

## 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, March 29, 2020

Tone 8 – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent | Saint John Climacus  
Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa & those with him (364)  
Venerable John, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.)

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

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020  
Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952  
Email: [mwkoczak@gmail.com](mailto:mwkoczak@gmail.com)

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 8)**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

### **Troparion (Tone 1 – Saint John Climacus)**

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

### **Kontakion (Tone 8)**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, / and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – St John Climacus)**

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, / to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, // O our father and teacher John.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 8)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!  
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

### **Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – St John Climacus)**

Let the Saints be exalted in glory / let them sing for joy on their couches.

### **Epistle Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20**

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. 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)
- v. They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our  
God. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

**Gospel Reading: Mark 9:17-31**

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not. He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

**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:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. 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 enters its Final Week, ending Sunday, 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.

**(Remaining public vigils for the Spring Campaign have been Cancelled!)**

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

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## **Attendance: Fourth Week of Great Lent Services**

Sunday Mission Service (3/22) = **(CANCELLED!)**

Wednesday (3/25) – Annunciation of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy = **(CANCELLED!)**

Friday (3/27) – Presanctified Liturgy = **(CANCELLED!)**

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## **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!

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*[Note: Today's readings for Saint John Climacus are as follows:  
Epistle – Ephesians 5:9-19 and Gospel – Matthew 4:25-5:12]*



**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Family, Parishioners, Friends, the World offered by Nina Patterson

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 3/22/20:**

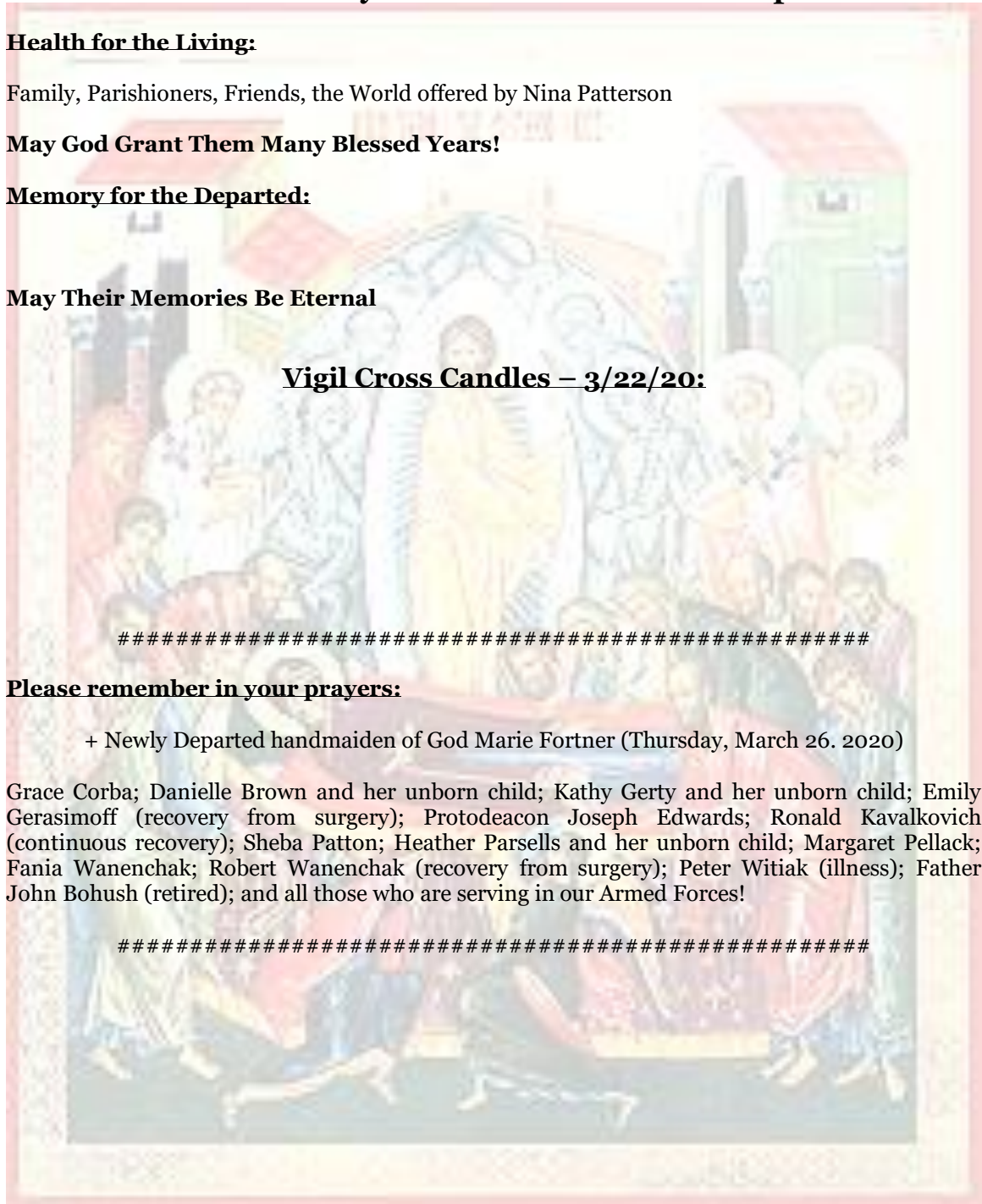
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**Please remember in your prayers:**

+ Newly Departed handmaiden of God Marie Fortner (Thursday, March 26, 2020)

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 15 to Sat Mar 21</u>		<u>March Month-To-Date</u>
Attendance:	27	40 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,327.64	\$ 7,494.18
Funds Out:	\$ 1,848.21	\$ 4,712.88
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	<b>(\$ 520.57)</b>	\$ 2,781.30

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:**

	Today (Mar 29)	Next Week (Apr 5)
3rd Hour :	Reader Mark Klus	Kyra Skoog
6th Hour:	Michael Wanenchak	David Pellack
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel K. & Matt Andrews	Subdeacon Daniel K. & Matthew Andrews

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

Today (Mar 29): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia [*Lenten Meal*]  
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).

Next Week (Apr 5): Saint Elizabeth - New Martyr [*Lenten Meal*]  
(Emily Gerasimoff and Sandra Hourahan).

**(NOTE: Once 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).)**

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### **2020 Lenten Service Schedule at our Parish (March 30 to April 5)**

**ALL services at the parish are cancelled up to and through Wednesday, April 1. Thereafter the situation will be reevaluated based on information provided by our civil authorities and Church leadership.**

**During this week, please check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish and our services.**

**TODAY – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement!**

**(NOTE: A Conference Call “may” be scheduled sometime over this 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 if this will occur.)**





## **Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Saint John Climacus (of the Ladder)** [March 29<sup>th</sup>]

Saint John Climacus (or Saint John of the Ladder) was a monk of Mt. Sinai who lived and wrote in the seventh century. He is venerated in the Orthodox Church on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent because of his spiritual struggles and his authorship of the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, a book that describes the spiritual struggle to climb closer to God through acquiring ascetic virtues.

There are among 30 steps on the ladder that correspond to the 30 years of Christ's life, with the entire volume divided into three main sections: 1) general virtues; 2) instructions on overcoming vices and building up the corresponding virtues; and 3) higher virtues that lead to the goals at which ascetic life aims, including prayer, stillness, dispassion, and finally love (agape).

*The Ladder* was originally written at the request of the abbot of a neighboring monastery, but now its use is widespread in the Church and even in the broader Christian community. Orthodox Christians are called upon to read this book during Lent, and monasteries in particular often read the entire text in the refectory during the Lenten season.

This book calls all to purification through a series of cleansing steps, including denial of self and caring for others. We are invited to examine ourselves in order to learn our faults and purify. Caring for others is a way of cleansing through decreasing our focus on the self. Ultimately, if one is able to follow Saint John's steps, the final goal – the love of others – is accomplished. Saint John's message is one of repentance, of changing around one's life. Saint John wrote, "Do not be surprised that you fall everyday; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience. He who really keeps account of his actions considers as lost every day in which he does not mourn, whatever good he may have done in it."

[Source: Gayle E. Woloschak, PhD from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the IOCC (2016)]