

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, July 5, 2020 | 4th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Venerable Athanasius, Founder of the Great Lavra and Coenobitic Monasticism
on Mt. Athos, and his six disciples (1000)
Uncovering of the Relics of Venerable Sergius of Radonezh (1422)

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

Pennsylvania has moved to the **GREEN PHASE** for our county. However, the City of Philadelphia has entered a “Modified Restricted Green Phase”. What this means for the parish is that it can host up to 50 parishioners for the liturgical services and those parishioners who wish to attend services may choose to. Please remember the parish’s six feet social distancing guidelines, wear a mask, and respect each other’s surroundings and boundaries.

Saturday: July 11 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: July 12 – Martyrs Procius and Hilary of Ancyra
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Tuesday: July 14 - Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 8 – Venerable Sergius)

From thy youth thou didst receive Christ into thy soul, O ven'erable one, / and above all didst desire to leave behind the turmoil of the world. / With courage thou didst settle in the wilderness, where thou didst raise Children in obedience, the fruits of humility. / Thus, as an abode of the Trinity, thou didst enlighten all who approached in faith, granting healing to all. // O our Father Sergius, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Kontakion (Tone 3)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Venerable Sergius)

Having risen from the earth today and shining like the sun, / thy precious and incorrupt relics are as fragrant flowers, scented with miracles, / granting healing to all the faithful, and making glad thy flock which thou didst wisely gather and tend. / Now as thou standest before the throne of the Trinity, entreat God's help and grace for them and for all Orthodox Christians, // so that we may sing: Rejoice, O divinely-wise Sergius!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v. Clap your hands, all ye people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – Venerable Sergius)

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:18-23

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 3)

- v. In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Be Thou a God of protection of me, a house of refuge in order to save me. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments
Alleluia (3x's) (TONE 6)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:5-13

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it. When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

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)

*[Note: Today's readings for the Venerable Sergius are as follows:
Epistle – Galatians 5:22-6:2 and Gospel – Luke 6:17-23*

“Be the first to arrive at church for services and the last to leave, especially for the Divine Liturgy.”

St Symeon the Studite (also called Symeon the Pious; +1021)

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

Now that the Fourth of July has passed, it is time for the next great American event...

“Getting ready to go Back to School” (let’s hope so)

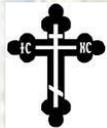
With this in mind, the parish is looking to put together ten backpacks this year. The parish has already received donations of the ten backpacks themselves. It is the school supplies that we are looking for donations. A list of items will be made available shortly for those who wish to donate to this annual parish project. For more information, please see one of the Parish Council members or Matushka Janine McCartney. Thank You!

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!

Afghan Donation to Wisahickon Hospice

During the pandemic, Mathuska Janine McCartney and Mrs. Catherine Kavalkovich made 27 afghans which will be donated to Wisahickon Hospice later on this week. A special Thank You to both Matushka Janine and Mrs. Kavalkovich for their time and effort in making these beautiful afghans. May God Grant both of you Many Years! See below picture



GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!



Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Kavalkovich Family offered by David Pellack
Albert Kavalkovich offered by Kavalkovich Family
Albert Kavalkovich and Family offered by Debbie Kavalkovich
Patricia Ferguson offered by Debbie Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Margaret Pellack offered by Joseph Rabik

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 6/28/20:

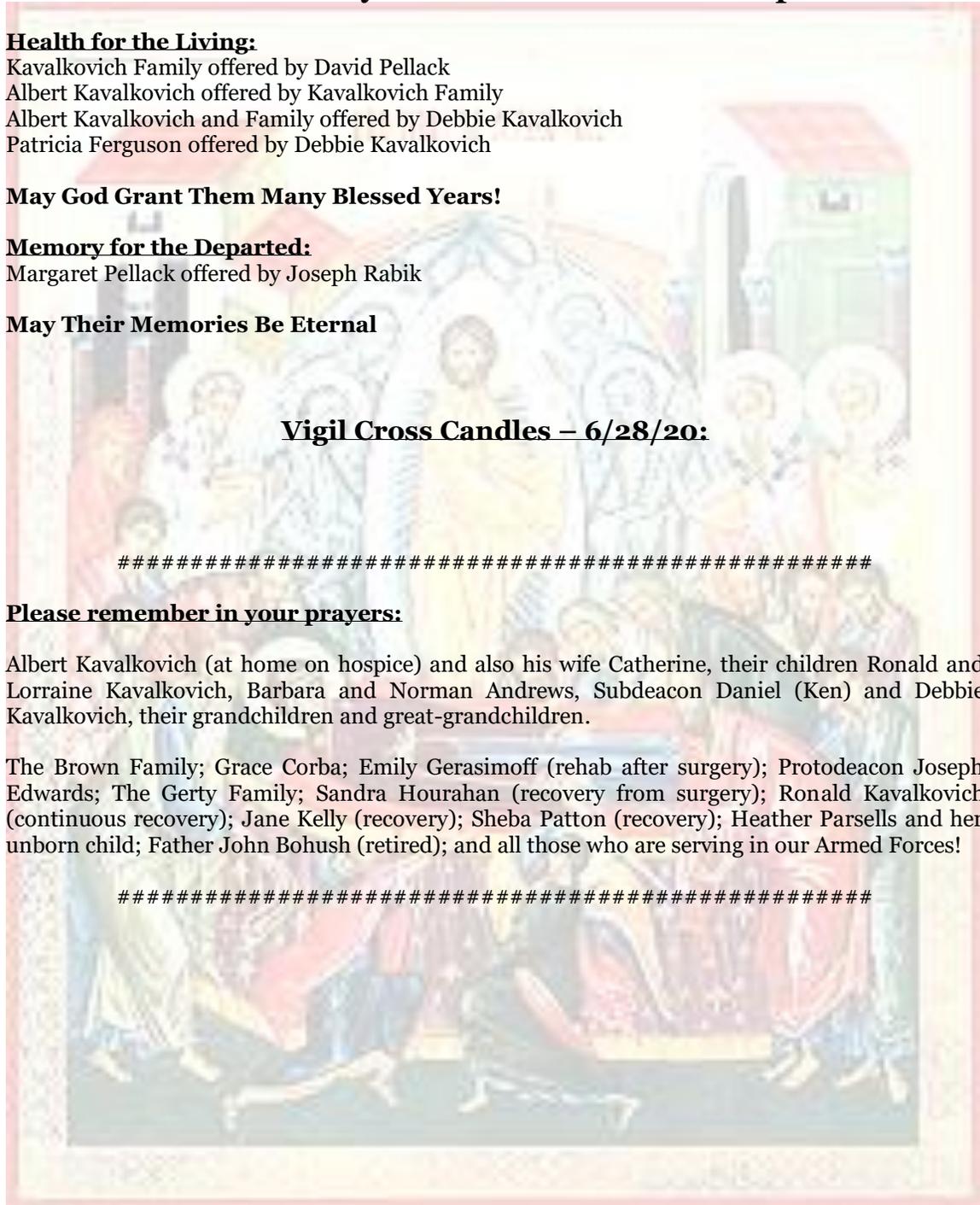
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Please remember in your prayers:

Albert Kavalkovich (at home on hospice) and also his wife Catherine, their children Ronald and Lorraine Kavalkovich, Barbara and Norman Andrews, Subdeacon Daniel (Ken) and Debbie Kavalkovich, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Brown Family; Grace Corba; Emily Gerasimoff (rehab after surgery); Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Sandra Hourahan (recovery from surgery); Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Heather Parsells and her unborn child; 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 (June)

Week of Sun Jun 21 to Sat Jun 27

June Month to Date

Attendance:	23	23 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 25 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 2,502.00	\$ 8,830.68
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$23,144.41
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 2,502.00	(\$14,313.73)

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 (Jul 5)	Next Week (Jul 12)
3rd Hour :	Simon Herbert	Mark Klus
6th Hour:	Matthew Andrews	David Pellack
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel & John Spack	Michael Spack

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Jul 5): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).

Next Week (Jul 12): Saint Elizabeth - New Martyr
(Emily Gerasimoff and Sandra Hourahan).

(NOTE: Today, the parish is resuming the Fellowship Coffee Hour in its normal fashion and 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 July)

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

Bible Study – Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

[Please note that Social Distancing Guidelines will be in effect. Also, there has been no definite decision as of the printing of this bulletin whether or not the Bible Study class will be Zoomed!]



“Economissa” Icon of the Mother of God [July 5th]

The Economissa (or Stewardess) Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos depicts the Mother of God seated on a throne, with Her Son on her left knee. Saint Athanasius of Mt Athos (July 5) stands on her right, holding a model of the Great Lavra. On her left is Saint Michael of Synnada (May 23). Two angels hold a crown above her head.

The Mother of God has been considered the Stewards of the Holy Mountain ever since the tenth century when the Great Lavra was being built. Saint Athanasius of Mt. Athos was abandoned by his monks because

there was a shortage of food and money. He also left the half-built Lavra, and began walking toward Karyes, intending to ask for advice about whether or not to beg the emperor for the funds needed to complete the building. After about two hours, he saw a beautiful woman standing before him wearing a long blue veil.

“I know your sorrow,” She said, “and I would like to help. Where are you going?”

Saint Athanasius explained everything that had happened, and She asked, “Have you deserted your monastery for a morsel of bread? Go back! You will have everything you need in abundance, if you do not abandon your monastery.”

“Who are you?” the astonished saint inquired.

“I am the Mother of your Lord,” She replied.

Saint Athanasius hesitated to believe Her, afraid of being deceived by the Evil One. Then he asked Her how he could be sure that Her words were true.

“Do you see this rock?” she asked, pointing to the side of the path. “Strike it with your staff in the name of the Holy Trinity, and you will know who is speaking to you. Do not appoint a steward at any time, for from this time forward, I shall be the Stewardess of your monastery.”

Saint Athanasius did as he was told, and the rock split open. A stream of water began to flow out of the crack. When he turned to face the Mother of God and to ask forgiveness for his doubt, She had disappeared.

Returning to the monastery, Saint Athanasius found all the storerooms filled to capacity with food, wine, and oil. The building was completed, and soon the Lavra was filled with monks once again.

To this day, the Lavra does not have a steward. There is, however, a monk who serves as an assistant steward to the Mother of God. The Economissa Icon rests on a throne in the narthex of the main church, and She remains the Stewardess of the Lavra. Pilgrims venerate the Icon before entering the side chapel with the saint’s tomb.

The spring of Saint Athanasius still flows with healing water.

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. **TO RESUME ON SUNDAY, JULY 5**

