

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 22, 2020

Tone 7 – Third Sunday of Great Lent | Veneration of the Holy Cross
Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra (362-363)
Martyr Drosida, daughter of Emperor Trajan (1st -2nd c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney Choir Director – Nina Patterson
Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich Reader – Mark Klus
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

In response to the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America's new directive on Monday, March 16 and the video conference meeting between Archbishop Mark and the clergy of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania on Tuesday, March 17, the following action was taken:

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY, MARCH 17, ALL CHURCH ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING LITURGICAL SERVICES, HAVE BEEN CANCELED AT THE PARISH UP TO & THROUGH WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020.

Thereafter, the situation will be re-evaluated based on information provided by our civil authorities and our Church leadership. We hope and pray that we can come together as a parish community once again and worship during this Lenten Season by that time.

Please check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish and our services.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy. / And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 1 – Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

Kontakion (Tone 7 – Cross)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; / it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. / The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; / for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell: // Enter again into Paradise!

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

Before Thy Cross / we bow down in worship, O Master / and Thy holy Resurrection // we glorify. (3x's)

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek" Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. God is our King before the ages; He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-9:1

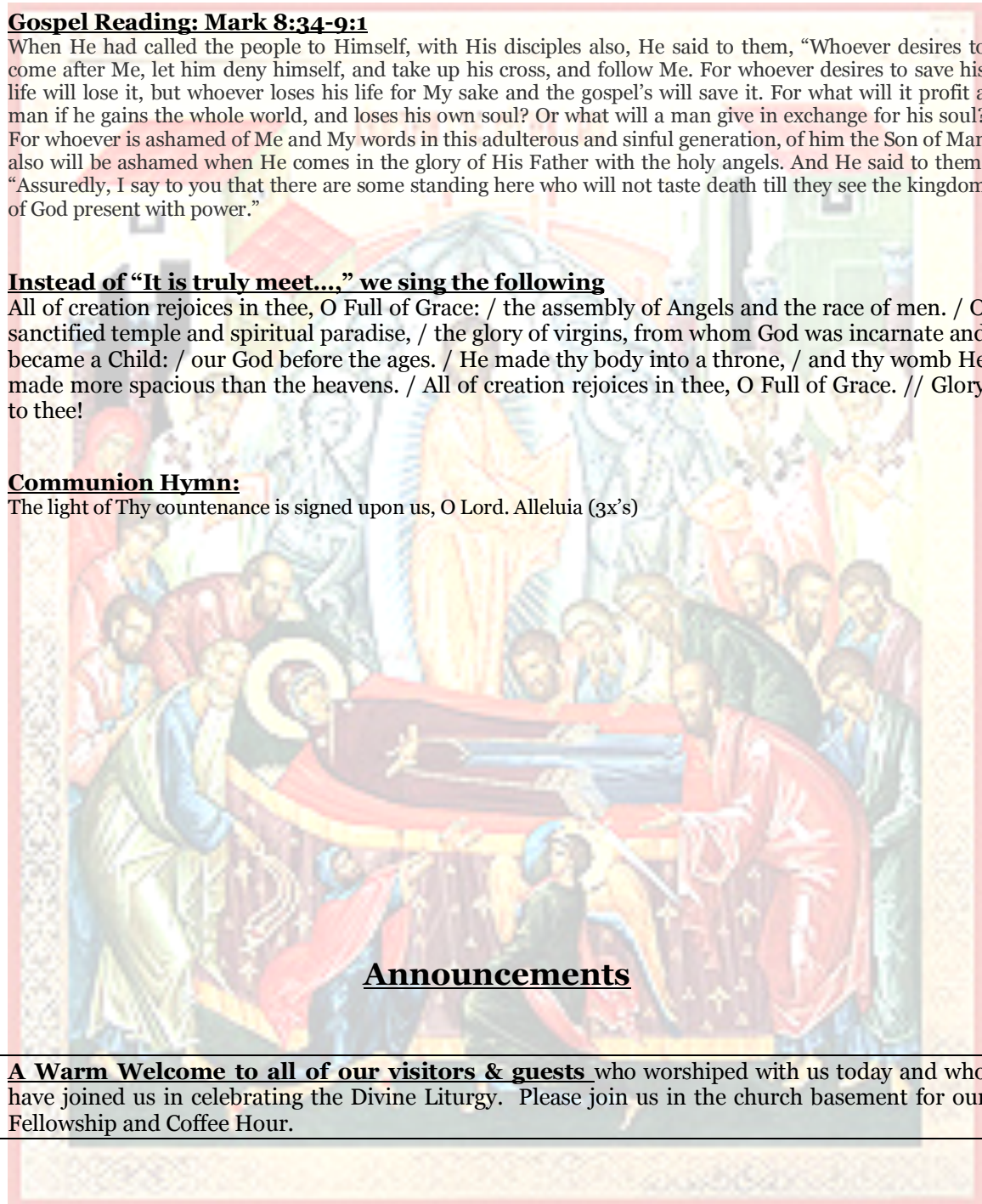
When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

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:

The light of Thy countenance is signed upon us, O Lord. 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 has begun (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.

(As of the printing of the bulletin, daily peaceful vigils are still on schedule)

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 month! She will inform you when and where rehearsals will take place.
(CANCELLED!!!)

Attendance: Second Week of Great Lent Services

Sunday Mission Service (3/15) = **(CANCELLED!)**
Wednesday (3/18) – Presanctificed Liturgy = **(CANCELLED!)**
Friday (3/20) – Akathist to Blessed Matushka Olga of Alaska = **(CANCELLED!)**

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!

Next Clean-up Day at the Church – Saturday, March 28

This will consist of inside Church cleaning as we get ready for Pascha and cleaning up around the outside of the church and surrounding properties. Sign up sheets are located in church basement.
(CANCELLED!!!)

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

This Nation and the World offered by Pellack Family
Herbert Family offered by Robert Wanenchak
Positivity, Trust, Safety, God is With Us offered by Alex Soroka
Albert, Catherine, Alexander, Allison, Domiquic, Anastasia, Colin, Selena, Lisa, Barbara,
Matthew, Chris, Lucas, David, Christina, Alison, Marc Sr., Marc Jr., William, Susan, Susan,
Emily, Edward offered by MM K Kavalkovich and Family
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Hourahan Family
Kevin Fox offered by Hourahan Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Michael and Anna Zuzulock offered by Pellack Family
Anna Zuzulock offered by her brother Joseph Rabik
Mary (Slivka) Spack offered by MM Herbert
Demitry Roadside offered by MM Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

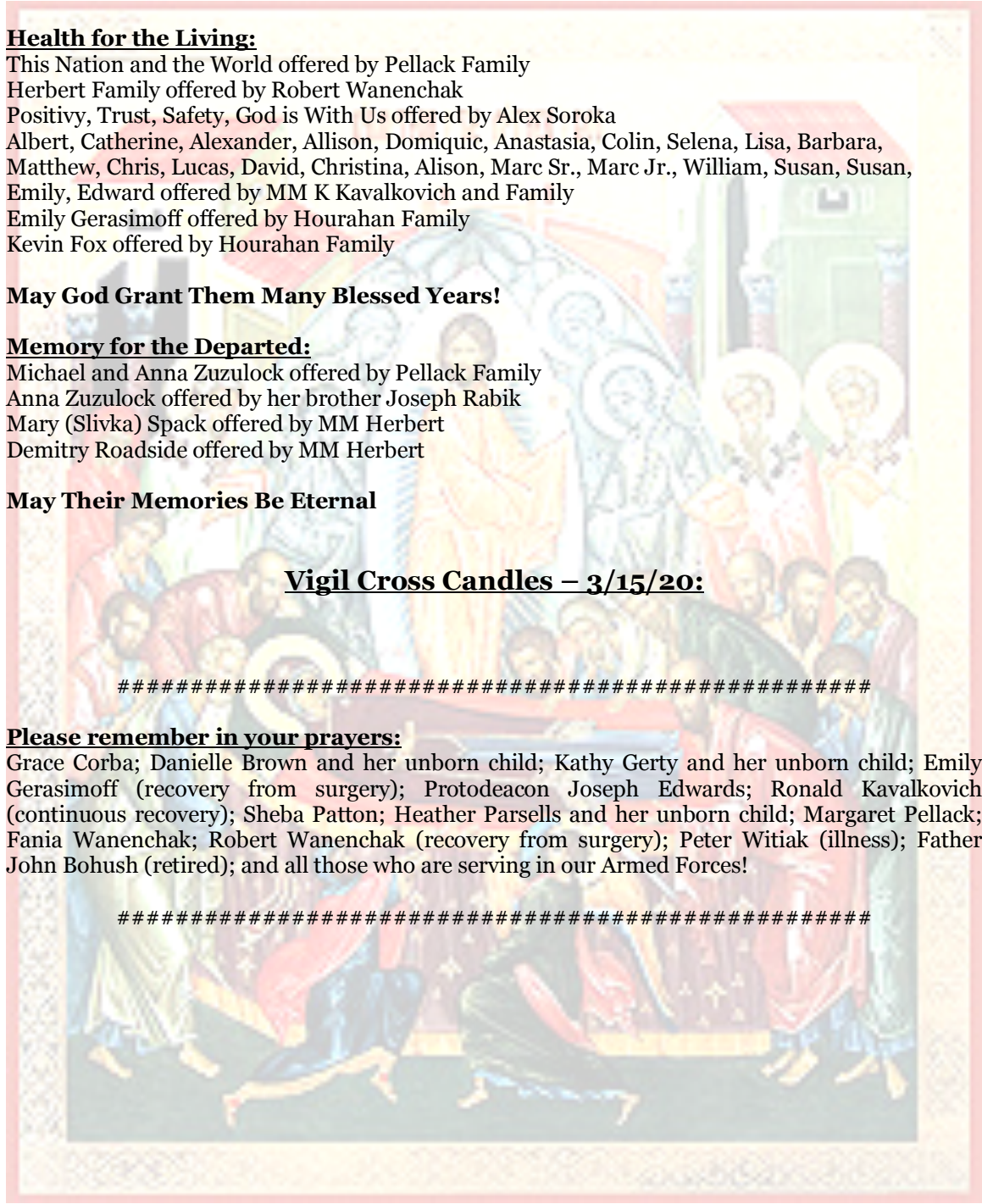
Vigil Cross Candles – 3/15/20:

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Danielle Brown and her unborn child; Kathy Gerty and her unborn child; Emily Gerasimoff (recovery from surgery); Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Sheba Patton; Heather Parsells and her unborn child; Margaret Pellack; Fania Wanenchak; Robert Wanenchak (recovery from surgery); Peter Witiak (illness); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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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 (March)

<u>Week of Sun Mar 8 to Sat Mar 14</u>	<u>March Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance: 44	47 (average)
Funds In: \$ 3,311.00	\$ 6,166.54
Funds Out: \$ 230.16	\$ 2,864.67
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 3,080.84	\$ 3,301.87

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 [On hiatus at this time]
5th Sunday of each quarter – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Mar 22)</u>	<u>Next Week (Mar 29)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Subdeacon D. Kavalkovich	Reader Mark Klus
6 th Hour:	David Pellaek	Michael Wanenehak
Epistle:	Michael Spack	Subdeacon Daniel K. & Matthew Andrews

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Mar 22): Saint Agatha of Belo Russia [*Lenten Meal*]
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).

Next Week (Mar 29): Saint Elizabeth – New Martyr [*Lenten Meal*]
(Emily Gerasimoff and Sandra Hourahan).

(NOTE: Once the Sunday Divine Liturgy resumes, we will continue with the Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams where we let off on Sunday, March 22, which will be the Saint Agatha of Belo Russia group (Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, and Michael Spack).

2020 Lenten Service Schedule at our Parish (March 23 to March 29)

ALL services at the parish cancelled this week!

Sunday, March 29 – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement!

(NOTE: A Conference Call “MAY” be scheduled sometime over that weekend. This has not been determined as of the printing of the bulletin. Father Mark and Parish President Matt Andrews will contact Parish Council members via email to confirm if this will occur.)



Third Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross [March 22nd]

Through the Cross, joy has come into all the world.

At the midpoint of Great Lent, Orthodox Christians are invited to the Veneration of the Cross of Christ. In the Lenten journey, we are taught to be mindful of the importance of repentance, fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and forgiveness.

Without these, our spiritual pilgrimage is lacking in meaning. We cannot be disciples of Christ without these marks of Christian life and practice.

After an enthusiastic beginning of Great Lent, little by little we show signs of being tired, our attention begins to flag, our love for God and neighbor begins to wear out. In other words, our own comfort again becomes the priority.

The veneration of the Cross renews and refocuses our Lenten journey by bringing our attention back to Christ, back to the love of God for us. This love is given as a gift to us in the form of the Cross, the symbol both of Christ's suffering and of the resurrection. We are taught by Jesus Christ to take up our own cross and follow Him. To venerate the Cross of Christ is to be inspired, strengthened, and enabled to carry our cross.

All of the above is true. Yet it is incomplete. An important dimension is missing – the dimension of joy. "Through the Cross joy has come into all the world." These words in a hymn of the Resurrection reveal the dimension of joy as central and essential. Where there is faith without joy, faith is deficient. Where there is almsgiving without joy, charity is deficient. Where there is love, there is joy. Where there is Christ, there is joy.

As we walk the pilgrimage of Great Lent, let it be full of joy, and therefore full of Christ.

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As we face this unprecedented pandemic, let us look upon the cross for health and guidance as remember the Troparion for the Cross that we sing today:

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!