

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, March 21, 2021

Tone 8 – First Sunday of Great Lent | Sunday of Orthodoxy
Saint James (Jacob, Iago) the Confessor, Bishop of Catania (8th–9th c.)
St Cyril, Bishop of Catania (1st – 2nd c.)

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

Wednesday: March 24 - Akathist Service at 6:00PM

Thursday: March 25 - Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation of the Most Holy Lady Theotokos at 10:00AM

Friday: March 26 - NO SERVICES AT THE CHURCH!

Saturday: March 27 - Baptism of Basil David Stafford at 1:00 PM

Saturday: March 27 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: March 28 – Second Sunday of Great Lent! St Gregory Palamas!

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

(CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!!!)

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 2 – Sunday of Orthodoxy)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; / and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. / Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. / Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: / “Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, // for Thou alone hast come to save the world.”

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Lenten Triodion)

No one could describe the Word of the Father; / but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, / and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty // We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Prokeimenon (Tone 4 - Song of the Fathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!
v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 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. Moses and Aaron were among His priest; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. They called to the Lord and he answered them. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Instead of "It is truly meet...." we sing the following

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: / the assembly of Angels and the race of men. / O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, / the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: / our God before the ages. / He made thy body into a throne, / and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. // Glory to thee!

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)

Prayer during the Service of The Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers

+ The Triumph of Orthodoxy +

This is the Faith of the Apostles, this is the Faith of the Fathers, this is the Faith of the Orthodox, this is the Faith which has established the whole Universe!

Prayer of St Ephraim the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk. But rather grant unto me the spirit of humility, chastity, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

2021 Lenten Schedule (Beginning 3rd Week of Lent to Pascha)

****Please Note:** This schedule is subject to change depending on schedule of the clergy or the community concerns from our civil authorities. Please listen to the announcements, check your emails, parish website, and parish Facebook page regularly for updated changes to this schedule. Thank You!**

3rd Week of Lent

Wednesday, March 31, 2021 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Friday, April 2, 2021 - Akathist - 6:00 PM
Saturday, April 3, 2021 - Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Saturday, April 3, 2021 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

4th Week of Lent

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Saturday, April 10, 2021 - Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Saturday, April 10, 2021 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

5th Week of Lent

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Friday, April 16, 2021 - Akathist - 6:00 PM
Saturday, April 17, 2021 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

6th Week of Lent

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Friday, April 23, 2021 - Vespers of Lazarus Saturday - 6:00 PM
Saturday, April 11, 2020 - Lazarus Saturday - Divine Liturgy - 10:00AM
Saturday, April 11, 2020 - Great Vespers at 4:00 PM^{SEP}(after Vespers - Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)

Holy Week

Monday, April 26, 2021 - Bridegroom Matins – TBD
Tuesday, April 27, 2021 - Bridegroom Matins – TBD
Wednesday, April 28, 2021 - Holy Unction TBD
Thursday, April 29, 2021 - Holy Thursday - Vespers Divine Liturgy of St Basil - 9AM
Thursday, April 29, 2021 - Holy Thursday - Friday Matins with Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels - 6:00PM
Friday, April 30, 2021 - Holy Friday - Vespers, Matins with Lamentations - 4:00 PM
Saturday, May 1, 2021 - Holy Saturday - Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great (*with All 15 Readings*) - 9:00 AM
Sunday, May 2, 2021 – Pascha Service (Procession, Matins, Divine Liturgy) Blessing of the Easter Baskets – 8:30AM (NO VESPERS SERVICE THIS YEAR!!!)

No services at the parish during Bright Week (Monday thru Friday)

NO Confessions will be heard during Holy Week. The last time Father Mark will hear confessions will be BEFORE Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Sandra Hourahan offered by Nina Patterson
Frank Boyle offered by David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 3/14/21:

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ His Beatitude Metropolitan Ireney on the 40th anniversary of his falling asleep (March 18). His Beatitude was the First Primate of the OCA and was also the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America (aka: Metropolia) when it received autocephaly from the Church of Russia.

Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich (recovery); Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Fania Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of March 14):

Attendance during Lenten Services (1st Week of Lent)

Monday, March 15 – Saint Andrew of Crete = 21
Wednesday, March 17 – Saint Andrew of Crete = 17
Friday, March 19 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts = 15

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 (March)

Week of Sun Mar 7 to Sat Mar 13

March Month to Date

Attendance:	28	28 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 3,330.44	\$ 6,787.34
Funds Out:	(\$ 988.18) reimbursement	\$ 511.82
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 4,318.62	\$ 6,275.52

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 (Mar 21)</u>	<u>Next Week (Mar 28)</u>
3 rd Hour :	David Pellack	Matthew Andrews
6 th Hour:	Simon Herbert	Reader Mark Klus
Epistle:	John Spack	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and William Filanowski

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

As a result of new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials on Monday, November 16 which went into effect on Friday, November 20, the formal coffee hour event held after Sunday Divine Liturgy has been suspended until further notice.

Once city officials ease restrictions relating to Covid, coffee hour will then resume.

When the coffee hour resumes (currently not until at least April 2021), a new coffee schedule with new team parishioners will be in the rotation as per the action taken during the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, November 1.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services in March 2021.

2021 Lenten Service Schedule at our Parish (March 22 to March 28)

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 - Akathist - 6:00 PM


Thursday, March 25, 2020 - Vesperal Divine Liturgy for Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos - 10 AM

Saturday, March 27, 2021 - Baptism of Basil David Stafford - 1:00 PM

Saturday, March 27, 2021 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 28 – Divine Liturgy - 10:00AM (Hours Reading at 9:30AM)

Sunday, March 28 – **There is no Mission Service Scheduled!!**



**MEMORIAL SATURDAY SERVICE
COMMEMORATION OF DEPARTED SOULS
SATURDAY, APRIL 3 & APRIL 10, 2021**

Dear Father Mark,

Kindly include the following names to be commemorated on Memorial Saturday:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |

Submitted by: _____

Please send your list to:

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak
ATTN: AHVOC Memorial Saturday
615 West 11th Street
New Castle, DE 19720-6020

* Ensure you mail list by **Monday, March 29** so Fr. Mark receives it in time.*

- OR -

You can drop the list off in the basket at the candle desk in the vestibule. Please ensure the list is left at the desk by the end of Presanctified Gifts Liturgy on **Friday night, April 2.**



First Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy [March 21th]

Originally, the Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

Today we commemorate the "Triumph of Orthodoxy," the restoration of the holy icons in the reign of the holy Empress Theodora (February 11).

First Saturday of Great Lent: The Miracle of the Boiled Wheat

Yesterday, we remember the miracle of Saint Theodore and the boiled wheat. Fifty years after the death of Saint Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians during the first week of Great Lent, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. Saint Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather to eat cooked wheat with honey (kolyva).

In memory of this occurrence, the Orthodox Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit on the first Saturday of Great Lent. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the ambo, the Canon to the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by Saint John of Damascus, is sung. After this, kolyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The celebration of the Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397).

The Troparion to Saint Theodore is quite similar to the Troparion for the Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths (December 17, Sunday Before Nativity). The Kontakion to Saint Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).

Saint Theodore the Recruit is also commemorated on February 17.