

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, May 24, 2020 | Sixth Sunday of Pascha

Tone 5 – Blind Man

Ven. Simeon the Stylite (younger of the Wonderful Mountain (596)

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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

Deacon – Michael McCartney

Choir Director – Nina Patterson

Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich

Reader – Mark Klus

Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

The parish is still under the directives from the Holy Synod of the OCA, the Diocese of Eastern PA, the CDC, the State of Pennsylvania, and the City of Philadelphia. **HOWEVER**, the situation is being evaluated on a week-to-week basis based on information provided by the above-mentioned authorities.

Even though all church activities are officially canceled, the Live Streaming of services are planned to occur this week:

Wednesday: May 27 – Leavetaking of Pascha @ **9:30AM** (Planning to stream!)

Thursday: May 28 – Ascension @ **9:30AM** (Planning to stream!)

Saturday: May 30 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!** (Planning to stream!)

Sunday: May 31 – Divine Liturgy | Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council at **10:00AM**

NOTE: Attendance for the services is still by the invitation-only guidelines!!

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

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Kontakion (Tone 4 - Pentecostarion)

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, / and call to Thee in repentance: // Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.

Kontakion (Tone 8 - Pascha)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, "Rejoice!" to the Myrrhbearing Women, // granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

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.

Epistle Reading: Acts 16:16-34

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe. Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Look upon me and have mercy on me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Guide my steps according to Thy word! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-38

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself. His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

Communion Hymn:

Receive the Body of Christ, taste the foundation of immortality!
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.

Email from Parish President Matthew Andrews on Wednesday, May 20 @ 12:13PM regarding Re-Opening Plan (May 19, 2020)

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!!

As you are all aware, we held our Parish Council Meeting yesterday evening. At that meeting, we approved the Re-Opening Plan (attached).

Please make sure to read this as we move forward to opening our church back up.

Keep in mind, there is NOT a date or time, but we are being prepared. This way when we do receive the OK to open back up, we are ready to go.

Thanks!
-Matthew

[NOTE: The attachment is included in this bulletin, its at the end of the electronic bulletin on our parish website, and will be posted inside of the church.]

Memorial Day 2020 at Saint Tikhon's Monastery

Even though the 116th Memorial Day Pilgrimage has been *Postponed*, the monastic brotherhood along with Metropolitan Tikhon will celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Memorial Day, **Monday, May 25**, thus continuing uninterrupted a tradition that began in 1905.

9:00AM EDT – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – celebrated by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon. Followed by a Memorial Service remembering those who died in service to God and Country.

1:30PM EDT – Museum Tour – lead by Archpriest John Perich, *Museum Curator*

Join the Live Broadcast on YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/orthodoxchurchinamerica-oca>

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Cynthia Lourido offered by M/M Herbert
Family, Friends, and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Family, Friends, and Parishioners offered by Matushka Janine McCartney
Family, Friends, and Parishioners offered by Eric & Kim Anderson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 5/17/20:

One Small Vigil Cross – Health of All Our Parishioners
offered by Emily Gerasimoff

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed handmaiden of God Margaret Pellack
(Wednesday, April 29). May Her Memory Be Eternal!

Infant child Owen Brown (born April 12) and his parents Micah & Danielle and siblings Lydia, Everet & Thaddeus. May God Grant Owen & his family Many Blessed Years!

Infant child Sophie Gerty (born April 18) and her parents Kathy & Mike and big sister Natasha. May God Grant Sophie & her family Many Blessed Years!

Grace Corba; Emily Gerasimoff (rehab after surgery); Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Sheba Patton; Heather Parsells and her unborn child; Robert Wanenchak (rehab after surgery); Peter Witiak (surgery); 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 (May)

Week of Sun May 10 to Sat May 16		May Month to Date	
Attendance:	10	10 (average)	
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 10 people)</i>			
Funds In:	\$ 6,011.32	\$ 7,272.19	
Funds Out:	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5,583.79	
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 4,511.32	\$ 1,688.40	

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** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	Today (May 24)	Next Week (May 31)
3 rd Hour :	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	David Pellack
6 th Hour:	Michael Spack	Subdeacon Dan Kavalkovich
Epistle:	Michael Wanenchak	Michael Spack

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (May 24): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).

Next Week (May 31): Saint Elizabeth - New Martyr
(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).

Service Schedule at our Parish (Month of May)

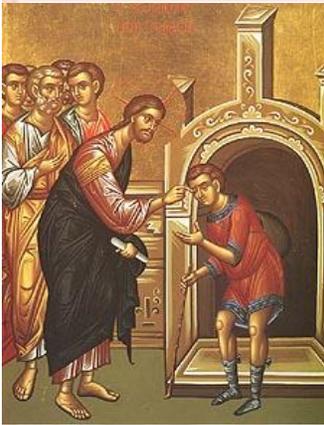
ALL services at the parish are cancelled during the month of May. HOWEVER, the situation is being evaluated on a week-to-week basis based on the information provided by the Holy Synod, our Diocese, the CDC, and our State & City civil authorities.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish and any decisions from the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, from His Eminence, Archbishop MARK, and our federal, state, and local civil authorities regarding parish services in the month of May.

Services scheduled to be held and Live Streamed in May

- ** Wednesday, May 27 – Divine Liturgy – Leavetaking of Pascha – 9:30am **
- ** Thursday, May 28 – Divine Liturgy – Ascension of our Lord – 9:30am **
- ** Saturday, May 30 – Great Vespers – 4:00pm **

[The above three services are planned to be streamed & by invitation only guidelines]



Sunday of the Blind Man [May 24th]

After the Midfeast (John 7:14), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (John 8:2). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man “who was blind from his birth” (John 9:1).

The miracle described in today’s Gospel (John 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. St Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, “Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes...”.

The Gospel says, “Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind” (John 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mark 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man’s empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

In his MENAION, St Demetrius of Rostov calls the blind man St Celidonius (see his account of St Lazarus in the Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles on January 4).

Re-Opening Plan: Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church (May 19, 2020)
Timing of the opening:

We are under church, city, state, and federal requirements with **NO DATE** or **TIME** to open our church. We await, especially, our local authorities.

Required regular cleaning of the church nave and altar:

Follow CDC guidelines, cleaning after every service. There should be no veneration of icons, crosses, the chalice, or the priest's hand. We can use a blend of our coffee hour crews and others for cleaning. This is not a one or two-person job. The altar will be cleaned after all services by the priest, the deacon, the sacristan, and altar servers. The nave, the narthex, and the choir loft will also be cleaned after each service.

List of regular and guest participants in services:

This could be difficult but Father Mark is generating a list with all parish members, their function, and their status (age, med. condition, and such). Due to privacy, this **WILL NOT** be published for the parish. He believes that the vast majority of our parishioners will fit into the first tier, permitted to go to all services. There is a small minority that will be in the second tier right now due to age mostly.

**As Rector, he is going to recommend to the Archbishop that the age requirement be waived because it is arbitrary in our parish life. We have no parishioners in nursing homes, the hospital, symptoms of the virus, so we can be more flexible. However, coming to church is voluntary. Some folks may desire to wait for various reasons. They will not be judged for caution.*

Other Liturgical and Sacramental events:

The priest may now visit none virus parishioners at home.

We will be restarting weekly Saturday Vespers on Saturday, May 23, 2020. This is **NOT OPEN** to anyone. Father Mark will email or call the parishioners that can attend. If you **DO NOT** receive an email or call, you **ARE NOT** permitted to attend.

Baptisms, Full Marriages, Chrismation's, and Funerals in the church are still **Prohibited!**

Streaming services and Education:

Streaming services will continue indefinitely. We have an IT group that is working on new equipment. The monthly bible study will be zoomed, along with virtual coffee hour. Our Adult Education classes are now weekly. They are available on our Facebook and our website. The church school has had one zooming class so far and planning another very soon.

Other Mandatory items from the Archbishop:

Masks are required for everyone excluding altar servers and choir.

The social distance must be maintained and will be marked at 6 feet.

It is possible because of the size of our building to have about 30 folks in the nave and then add choir members and altar servers. This will be about 50 spaces. Families may sit together.

The choir will need to go back to the front of the nave. (**Father Mark is trying to talk to the Archbishop about this requirement. If it changes, we will let you know.*)

The canonical method of receiving communion will remain the same.

Practical matters:

We have usually every Liturgy two folks that stand in the narthex. They will become our door wardens and regulate masks and temperatures.

We have 200 masks and will disturb those who don't have any. If you do have one, please make sure you bring it with you to church.

We have purchased a thermometer and our door wardens will be taking everyone's temperature when they arrive. As per the CDC, a person is considered to have a fever when he or she has a measured temperate of 100.4° F (38° C) or greater.

If your temperature is above the 100.4° F (38° C) or greater, you will be asked to **NOT** attend for the safety of others.

Coffee Hour **WILL NOT** resume until further notice.

