

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
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, June 7, 2020 | Holy Pentecost

Eight Sunday of Pascha! Feast of the Holy Spirit!

Tone 7 – Hieromartyr Theodolus, bishop of Ancyra (303)

Hieromartyr Marcellinus, Pope of Rome & those with him (304)

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

The city and state are now in the **Yellow Zone**. What this means for the parish is that it can host up to 25 parishioners for the liturgical services.

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.

General dispensation from all fasting throughout the week (June 7 to June 14)

Tuesday: June 9 – Bible Study at **6:30PM** thru ZOOM Platform

Saturday: June 13 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: June 14 - 1st Sunday after Pentecost | Prophet Elisha

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Sunday: June 14 – Monthly Panikhida after Liturgy (*rescheduled!*)

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, / Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise/
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, / and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. //
O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

Kontakion (Tone 8)

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, / He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. // Therefore, with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, / have put on Christ.
Alleluia. (3x's)

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe!
v. The heavens are telling the Glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

Epistle Reading: Acts 2:1-11

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The Lord looks down from Heaven and beholds the sons of men. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed. Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing? They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

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

Rejoice, O Queen! Glory of mothers and virgins! / No mouth, however sweet or fluent, / is eloquent enough to praise thee worthily! / Every mind is overawed by thy childbearing / Therefore with one voice we glorify thee!

Communion Hymn:

Let Thy good Spirit lead me forth on a level path. 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

Good News regarding the Church Roof and Cupolas

Mr. Hutta and his crew will be at the church tomorrow (Monday, June 8) to begin working on the church cupolas and roof. It appears the work will take about a month to complete. There will be trucks, scaffolding, and dumpsters around the church property. All has been discussed to provide the most convenient access to the roof through the building and access to the building and grounds itself.

If you are invited to attend any of the services over the next four to six weeks, please be cognizant of your surroundings when arriving at the parish.

A special **Thank You** goes out to Deacon Michael McCartney, Subdeacon Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich, and Edward Gerasimoff who spent all day last Saturday 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 the city and state:

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, such as significant outbreaks. If the risk remains low for 14 days, it will be cleared to move to the **GREEN** Phase.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family, Friends, and Parishioners offered by Matushka Janine McCartney
Parishioners offered by David Pellack
Herbert and Spack Families offered by M/M Herbert

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John and Margaret Pellack offered by the Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 5/31/20:

One Small Vigil Cross – Health of all those who have kept the church open to continue serving Liturgy and to stream them on the internet 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!

The Brown Family; Grace Corba; Emily Gerasimoff (rehab after surgery); Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (surgery); Sheba Patton (hospitalization); 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 24 to Sat May 30		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:	\$ 2,177.00	\$13,399.43
Funds Out:	\$ 180.86	\$ 5,914.18
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,996.14	\$ 7,485.25

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:

	<u>Today (Jun 7)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jun 14)</u>
3rd Hour :	Lena Helen	John Spack
6th Hour:	David Albrecht	Simon Herbert
Epistle:	Mark Klus	Lena Helen

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Jun 7): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).

Next Week (Jun 14): Saint Elizabeth - New Martyr
(Emily Gerasimoff and Sandra Hourahan).

(NOTE: Once the parish resumes the Fellowship Coffee Hour in a normal fashion, we will continue with the Teams where we let off back 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)

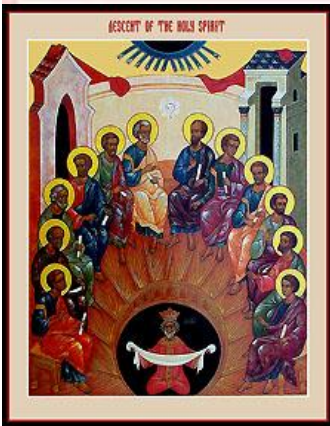
Our State & City civil authorities have eased restrictions on the number of parishioners who can attend services (up to 25 individuals in an indoor facility).

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services in the month of June.

Services scheduled to be held and Live Streamed in June

- ** Tuesday, June 9 – Bible Study – 6:30pm (using ZOOM Platform) **
- ** Saturday, June 13 – Great Vespers – 4:00pm **
- ** Sunday, June 14 – Divine Liturgy – 10:00am **
- ** Sunday, June 14 – Monthly Panikhida after Liturgy (rescheduled from June 7) **

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



Holy Pentecost [June 7th]

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time.

And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom...

THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

"Who is so great a God as our God?"

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God. In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost"—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—"the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope. *Father Alexandar Schmemmann (1974)*

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.

