

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 18, 2021

Tone 4 – Fifth Sunday of Great Lent | Saint Mary of Egypt
Venerable John, disciple of Venerable Gregory of Decapolis (9th c.)
Martyrs Victor, Zoticus, Zeno, Acinclynus, & Severian, of Nicomedia

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

Today: Final Day of Collecting for 2021 Lenten Season Project!!!

Wednesday: April 21 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM

Friday: April 23 – Vespers - Lazarus Saturday at 6:00PM

Saturday: April 24 – Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM

Saturday: April 24 – Parish INDOOR Cleaning after Divine Liturgy

Saturday: April 24 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**
(along with the Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)

Sunday: April 25 – Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (*Palm Sunday*)
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 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 8 – Saint Mary of Egypt)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, / for thou didst take up the Cross and followed Christ. / By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passeth away; / but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. // Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoiceth with the angels.

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Saint Mary of Egypt)

Having been a sinful woman, / thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. / Having attained angelic life, / thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. // Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works / in wisdom hast Thou made them all!
v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Saint Mary of Egypt)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:11-14

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication.
Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 1]

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:32-45

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again. Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

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 Bright Week Schedule

****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!**

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*)

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

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.

Pussywillows and Palms to be Blessed for Palm Sunday

Reminder: If you are bringing your own Pussywillows and/or Palms to be blessed after the Vesper service for Palm Sunday (Saturday evening, April 24), please be sure that you somehow identify which ones are your branches (i.e. tie together with a ribbon; place a tag with your name if necessary; etc...). Thank You!

Resumption of the Collection during Divine Liturgy

Beginning on Pascha (Sunday, May 2), the parish will resume the collection of donations using the baskets. As a reminder, the parish has two collections, one after the sermon (earmarked towards a specific fund collected on a specific Sunday (see page 6 of the bulletin)), and one before the Lord's Prayer (general donation offering). For those in the choir loft, a basket will be placed in its usual location. Just drop off your donation in that basket & it will be picked up during the collection. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Daria LeRoy offered by Melanie Albrecht
Frank Boyle offered by David Pellack
Daria LeRoy offered by her sister Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 4/11/21:

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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 11):

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$21 from the Candy Sale

Attendance during Lenten Services (5th Week of Lent)

Saturday, April 10 – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy = 13
Wednesday, April 14 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts = 10
Friday, April 16 - Akathist to the Precious Cross = 11

[Note: Today's readings for Saint Mary of Egypt are as follows:
Epistle – Galatians 3:23-29 and Gospel – Luke 7:36-50]

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 (April)

Week of Sun Apr 4 to Sat Apr 10

April Month to Date

Attendance:	42	42 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 2,740.00	\$ 2,740.84
Funds Out:	\$ 1,293.60	\$ 3,638.60
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,446.40	(\$ 897.76)

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 18)</u>	<u>Next Week (Apr 25)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Anthony Colona	Reader Mark Klus
6 th Hour:	Simon Herbert	Michael Wanenchak
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and William Filanowski	John Spack

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.

Holy Week/Pascha Service Schedule at our Parish (April 26 to May 2)

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 – **4:00PM**

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)



**Fifth Sunday of Great Lent:
Saint Mary of Egypt**
[April 18th]

On the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, the Church provides us with one final theme of prayer and repentance before we enter Holy Week, the life of Saint Mary of Egypt. Saint Mary explained to Abba Zosimas, “I was born in Egypt, and when I was 12 years old, I left my parents and went to Alexandria. There I gave myself to unrestrained sensuality. For more than 17 years I lived like that.”

Saint Mary described how she boarded a ship of pilgrims on its way to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Upon arrival she attempted to enter the church, but a force prevented her entrance. She realized that she had to repent of her sinful ways, and the Blessed Theotokos revealed to her that salvation awaited her in the desert beyond the Jordan River by means of continual prayer and fasting.

Abba Zosimas asked her, “How many years have passed since you began to live in the desert?” She replied, “It is 47 years.” Abba Zosimas asked, “What food do you find here?” She said, “I had two and a half loaves of bread when I crossed the Jordan. Eating a little at a time, I finished them after a few years.”

On this Sunday of Great Lent, the Church encourages us to emulate this powerful example of lifelong repentance by prayer and fasting. While we all surely eat more than two and a half loaves of bread in a few years, our meager fasting should heighten our compassion for the poor and the hungry, and whatever resources we are able to preserve by fasting become available for “the least of these my brethren.” Let us reach out to the poor and destitute throughout the world with the inspiration of Saint Mary of Egypt, especially during this time of tumult and suffering.

[Source: Very Reverend Father Michael Elias from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the IOCC (2016)]

NOTE: If anyone wishes to read more about the life of both Saint Mary of Egypt and Abba Zosimas, please go on the OCA website (www.oca.org) and click on the Feast & Saints link, then select today’s date, and then click on the “Read the Life” box for 5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt.