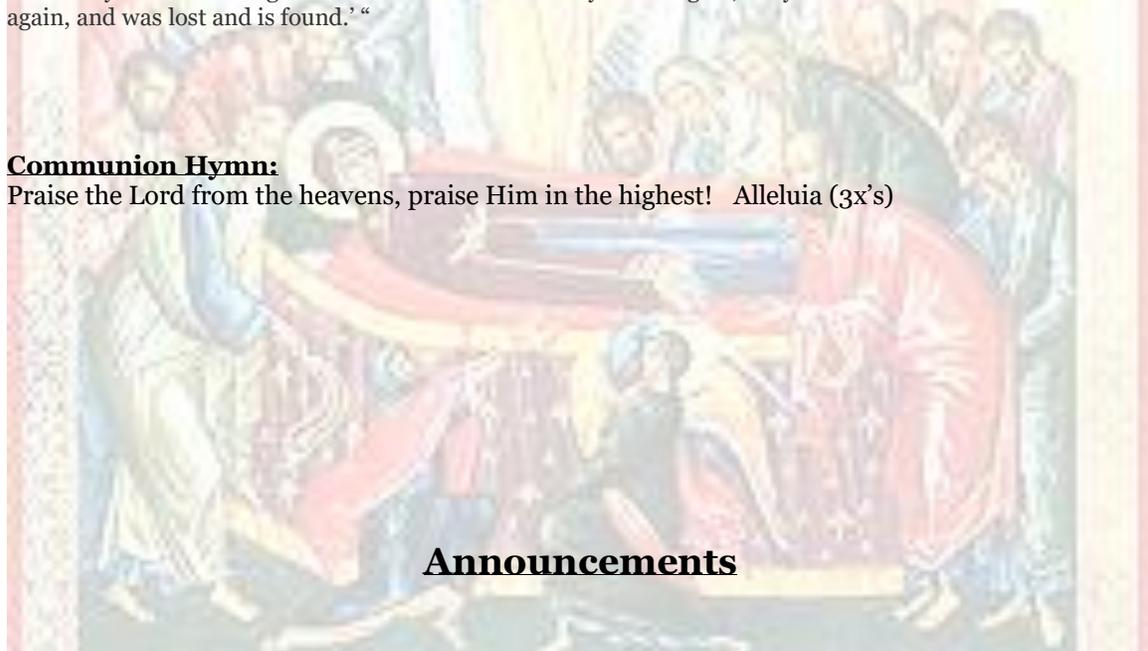
- v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of
Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x's)
v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: 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! 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

2020 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 Monday, 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.

GREAT LENT – OR NOT SO GREAT?

The fullness of the joy of Christ's Resurrection is shared by us in proportion to our struggle during Great Lent. For many, Lent is a spiritual hurdle, a training ground for spiritual maturity. Unfortunately, for too many Orthodox Christians, Lent simply means several weeks without eating meat: no intensified prayers, no attending the common services of the Church, no prayers for the dead. By this standard, it is difficult to tell many Orthodox Christians from Protestants, Roman Catholics, or in some cases, from secular vegetarians.

If our spiritual progress can be measured by what we put into our life with Christ, most of us will find that most of the time, we fall short of our hopes. Great Lent is no exception. Yet if we let our failures become our habit, our life takes on a new design - and it isn't a Christian image.

Christ's Cross is the image for our lives as Orthodox Christians throughout the year. If our attention to the Great Fast was limited or nonexistent, there is no time like the present to begin to keep fasting days, to pray at the appointed times, and to shape our life around our faith - rather than treating Christ and His Church as a hobby to fit in when we have time.

And if Great Lent was anything but great for us in our own lives, take heart: God's mercy is abundant, and He wants each of us to come to Him for refreshment, strengthening, and the transfiguring of our lives. This is a process that must go on throughout the year. God helps us with it, if we will have Him.

Spiritually speaking, we fall all the time. What we must never fail to do, however, is to fail to get up, to take up the struggle anew, and to begin to live again the Christian life.

Anything else makes our failures lasting ones, and loses the great gift Christ continues to offer us.

V Rev Geoffrey Korz – All Saints of North America Orthodox Church – Hamilton, Ontario, CN

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Albert, Catherine, Patricia, Lucas (1st Birthday), Lisa (birthday), Anastasia, Alexander, Colin, Selena, Barbara, Heather, Susan, John, Susan, Sean, Marc Sr, Marc Jr, offered by M/M K Kavalkovich Family
Kevin Fox offered by Hourahan Family
Alexandra Hourahan offered by Hourahan Family
Justin Drimak offered by Hourahan Family
Kevin Hourahan offered by Hourahan Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Reader Leonty Macalush offered by M/M Herbert
Helen Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
Archpriest John Udics offered by M/M Herbert
Family, Friends and Parishioners offered by Joseph Rabik

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 2/9/20:

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Kathy Gerty and her unborn child; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Sheba Patton; Margaret Pellack; Fania Wanenchak; Lucas Christopher Andrews (on his 1st Birthday - 2/8/19); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Sunday, March 1 - 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!

Announcements (cont.)

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

*******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
- 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 Sun Feb 2 to Sat Feb 8</u>	<u>February Month-to-Date</u>	
Attendance:	46	46 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,592.00	\$ 2,627.79
Funds Out:	\$ 4,775.90	\$ 6,893.85
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 2,183.90)	(\$ 4,266.06)

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 either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich 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.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	Today (Feb 16)	Next Week (Feb 23)
3 rd Hour :	Mark Klus	John Spack
6 th Hour:	Kyra Skoog	Simon Herbert
Epistle:	Lena Helen	Dr. David Albrecht

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Feb 16): Saint Herman of Alaska
(Heather & Peter Parsells, Dr Gale Rutan & Joseph Francis)

Next Week (Feb 23): Saint John of Kronstadt
(Lena Helen, Paul Filanowski, Matthew Andrews, Martha Palubniak).

Annual Pork and/or Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday February 23, 2020 after Divine Liturgy.

Next Sunday is the Luncheon. We hope you can join us after Liturgy for fellowship as we approach the upcoming Lenten Season. Remember, if you volunteered to assist in providing a dish or being part of the setup and/or clean up crew after the luncheon, please make sure you attend and participate. Any questions, please see a parish council member for more details on how you can assist in this event!

2020 Mission Service Schedule (Philadelphia Clergy Brotherhood)

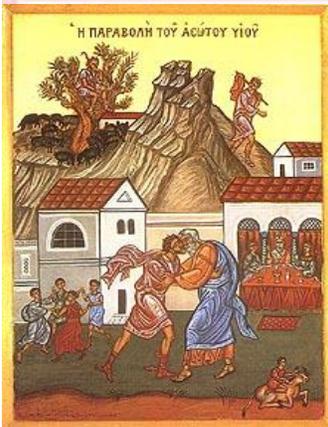
Sunday, March 8 at 4PM – Sunday of Orthodoxy
Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC of the U.S.A) – Wilmington, DE

Sunday, March 15 at 4PM – Sunday of St Gregory Palamas
St Mark Orthodox Church (OCA) – Wrightstown, PA

Sunday, March 22 at 4PM – Sunday of the Cross
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (OCA) – Pottstown, PA

Sunday, March 29 at 4PM – Sunday of St John Climacus
St George Antiochian Orthodox Church (Patriarchate of Antioch) – Upper Darby, PA

Sunday, April 5 at 4PM – Sunday of St Mary of Egypt
St John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church (OCA) – Philadelphia, PA



Sunday of the Prodigal Son [February 16th]

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.