

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, March 27, 2022

Tone 7 – Third Sunday of Great Lent | Veneration of the Holy Cross
Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica (3rd -4th c.)
Martyrs Manuel and Theodosius (304)

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: Mission Service Vespers at **4:00PM**
 Saint Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral
 8598 Verree Road * Philadelphia, PA 19111

Wednesday: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM

Friday: Akathist (of the Blessed Mother Olga) at 6:00PM

Saturday: April 2 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: April 2 – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent | Saint John Climacus
 Reading of Hours – 9:30am
 Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
 Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy. / And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

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

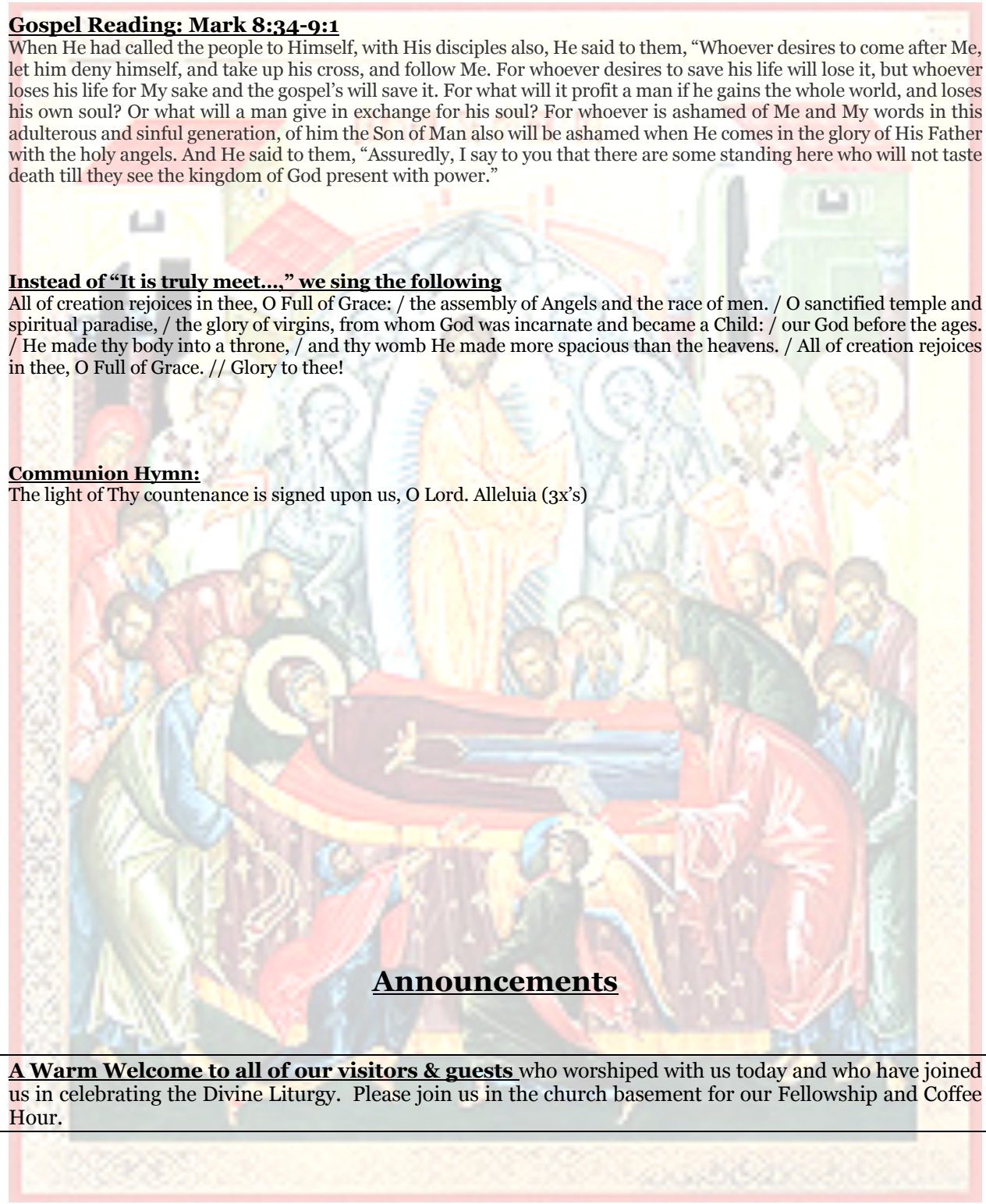
When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For 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

2022 Lenten Schedule (Beginning 4th Week of Lent to 5th Week)

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

4th Week of Lent (March 28 to April 2)

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Friday, April 1, 2022 – Akathist (To the Blessed Mother Olga) - 6:00 PM
Saturday, April 2, 2022 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

5th Week of Lent (April 3 to April 9)

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Thursday, April 7, 2022 – Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete – 6:00PM
Friday, April 8, 2022 – Akathist - 6:00 PM
Saturday, April 9, 2022 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

Parish Lenten Project

The parish is still collecting coats for the homeless during the parish's Lenten Project. We have a need for men's coats and children's coats. If you can spare a worn or gently worn coat, please consider donating them to our homeless agency partners, Soup and Song. In addition, we are also collecting canned goods. Please consider buying a few extra things on sale when you go shopping or donating current in date items from your pantry. Thank you for your generosity as always!

Pascha Basket Candy Sale – Fundraiser for the HVAC Project

Orders for handmade chocolate candy bars for your Pascha baskets have begun and the final day for orders to be taken is Sunday, April 3, 2022. These orders will be filled and delivered on the following dates: April 3, and April 10. The price for each bar is \$5.00. Each bar is approximately 4 ounces. There are four different designs of chocolate candy bars to choose from: two rabbits, Noah's ark, hydrangea, or love birds.

New designs: Orthodox crosses, flowers, and animal selections. Orthodox crosses can be ordered in white, milk or dark chocolate. The price for a cross is \$7.00. The price for the flowers and animal designs are \$5.00 each.

Please see Matushka Janine for samples and for ordering
Remember, homemade chocolate candy bars for sale will be by Pre-Orders Only!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Lynn Brubaker offered by David Pellack
Gary Simoes offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy
Cathy Dunn offered by David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Godparents offered by David Pellack
Gary Race offered by David Pellack

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Today - Vigil Cross Candles – 3/27/22:

One Large Votive Cross – Health of Sharon and James Orr offered by their mother Emily Gerasimoff

One Large Votive Cross – Memory of Albert Kavalkovich offered by his daughter Barbara Andrews

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Please remember in your prayers:

Anastasia Jones & her unborn child; Heather Parsells & her unborn child; Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Anne (Homa) Killoran (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Joseph Rabik Dr. Gale Rutan; Peter Witiak; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of March 20)

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$0 from the Candy Sale

Attendance during Lenten Services (3rd Week of Lent)

Wednesday, March 23 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts = 11
Thursday, March 24 – Vesper Divine Liturgy for Annunciation of the Theotokos = 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. By the action taken at the Fall General Parish Meeting held on Sunday, October 10, the parish body approved that the special collection for the first three Sundays of the month be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (now known as the Row House Fund).

The fourth Sunday (and fifth, when it occurs) the special collection will be earmarked towards Charity.

This new collection schedule will begin on Sunday, October 17.

Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (March)

Week of Sun Mar 13 to Sat Mar 19

March Month to Date

Attendance:	37	44 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 3,531.00	\$ 8,920.12
Funds Out:	\$ 1,481.10	\$ 6,396.84
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 2,049.90	\$ 2,523.28

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 27)</u>	<u>Next Week (Apr 3)</u>
3 rd Hour:	John Spack	To Be Determined
6 th Hour:	Matthew Andrews	To Be Determined
Epistle:	Matthew Andrews	To Be Determined

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour in the white/clear 3-ring binder which is located on the display case outside of the office room.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services & events in March/April 2022.

Sunday, April 3 – Mission Service Vespers at 4:00PM
Descent of Holy Spirit Romanian Orthodox Church
1323 Ashbourne Road – Elkins Park, PA 19027

Sunday, April 10 – Our parish is hosting the Lenten Mission Service!!

EASTER Flowers: We are now accepting donations until Palm Sunday! Please place your donation in one of the white envelopes marked “FLOWERS” and leave it on the candle stand in the Vestibule.

Vigil Cross Votive Candles: We are scheduling to have the vigil cross votive candles lit for services during the Lenten season. As of this morning, the following dates and cross sizes have been reserved:

- * **Sunday of Saint John Climacus (April 3) = Both Large Crosses reserved**
- * **Palm Sunday (April 17) = Both Large Crosses reserved**
- * **Holy Friday (April 22) = Both Large Crosses reserved**
- * **PASCHA (April 24) = Both Large Crosses reserved**

Please see Simon Herbert to schedule details & cross size lightings!



**Third Sunday of Great Lent:
Veneration of the Cross**
[March 27th]

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!

