

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, August 2, 2020 | 8th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 7 – Translation of the Relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (ca. 428),
and the findings of the Relics of the Righteous Nicodemus, Gamaliel, and Abibas

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney Choir Director – Nina Patterson
Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich Reader – Mark Klus
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Weekly Schedule

Pennsylvania has moved to the **GREEN PHASE** for our county. However, the City of Philadelphia is still in 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.

Wednesday: August 5 – Vespers Divine Liturgy at **6:30PM** for Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ!
[\[Please bring fruit \(vegetables\) to be blessed after Service\]](#)

Saturday: August 8 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: August 9 – Glorification of Venerable Herman of Alaska
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy. / And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Protomartyr Stephen)

Thy relics have risen from the depths of the earth, / like a treasury for the immortal life of all creation. / The Church, rejoicing in the grace that she receives from them, / duteously honors thee, O Protomartyr Stephen. // Preserve us from error and heresy by thy intercession!

Kontakion (Tone 7)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / “The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, thou faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Protomartyr Stephen)

Thou wast the first to be sown on the earth by the Heavenly Husbandman, O all-praised one, / and wast the first to shed thy blood on the earth for Christ, O blessed one. / Thou wast the first to receive the crown of victory from Him in heaven, // O Stephen, first of the suffering God-crowned martyrs.

Prokeimenon (Tone 7)

The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!
v. Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 7)

v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High! Alleluia (3x's)
v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning and Thy truth by night. Alleluia(3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:14-22

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

"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” - Backpack Program (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.

Here is a list of school supply items we would like to include in the backpacks for those who wish to donate to this annual parish project:

- * Pencils * Colored Pencils * Pencil Cases * Erasers * Folders
- * Binders * Rulers * Notebooks * Index Cards (3 1/2 x 5)

The Deadline for donating supplies is Sunday, August 16! We then need to put together the backpack supplies and forward them to the educational group in a timely manner so that the school children receive the backpacks by the start of the school year. 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!

Wool Donations:

The Parish is now accepting either actual donations of wool or monetary donations to purchase wool to knit blankets and hats. Please see Dr. Janine McCartney for more details on this project!

The Annual Dining Out in Delaware has been cancelled for this year due to the Covid19 restrictions on bars and restaurants along with the social distancing guidelines. Hopefully we can all gather together next year and celebrate is annual social outing event for the parish!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Barbara Andrews, Ronald Andrew Kavalkovich, Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Jane Holefelder offered by Nina Patterson
Catherine, Barbara, Marc, Marc Jr, David, Allison, Alex, Selena, Ana & Colin offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Patricia, Ronald, Kenneth, Family & Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Father Sergius Willis offered by David Pellack
Albert Kavalkovich and Mary Popelak offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Albert Kavalkovich and Mary Popelak offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Michael and Mary Popelak offered by SMSGT Andrew & Tracy Devito

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 7/19/20:

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Please remember in your prayers:

- + Newly Departed servant of God Albert Kavalkovich (Tuesday, July 7). May His Memory Be Eternal
- + Newly Departed handmaiden of God Mary Popelak (Saturday, July 4). May Her Memory Be Eternal

+ Newly Departed Donald (Tish Berchtold’s father) (July 14), the Brown Family; Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; 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 (July)

<u>Week of Sun Jul 19 to Sat Jul 25</u>	<u>July Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 30 <i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>	34 (average)
Funds In: \$ 3,406.07	\$10,603.93
Funds Out: \$66,753.50	\$79,205.67
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$63,347.43)	(\$68,601.74)

[Completion of Roof Repairs, Dome Base, Window Frames & Downspouts Work was paid!]
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 (Aug 2)
3rd Hour : Matthew Andrews
6th Hour: Reader Mark Klus
Epiistle: Matthew Andrews

Next Week (Aug 9)
Subdeacon D. Kavalkovich
Michael Wanenchak
Mark Klus & Simon Herbert

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Aug 2): Saint Bridget of Ireland
(Catherine Kavalkovich, Simon Herbert)

Next Week (Aug 9): Saint Raphael of Brooklyn
(Mark Klus, Tish Berchtold, Barbara Andrews, Sheba Patton).

(NOTE: The parish has now resumed the Fellowship Coffee Hour in its normal fashion and is continuing with the Team cycle).

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

Wednesday, August 5 – Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - Time: 6:30PM

[Remember to bring your bowls of fruit (and vegetables) to the service to be blessed.]

Sunday, August 9 – Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM for the Glorification of Venerable St Herman of Alaska

Tuesday, August 11 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement.

Friday, August 14 – Great Vespers with Litya at 6:30PM for the Dormition of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos!

Saturday, August 15 – Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM for the Dormition of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos! [Parish Feast Day!]

Sunday, August 30 – Quarterly Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy!



Translation of the relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen [August 2nd]

The Transfer of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople took place about the year 428.

After the holy Protomartyr Archdeacon Stephen was stoned by the Jews, they left his holy body unburied to be devoured by the beasts and birds.

After a day and a night the renowned Jewish teacher of the Law, Gamaliel sent people to take up the body of the Protomartyr. Gamaliel buried him on his own property, in his own tomb, not far from Jerusalem.

When Lord's secret disciple Nicodemus died, Gamaliel also buried him near the grave of St Stephen. Afterwards Gamaliel himself, who had been baptized with his son Abibas, was buried near the grave of the Protomartyr Stephen and St Nicodemus.

In the year 415 the relics of the saint were uncovered in a miraculous manner and solemnly transferred to Jerusalem by Bishop John and the bishops Eutonium of Sebaste and Eleutherius of Jericho. From that time healings took place from the relics.

Afterwards, during the reign of holy Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450), the relics of the holy Protomartyr Stephen were transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople and placed in the church of the holy deacon Laurence (August 10). When a church dedicated to the Protomartyr Stephen was built, the relics were transferred there on August 2. St Stephen's right hand is preserved in the Serapionov chamber of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra.

