

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: <https://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



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

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Tone 8 – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent | Saint John Climacus
Ven Nicetas (Nikita) the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion (824)
Virgin-Martyr Theodosia of Tyre, and Martyr Irene (307-308)

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

- Today: Mission Service Vespers at **4:00PM**
Descent of Holy Spirit Orthodox Church
1323 Ashbourne Road * Elkins Park, PA 19027
- Wednesday: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM
- Thursday: Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete service at 6:00PM
- Friday: Akathist Service at 6:00PM
- Saturday: April 9 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: April 10 – 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
- Sunday: April 10 - Mission Service at our Parish at 4:00PM!!!

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 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 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, / and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

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 8)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

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 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! 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

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!**

5th Week of Lent (April 4 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

6th Week of Lent (April 11 to April 16)

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 – Bible Study – 6:30PM
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Friday, April 15, 2022 – Vespers of Lazarus Saturday – 6:00PM
Saturday, April 16, 2022 – Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM
Saturday, April 16, 2022 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM
(after Vespers – Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)

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!!!

[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.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Shaw Family offered by David Pellack
Joseph Pence offered by David Pellack
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
The Kavalkovich, Andrews, & Gerasimoff Families offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Anastasia & Unborn Child, Patricia, Catherine, Barbara, Alexander & Selena offered by MM K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Stephen Spack and Paul Kavcsak offered by Melanie Albrecht
Paul Kavcsak offered by Daria LeRoy

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Today - Vigil Cross Candles – 4/3/22:

One Large Votive Cross – Memory of John and Julia Jugan and the Zuzulock Family offered by David Pellack

One Large Votive Cross – Memory of Patricia Gerasimoff offered by an Anonymous donation

#####

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); Dr. Gale Rutan; Joseph Rabik; Peter Witiak; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

#####

Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of March 27)

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

Attendance during Lenten Services (4th Week of Lent)

Wednesday, March 30 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts = Attendance Unavailable
Friday, April 1 – Akathist (to the Blessed Mother Matushka Olga) = 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. 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 20 to Sat Mar 26

March Month to Date

Attendance:	51	46 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,566.20	\$11,486.32
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,396.84
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 2,566.20	\$ 5,089.48

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 3)</u>	<u>Next Week (Apr 10)</u>
3 rd Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6 th Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich and Daniel Herbert	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 April 2022.

Sunday, April 10 – Mission Service Vespers at 4:00PM – At Our Parish!!!

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 Mary of Egypt (April 10) = 1 Large Crosses reserved
- * Palm Sunday (April 17) = Both Large Crosses reserved
- * Holy Thursday (April 21) = 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!



Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Saint John Climacus (of the Ladder) [April 3rd]

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)]

