

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
Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



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

Sunday, September 13, 2020 | 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross

Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020

Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952

Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com

Deacon – Michael McCartney

Choir Director – Nina Patterson

Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich

Reader – Mark Klus

Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

Monday: September 14 - Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Universal Exaltation of the Precious & Life-Giving Cross. ***STRICT FAST DAY!***

Saturday: September 19 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: September 20 – Greatmartyr Eustathius (Eustace)
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Saturday: September 26 – First Day of Church School beginning at **1:45PM.**
Then the next day (Sunday), Church School held after communion.

Sunday: September 27 – Special Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
Only ONE topic will be discussed: Repairs to the concrete sidewalk on the Snyder Avenue side of the church.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Founding of the Church of the Resurrection)

Thou hast revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Thy glory on earth / to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord. / Through the prayers of the Theotokos, / strengthen it for ever and ever / and accept our supplication / which we ceaselessly offer Thee therein, // the life and resurrection of all!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross)

We offer in supplication / the life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, O Lord, / which Thou hast granted to us / although we are unworthy. // Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!

Kontakion (Tone 5)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, / resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Founding of the Church of the Resurrection)

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light, / which enlightens all the faithful. // Standing within it we cry: Establish this house, O Lord!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross)

Your precious Cross riser like the sun / and mystically makes all things holy and pure. // Let us prepare to welcome it with faith.

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4 - Founding of the Church of Resurrection)

Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, / forevermore.

Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18 and 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. // Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For My hand shall defend him, and My arm shall strengthen him. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loveth the gates of Jerusalem,
O Zion, more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 2]

Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17 and Matthew 22:1-14

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. // And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding." But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding." So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, "Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, "Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen."

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
I have loved the beauty of Thy house, O Lord, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth. Alleluia (3x's)

*[Note: The above Epistle and Gospel readings of the Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross and the Resurrection **are read as one**]*

*[Note: The readings for the Founding are as follows:
Epistle – Hebrews 3:1-4 and Gospel – Matthew 16:13-18]*

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

A Special Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 27, 2020 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #1 of 3.

According to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A. of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Annual and General Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the Meeting. Furthermore, Article IV, Section 4 states The Special Parish Meeting shall be called only for a specific purpose(s), and the said purpose(s) must be stated in the required notice to the Parish members regarding the Special Parish Meeting. The agenda of any Special Parish Meeting shall be limited to the purpose(s) stated in the notice pertaining to same.

Purpose of The Special Parish Meeting - ONE Topic Only: *The Discussion on repairs to the concrete sidewalk on the Snyder Avenue side of the church building!*

Heating, Ventilation and Cooling Units Project!

The parish is beginning a campaign to raise \$40,000 to replace the old HVAC units. We will be offering the following as a fundraiser:

- 1) the commissioning of crocheted afghans and crocheted baby items;
- 2) accepting monetary donations;
- 3) the offering and scheduling of silent auctions; and
- 4) the offering of icons and rare hard to find icons for sale.

Proceeds will go to the HVAC project. All items will be preorders. If you are interested in purchasing commissioned afghans, baby items, or rare icons, please contact Matushka Janine for a full catalogue of items.

Fundraising Received to Date = \$120

Thank you for your support!

CLEAN UP OF CHURCH SCHOOL ROOM

The church schoolroom has been cleaned up and organized for the upcoming potential church school calendar year. There are items/articles that are no longer needed to remain in the schoolroom. These items have been placed in the church basement on the table where the food donations are collected and stored.

If you wish, please claim and take any of these items by **September 20!** After that date, they will be either donated to Goodwill or collected during a Bulk Trash pick up day. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Daria LeRoy offered by Nina Patterson
Jane Holefelder offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 9/6/20:

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Please remember in your prayers:

The newly baptized Owen Brown (August 29) and his parents Micah & Danielle and siblings Lydia, Everet & Thaddeus. May God Grant Owen and the Brown Family Many Blessed Years!

The infant child Theodore Charles Parsells (born August 23) and his parents Peter & Heather and big brother Luke. May God Grant Theodore and the Parsells Family Many Blessed Years!

Jerome and Darcy Stafford who were chrismated last month (Thursday, August 6 – Feast of the Transfiguration) and for their children Ilija and Moses who were also baptized and chrismated last month (Saturday, August 15 – Feast of the Dormition). May God Grant the Stafford Family Many Blessed Years!

Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); 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 (August/September)

Week of Sun Aug 30 to Sat Sep 5

August Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	47	38 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 1,271.00	\$ 9,815.91
Funds Out:	\$ 2,324.37	\$11,896.68
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,053.37)	(\$ 2,080.77)

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 (Sep 13)</u>	<u>Next Week (Sep 20)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Matthew Andrews	Simon Herbert
6 th Hour:	Michael Wanenchak	David Albrecht
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich, David Pellack, and John Spack	Mark Klus and Mike Spack

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Sep 13): Saint Innocent
(Dave Albrecht, Melanie Albrecht).

Next Week (Sep 20): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack).

(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 September.

Monday, September 14 – Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM for the Elevation of the Precious Cross.

Sunday, September 27 – Special Parish Meeting to be held after Divine Liturgy! Only ONE topic will be discussed: Repairs to the concrete sidewalk on the Snyder Avenue side of the parish.

ATTENTION PARENTS: CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS – SEPTEMBER 26

Church School will be held once a calendar season (a calendar quarter) on a Saturday; and then on Sundays after communion.

Beginning on Saturday, September 26, class will begin at 1:45PM.

At 2:00PM - Discussion with Father Mark in the Sanctuary of the church. At 2:30PM – Snack Social. At 3:00PM - Crafts and Games.

Then at 4:00PM – Vespers.

On Sunday, September 27, the Sunday church school class will be held after communion.



Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection at Jerusalem [September 13th]

The Dedication of the Temple of the Resurrection of Christ at Jerusalem celebrates the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, built by St Constantine the Great and his mother, the empress Helen.

After the voluntary Passion and Death on the Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the holy place of His suffering was long trampled on by pagans. When the Roman emperor Titus conquered Jerusalem in the year 70, he razed the city and destroyed the Temple of Solomon on Mount Moriah, leaving there not a stone upon a stone, as even the Savior foretold (Mt. 13:1-2).

Later on the zealous pagan emperor Hadrian (117-138) built on the site of the Jerusalem destroyed by Titus a new city named Aelia Capitolina for him (Hadrian Aelius). It was forbidden to call the city by its former name.

He gave orders to cover the Holy Tomb of the Lord with earth and stones, and on that spot to set up an idol. On Golgotha, where the Savior was crucified, he constructed a pagan temple dedicated to the goddess Venus in 119. Before the statues they offered sacrifice to demons and performed pagan rites, accompanied by wanton acts.

In Bethlehem, at the place the Savior was born of the All-Pure Virgin, the impious emperor set up an idol of Adonis. He did all this intentionally, so that people would forget completely about Christ the Savior and that they would no longer remember the places where He lived, taught, suffered and arose in glory.

At the beginning of the reign of St Constantine the Great (306-337), the first of the Roman emperors to recognize the Christian religion, he and his pious mother the empress Helen decided to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. They also planned to build a church on the site of the Lord's suffering and Resurrection, in order to reconsecrate and purify the places connected with memory of the Savior from the taint of foul pagan cults.

The empress Helen journeyed to Jerusalem with a large quantity of gold, and St Constantine the Great wrote a letter to Patriarch Macarius I (313-323), requesting him to assist her in every possible way with her task of the renewing the Christian holy places.

After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress Helen destroyed all the pagan temples and reconsecrated the places desecrated by the pagans. She was zealous to find the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and she ordered the excavation of the place where the temple of Venus stood. There they discovered the Sepulcher of the Lord and Golgotha, and they also found three crosses and some nails.

In order to determine upon which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius gave orders to place a dead person, who was being carried to a place of burial, upon each cross in turn. When the dead person was placed on the Cross of Christ, he immediately came alive. With the greatest of joy the empress Helen and Patriarch Macarius raised up the Life-Creating Cross and displayed it to all the people standing about.

[..remainder of the Commemoration of the Founding of the Church can be read at www.oca.org..]