

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

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Tone 2 – Third Sunday of Great Lent | Veneration of the Holy Cross
Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer (883)
Venerable Zosimas of Palestine (4th c.)

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

Wednesday: April 7 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM

Friday: April 9 – NO SERVICES AT PARISH!

Saturday: April 10 – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM

Saturday: April 10 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: April 4 – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent! St John Climacus!
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 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion (Tone 1 – Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

Kontakion (Tone 7 – Cross)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; / it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. / The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; / for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell: // Enter again into Paradise!

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

Before Thy Cross / we bow down in worship, O Master / and Thy holy Resurrection // we glorify. (3x's)

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!

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek” Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. God is our King before the ages; He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-9:1

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

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:

The light of Thy countenance is signed upon us, O Lord. 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

2021 Lenten Schedule (From 5th Week of Lent to St Thomas Sunday)

****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!**

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 (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)

Saturday, May 8, 2021 – Great Vespers – 4:00PM
Sunday, May 9, 2021 – Saint Thomas Sunday - Divine Liturgy – 10:00AM
Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery (*Weather Permitting*)

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

The Red & White Flowers that decorated the cross on the tetrapod for the Veneration of the Cross Sunday were donated in Memory of the Herbert, Macalush, O'Shura, and Ovington families and offered by the Herbert Family! Thank you for your donation of the decorated flowers!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Paul Kavcsak offered by Nina Patterson
Barbara Warfel offered by David Pellack

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 3/28/21:

One Large Votive Cross – Memory of Marianna Treglia
offered by Emily Gerasimoff

One Large Votive Cross – Memory of Marianna Treglia offered by
Edward Gerasimoff, Anna Coan, Diane & Jim Pratt and Family,
Catherine Kavalkovich, Barbara Andrews

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Mitred Archpriest Basil Summer (Mar 26); Basil David Stafford (**Baptized – March 27**);
Jerome and Darcy Stafford; Allison (Christopher) Andrews and her unborn child; Allison (David)
Andrews and her unborn child; Christina (Matthew) Andrews and her unborn child; 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 28):

Attendance during Lenten Services (2nd Week of Lent)

Wednesday, March 31 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts = 15
Friday, April 2 - Akathist to the Blessed Matushka Olga of Alaska = 9
Saturday, April 3 – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy = N/A

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 21 to Sat Mar 27

March Month to Date

Attendance:	42	38 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 2,035.00	\$12,644.78
Funds Out:	\$ 1,435.91	\$ 4,917.91
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) :	\$ 599.09	\$ 7,726.87

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 (Apr 4)</u>	<u>Next Week (Apr 11)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Matthew Andrews	David Albrecht
6 th Hour:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Michael Spack
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and David Pellack

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 May 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 April 2021.

2021 Lenten Service Schedule at our Parish (April 5 to April 11)

- Wednesday, April 7, 2021 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
- Friday, April 9, 2021 – NO SERVICES AT THE PARISH
- Saturday, April 10, 2021 - Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
- Saturday, April 10, 2021 - Great Vespers - 4:00
- Sunday, April 11, 2021 – Divine Liturgy - 10:00AM (Hours Reading at 9:30AM)
- Sunday, April 11, 2021 – **There is no Mission Service Scheduled!!**



**Third Sunday of Great Lent:
Veneration of the Cross**
[April 4th]

Through the Cross, joy has come into all the world.

At the midpoint of Great Lent, Orthodox Christians are invited to the Veneration of the Cross of Christ. In the Lenten journey, we are taught to be mindful of the importance of repentance, fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and forgiveness.

Without these, our spiritual pilgrimage is lacking in meaning. We cannot be disciples of Christ without these marks of Christian life and practice.

After an enthusiastic beginning of Great Lent, little by little we show signs of being tired, our attention begins to flag, our love for God and neighbor begins to wear out. In other words, our own comfort again becomes the priority.

The veneration of the Cross renews and refocuses our Lenten journey by brining our attention back to Christ, back to the love of God for us. This love is given as a gift to us in the form of the Cross, the symbol both of Christ's suffering and of the resurrection. We are taught by Jesus Christ to take up our own cross and follow Him. To venerate the Cross of Christ is to be inspired, strengthened, and enabled to carry our cross.

All of the above is true. Yet it is incomplete. An important dimension is missing – the dimension of joy. “Through the Cross joy has come into all the world.” These words in a hymn of the Resurrection reveal the dimension of joy as central and essential. Where there is faith without joy, faith is deficient. Where there is almsgiving without joy, charity is deficient. Where there is love, there is joy. Where there is Christ, there is joy.

As we walk the pilgrimage of Great Lent, let it be full of joy, and therefore full of Christ.

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Let us look upon the cross for health and guidance as we sing the Troparion for the Cross today:

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!