

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, June 14, 2020 | 1st Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Synaxis of All Saints

Prophet Elisha (9th c. B.C.)

Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople (847)

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.

Monday: **Beginning of the Apostles' (Saints Peter and Paul) Fast!**
(This fast is 14 days (June 15 to June 28) this year!)

Saturday: June 20 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: June 21 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost | All Saints of America
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

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 4)

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, / Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world. / She cries to Thee, O Christ God: / "Send down Thy bounties on Thy people, // Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

Kontakion (Tone 8)

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs, / as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. / By their prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace // through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

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 (Saints) (Tone 4)

God is wondrous in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their troubles. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, and the Lord will deliver them out of them all. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:32-33,37-38; 19:27-30

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright! 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

Church Roof and Cupolas

Mr. Hutta and his crew began work on the church cupolas and roof this past week, starting Monday, June 8. There were areas on the roof, the drainage system, and under the shingles that were major concerns and in need to be addressed. After discussions with property committee, the parish council approved going forward to fix and repair these areas.

The Pellack Family would like to Thank everyone for their cards, wishes, prayers and donations in memory of their mother Margaret Pellack. May her Memory be Eternal!

John and Mary Pellack; Margaret (Peggy) and Joseph (Ken) Walker; and David Pellack

The Fortner Family and Brasko-Rabik Family would like to Thank everyone for their cards, wishes, prayers and donations in memory of their mother, sister, and aunt Marie Fortner. May her Memory be Eternal!

William and Melissa Fortner and Family; James and Shannon Fortner and Family; Nancy Brasko Rabik; and John and Marissa Rabik and Family.

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 and Friends offered by Pellack Family
Lucas, Albert and Catherine offered by Barbara Andrews
Anastasia and Colin offered by Barbara Andrews
Jack Drimak offered by Hourahan Family
Kavalkovich Family offered by Pellack Family
Alex and Brandon offered by Hourahan Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Margaret Pellack offered by Joan Benny
Margaret Pellack offered by the Pellack Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 6/7/20:

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of John and Margaret Pellack
offered by The Pellack Family

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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; Albert Kavalkovich (hospitalization); 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/June)

Week of Sun May 31 to Sat Jun 6

May Month to Date

Attendance:	12	10 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 10 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 3,584.44	\$14,587.19
Funds Out:	\$ 3,601.68	\$ 5,914.18
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 17.24)	\$ 8,673.01

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 (Jun 14)	Next Week (Jun 21)
3rd Hour :	John Spack	Michael Spack
6th Hour:	Simon Herbert	Reader Mark Klus
Epistle:	Lena Helen	Subdeacon Daniel and John Spack

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Jun 14): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).

Next Week (Jun 21): 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

- ** Saturday, June 20 – Great Vespers – 4:00pm **
- ** Sunday, June 21 – Divine Liturgy – 10:00am **
- ** Sunday, June 27 – Great Vespers – 4:00pm **
- ** Sunday, June 28 – Divine Liturgy – 10:00am **

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



Synaxis of All Saints [June 14th]

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

St Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories. The list of St Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous..."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. St Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks & nuns are useless and unproductive, St John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31).

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.



Statement by the Chancellor and the General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America

SYOSSET, NY [OCA] – June 11, 2020

With the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, the Chancellor, Archpriest Alexander Rentel, and the General Counsel to the Orthodox Church in America, Judge E.R. Lanier, made the following statement:

While it is not the practice of the Office of the Chancellor to comment on every rumor or baseless charge published on the internet that cause scandal and aggrieve the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, we have seen fit to make this comment now. The situation in society and the Church has improved because of the steps that were taken in response to the present pandemic, and so it seems fitting to take a moment to reflect on what has transpired in and for our Church. We offer this statement in order to testify to the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America that our Church has faced well the challenges posed by novel SARS CoV-2 and COVID-19 in a hierarchical and conciliar manner. The Church acted, in other words, in a manner totally and completely consistent with its high calling.

From the beginning of this pandemic, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod of Bishops have met regularly to formulate policy and draft accompanying pastoral messages of encouragement to the faithful. Their work has drawn on and was informed by the immense talent found within our Church. Pastors, theologians, medical doctors, healthcare workers, lawyers, and insurance professionals meeting in small groups, or together, or even with the Holy Synod have, in fact, assisted the Holy Synod in their work. Out of love for their beloved children in the Lord, in consultation with experts who are faithful members of our Church, the Holy Synod reasonably decided to comply with the directions of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, as well as the further guidance and orders provided by different levels of civil government in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

An informed decision to comply with civil directives was also made by the Metropolitan Council, which has also met during this pandemic under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. In fact, the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council issued a joint statement regarding the response of the Orthodox Church in America to the coronavirus.

The diocesan bishops each took steps to engage different constituencies within their dioceses – diocesan councils, clergy meetings, parish councils – in order to carefully navigate the challenges posed by this virus. His Eminence Archbishop Mark and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania even created a survey and called for all members of this diocese to reflect and respond to it. The results of this survey help guide His Eminence and his diocesan response.

Additionally, the steps that our Church has taken have been in accord with the Catholic nature of the Church. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has consulted with the heads of other, local Orthodox Churches where he has had the chance to discuss the precautionary measures these Churches have taken to prevent the spread of the virus. His Beatitude has also regularly joined meetings of the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, where similar discussions have been held.

Almost simultaneously to the day when state governments began to issue their first regulations designed to thwart the spread of the coronavirus throughout the United States, lawyers from the Orthodox Church in America contributed to the work of an ad hoc Task Force of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops. This pan-Orthodox Task Force, headed by His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa and composed of lawyers from different Orthodox jurisdictions in the United States, took immediate action to establish and serve as a source of information and as an immediate counterweight to regulatory provisions which even remotely touch upon any aspect of the beliefs and practices of our Orthodox Faith. Consisting largely of experts in the fields of public health and legal affairs, that Task Force has labored long and hard to track the evolution of state regulatory measures where these bear on Orthodox praxis even tangentially.

Although the labors of the Task Force have largely been at the level of almost mind-boggling detail and backbreaking minutia, at least two fundamental lessons learned by the members of the Task Force in their contact with state authorities have made themselves apparent: (1) the regulatory environment established by the states is kaleidoscopic in nature and changes on an almost daily, sometimes hourly, basis, a fact which mandates constant, unceasing surveillance and monitoring; and (2) state administrative regulators are well-intentioned and hard-working civil servants burdened with an almost insurmountable task, but who are largely unfamiliar with the tenets and practices of the Orthodox Faith. The ongoing interactions of the Task Force with these state-level regulators has most often taken on the hue of an educational exercise.

Laboring in informal tandem with a significant number of other organizations and individuals committed to the protection and preservation of American constitutional religious liberties, the Task Force has recently witnessed substantial progress in relations with state officials charged with the onerous task ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of the American public. These advances have been real. A state along the East Coast, to take an example, originally stipulated in its administrative regulations that Holy Communion “administered person-to-person” ... “is not permitted at this time.” That state has revoked this objectionable language which has now been replaced by a provision allowing “person-to-person” administration of the Holy Sacrament, requiring now only that the clergy must use hand sanitizers only when “he or she believes incidental [physical] contact has been made with the communicant.” States which had initially stipulated a one-hour limitation on religious services have now deleted that obnoxious and unnecessary restriction. In other instances, states have backed off of other religious restrictions and have reduced these to voluntary, hortatory recommendations. The Task Force is confident that, with the abatement of the current pandemic, all such regulatory provisions in each of the states will be abandoned and that state intervention in the religious life of all American faith communities will become nothing more than a footnote in history.