

## 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 23, 2020

Tone 3 – Meatfare Sunday  
Sunday of the Last Judgment

Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (167)

### V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney

Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich

Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Choir Director – Nina Patterson

Reader – Mark Klus

### Weekly Schedule

Today: Annual Roast Beef and Pork Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement.

[36 years ago on Tuesday, Father Mark was ordained to the priesthood](#)  
[May God Grant You, Father Mark, Many Happy, Healthy Years!!!](#)

Thursday: Repose of St Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn

Saturday: February 29 – Clean-Up Project at 2109 And 2111 Houses!

Saturday: February 29 - Great Vespers at 4:00PM!

Sunday: March 1 – Cheesefare Sunday. Forgiveness Sunday  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: March 1 – Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately to be served after Divine Liturgy!

## **Texts for the Liturgical Service**

### **Troparion (Tone 3)**

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

### **Kontakion (Tone 1 – Lenten Triodion)**

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble, / and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; / the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

### **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: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2**

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

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. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him  
with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46**

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

**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

### **40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Spring Season:**

The 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign will begin this week (Feb 26 to Sun, April 5). This campaign of peaceful vigils will occur in ALL 50 states at the same time!

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.

Please visit their website: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/philadelphia/> or contact Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084.

For other peaceful vigils around the Tri-State area, please visit their website.

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### **2020 House Blessing – Only a couple weeks remain!!!**

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.

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### **THANK YOU – EYE GLASSES DONATIONS TO THE LIONS CLUB**

Our parish collected 32 pairs of glasses from the parishioners during the Advent season. They were donated to the Lions Club South Philadelphia collection center. Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine would like to extend their sincere thank you to all the parishioners who gave so generously.

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### **Thank you - Cleanout of the 2109 and 2111 Houses**

A special “Thank You” to Emily Gerasimoff, Edward Gerasimoff, Peter Witiak and the rest of the team (sorry, no other names were provided) for spending a day last week cleaning out the remain “stuff” in the 2109 and 2111 Houses. The rugs were pulled up and removed and any remaining furniture was hauled away from the 2109 house. There’s still much to be done with the houses, but a major obstacle has been completed in order for the next phase of housecleaning to be performed.



**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Let There Be A Bright Light In Your Life offered by Alex Soroka  
Friends and Parishioners offered by Joseph Rabik  
Alex Walker offered by Pellack Family  
Margaret Pellack offered by Pellack Family

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

William and Anna Zuzulock offered by Pellack Family  
William and Julia Brasko offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik  
Christine Ferraro offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 2/16/20:**

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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; Father Mark Kozak (anniversary of his ordination); 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 two months. She will inform you when and where rehearsals will take place.

## 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)

Week of Sun Feb 9 to Sat Feb 15		February Month-to-Date
Attendance:	42	44 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,695.00	\$ 4,322.79
Funds Out:	\$ 2,272.59	\$ 9,166.44
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 577.59)	(\$ 4,843.65)

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 23)	Next Week (Mar 1)
3rd Hour :	John Spack	David Pellack
6th Hour:	Simon Herbert	Matthew Andrews
Epistle:	Dr. David Albrecht	Subdeacon Daniel

### **Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:**

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

Next Week (Mar 1): Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre [*Lenten Meal*]  
(John Spack, Debbie Kavalkovich, David Pellack).

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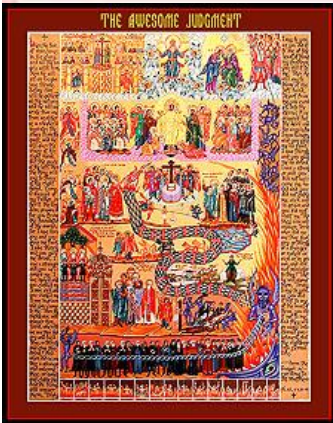
**Sunday, March 1 - Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately following the Divine Liturgy.** The parish traditionally serves this vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading “Vouchsafe, O Lord”) that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!

### **2020 Lenten Service Schedule at our Parish (March 2 to March 8)**

Monday, March 2 – Saint Andrew of Crete service at 6PM  
Tuesday, March 3 – Saint Andrew of Crete service at 6PM  
Wednesday, March 4 – Saint Andrew of Crete service at 6PM  
Thursday, March 5 – Saint Andrew of Crete service at 6PM  
Friday, March 6 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts at 6PM  
Saturday, March 7 – Great Vespers at 4PM  
Sunday, March 8 – Divine Liturgy at 10AM (Hours Reading at 9:30AM)  
Sunday, March 8 – Sunday of Orthodoxy Mission Service at 4PM  
Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC of the U.S.A)  
1406 Philadelphia Pike - Wilmington, DE 19809  
[www.sspeterandpauluoc.org](http://www.sspeterandpauluoc.org)

The remaining 2020 Lenten Service Schedule will be provided next weekend as an insert in the bulletin, posted on the bulletin boards in the church, and posted on the parish website and social media platforms.





## **Sunday of Meatfare, Sunday of the Last Judgment**

[February 23<sup>rd</sup>]

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to

overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.