

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, May 31, 2020 | Seventh Sunday of Pascha

Tone 6 – Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Afterfeast of Ascension
Apostle Hermes of the Seventy (1st 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

By Friday, June 5, the governor of Pennsylvania, along with the mayor of Philadelphia, is expected to move Philadelphia from the **Red Zone** to the **Yellow Zone**. This will allow the parish to host more parishioners for the liturgical services (up to 25 individuals).

Please note that attendance for the services listed below for this week while the city is in the **Yellow Zone** will still be by the invitation-only guidelines set by the parish council.

Saturday: June 6 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: June 7 - 8th Sunday of Pascha | **Holy Pentecost!**
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Vespers with Kneeling Service immediately after Liturgy!!!

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 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 4 - Ascension)

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing they were assured, / that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world!

Troparion (Tone 8 – Holy Fathers)

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, / Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. / Through them Thou hast guided us to the true Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Holy Fathers)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Ascension)

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, / and didst unite earth to heaven: / Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, / not being parted from those who love Thee, / but remaining with them and crying: // "I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!
v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

Epistle Reading: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. The Lord, the God of gods, speaketh and summoneth the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Gather to Me, My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-13

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Instead of "It is truly meet..." , we sing:

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven! / We magnify thee, O Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gavest birth in time to the Timeless One.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

(Instead of "We have seen the True Light," we sing the Troparion of Ascension (on page 2))



Announcements

Holy Synod Elevates Bishop Paul

Meeting under the Presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America during their regular Spring Session, meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 by teleconference, elevated His Grace Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest to the rank and dignity of Archbishop. May God Grant the newly elevated Archbishop Paul Many Healthy, Happy, and Blessed Years!!! AXIOS!

We would like to wish Father Mark Kozak a Happy Birthday this past week (May 27)! May God Grant You Many Healthy, Happy, and Blessed Years!

A special **Thank You** goes out to Deacon Michael McCartney, Subdeacon Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich, and Edward Gerasimoff who spent all day yesterday working on the air conditioning unit and preparing for its use during church services this summer. Hopefully with their mechanical knowledge and skills, we will not incur any problems in the A/C unit this summer. May God Grant all three of them many healthy and blessed years...(and a comfortable summer!!!)

YELLOW ZONE PHASE in PENNSYLVANIA & PHILADELPHIA

In this phase, the most severe restrictions go away, including the stay at home order. But other mitigation efforts remain in place as more of the economy begins to reopen. Restrictions are adjusted as necessary based on public health indicators.

Events: Large gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited.

Business: Businesses with in-person operations must follow safety orders, but working remotely must continue when feasible. Personal care services, such as hair salons and barbershops, remain closed. In-person retail allowed, but curbside and delivery service is preferable.

Dining and Recreation: Restaurants and bars remain limited to takeout and delivery only, but restaurants can open for outdoor dining. Indoor recreation, gyms, spas, and entertainment facilities (including casinos and theaters) remain closed.

Other facilities: Schools remain closed. Child care may open, complying with guidance. Congregate care and prison restrictions remain in place.

Once a county is in the yellow phase, it will closely be monitored for increased risk.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Father Mark Kozak (birthday) offered by Matushka Jan Kozak
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:

Margaret Pellack offered by Pellack Family
Anna Herbert offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 5/24/20:

One Small Vigil Cross – Memory of all those who served and gave their lives
for God and this Country offered by M/M Herbert

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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); Jane Kelly (surgery); 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 17 to Sat May 23	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:	\$ 3,950.24	\$11,222.43
Funds Out:	\$ 149.53	\$ 5,733.32
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 3,800.71	\$ 5,489.11

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 31)	Next Week (Jun 7)
3rd Hour :	David Pellack	Lena Helen
6th Hour:	Subdeacon Dan Kavalkovich	David Albrecht
Epistle:	Michael Spack	Mark Klus

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (May 31): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).

Next Week (Jun 7): Saint Elizabeth - New Martyr
(Emily Gerasimoff and Sandra Hourahan).

(NOTE: Once Sunday Divine Liturgy resumes in a normal fashion, 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 June)

Our State & City civil authorities are hopefully easing restrictions on the number of parishioners who can attend services beginning on June 5 (up to 25 individuals in an indoor facility).

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 June.

Services scheduled to be held and Live Streamed in June

** Saturday, June 6 – Great Vespers – 4:00pm **

** Sunday, June 7 – Divine Liturgy – Holy Pentecost – 10:00am **

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



Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council [May 31st]

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), St Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius (who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18). He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle."

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. St Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

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.

