

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28<sup>th</sup> 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, April 11, 2021

Tone 3 – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent | Saint John Climacus  
Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum (92 AD)  
Martyrs Processus and Martinian of Rome (1<sup>st</sup> 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 14 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM

Friday: April 16 – Akathist Service at 6:00PM

Saturday: April 17 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: April 18 – Fifth Sunday of Great Lent | St Mary of Egypt  
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 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 1 – Saint John Climacus)**

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

### **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 4 – St John Climacus)**

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, / to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, // O our father and teacher John.

### **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 – St John Climacus)**

Let the Saints be exalted in glory / let them sing for joy on their couches.

### **Epistle Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20**

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

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. They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.  
Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

**Gospel Reading: Mark 9:17-31**

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not. He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

**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!  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. 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 Holy Week 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!\*\*

### **Holy Week (UPDATED SCHEDULE!!!)**

Monday, April 26, 2021 - Bridegroom Matins – **6:00PM**

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 - Bridegroom Matins – **6:00PM**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021 - Holy Unction\*\***

**(\*\* Holy Unction service to be held at 7:00PM at St Stephen Cathedral in Northeast Philadelphia. His Grace, Archbishop MARK of our Diocese will serve this service)**

Thursday, April 29, 2021 - Holy Thursday - Vespers Divine Liturgy of St Basil (Vespers Divine Liturgy will begin at **10:00AM**. His Grace, Archbishop MARK of our Diocese will be in attendance for the Liturgy. Please make every effort to attend!)

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!**

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### **Vigil Cross Candles – Accepting Donations (Lazarus Saturday to Pascha)**

As we approach Pascha, we have received a number of donations to burn Vigil Cross Candles. The following services have already been reserved to burn Vigil Cross Candles:

Both Palm Sunday (April 25) and Pascha (May 2) - Both Large Votive Crosses have been reserved!!

Thursday, April 29 – Holy Thursday Evening – 1 Large (or 2 Small) has been reserved. 1 Large Vigil Cross is still available for this service.

See Simon Herbert or Dan Herbert for Vigil Cross donation information & dates.

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Tom, Grace, Joe, and Rick offered by Daria LeRoy

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Stephen Spack offered by Melanie Albrecht  
John and Julia Drimak offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Stephen Spack offered by Nina Patterson

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 4/4/21:**

Two Small Votive Crosses – Memory of John and Julia Jugan  
offered by the Pellack and Walker Families

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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 April 4):**

**Attendance during Lenten Services (4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent)**

Saturday, April 3 – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy = 12  
Wednesday, April 7 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts = 16  
Friday, April 9 - Akathist to the Precious Cross = 11  
Saturday, April 10 – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy = N/A

*[Note: Today's readings for Saint John Climacus are as follows:  
Epistle – Ephesians 5:9-19 and Gospel – Matthew 4:25-5:12]*

## 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/April)

Week of Sun Mar 28 to Sat Apr 3

March Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	37	37 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 1,602.46	\$14,246.40
Funds Out:	\$ 1,638.80	\$ 4,211.71
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 36.34)	\$10,034.69

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

### Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Apr 11)</u>	<u>Next Week (Apr 18)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour :	David Albrecht	Anthony Colona
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Michael Spack	Simon Herbert
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus and David Pellack	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 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.

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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 19 to April 25)

- 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 24, 2021 - **Lazarus Saturday - Divine Liturgy - 10:00AM**
- Saturday, April 24, 2021 - Great Vespers - 4:00PM  
(after Vespers - Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)
- Sunday, April 25, 2021 – **PALM SUNDAY** - Divine Liturgy - 10:00AM  
(Hours Reading at 9:30AM)



## Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Saint John Climacus (of the Ladder) [April 11<sup>th</sup>]

Saint John Climacus (or Saint John of the Ladder) was a monk of Mt. Sinai who lived and wrote in the seventh century. He is venerated in the Orthodox Church on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent because of his spiritual struggles and his authorship of the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, a book that describes the spiritual struggle to climb closer to God through acquiring ascetic virtues.

There are among 30 steps on the ladder that correspond to the 30 years of Christ's life, with the entire volume divided into three main sections: 1) general virtues; 2) instructions on overcoming vices and building up the corresponding virtues; and 3) higher virtues that lead to the goals at which ascetic life aims, including prayer, stillness, dispassion, and finally love (agape).

*The Ladder* was originally written at the request of the abbot of a neighboring monastery, but now its use is widespread in the Church and even in the broader Christian community. Orthodox Christians are called upon to read this book during Lent, and monasteries in particular often read the entire text in the refectory during the Lenten season.

This book calls all to purification through a series of cleansing steps, including denial of self and caring for others. We are invited to examine ourselves in order to learn our faults and purify. Caring for others is a way of cleansing through decreasing our focus on the self. Ultimately, if one is able to follow Saint John's steps, the final goal – the love of others – is accomplished. Saint John's message is one of repentance, of changing around one's life. Saint John wrote, "Do not be surprised that you fall everyday; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience. He who really keeps account of his actions considers as lost every day in which he does not mourn, whatever good he may have done in it."

[Source: Gayle E. Woloschak, PhD from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the IOCC (2016)]