

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

** Serving the Orthodox Community in South Philadelphia for 110 years! **

Sunday, February 26, 2023 | Cheesefare Sunday

Tone 4 – Forgiveness Sunday

The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

Saint Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza (420)

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

39 years ago on Feb 25, Father Mark was ordained to the priesthood.

May God Grant You, Father Mark, Many Happy, Healthy Years!!!

Today: Forgiveness Sunday Vespers right after Divine Liturgy!

Beginning of Great Lent (Strict Fasting Observed)

Service Schedule for the 2023 Great Lenten season is enclosed within this bulletin!
is enclosed within this bulletin! NOTE: as of last night, location of Mission Services
from the 2nd Sunday to the 5th Sunday have not yet been determined]

Saturday: March 4 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: March 5 – First Sunday of Great Lent! Sunday of Orthodoxy!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: March 5 – Mission Service at 4:00PM at Saint John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church located at 237 North 17th Street in Philadelphia, PA 19103-1292
Phone: 215.563.0979 Website: <https://stjcaoc.org>

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!”

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Lenten Triodion)

O Master, Teacher of wisdom, / Bestower of virtue, / Who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the poor, / strengthen and enlighten my heart! / O Word of the Father, / let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: / Have mercy on me, a transgressor, // O merciful Lord!

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.

Epistle Reading: Romans 13:11-14:4

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 6)

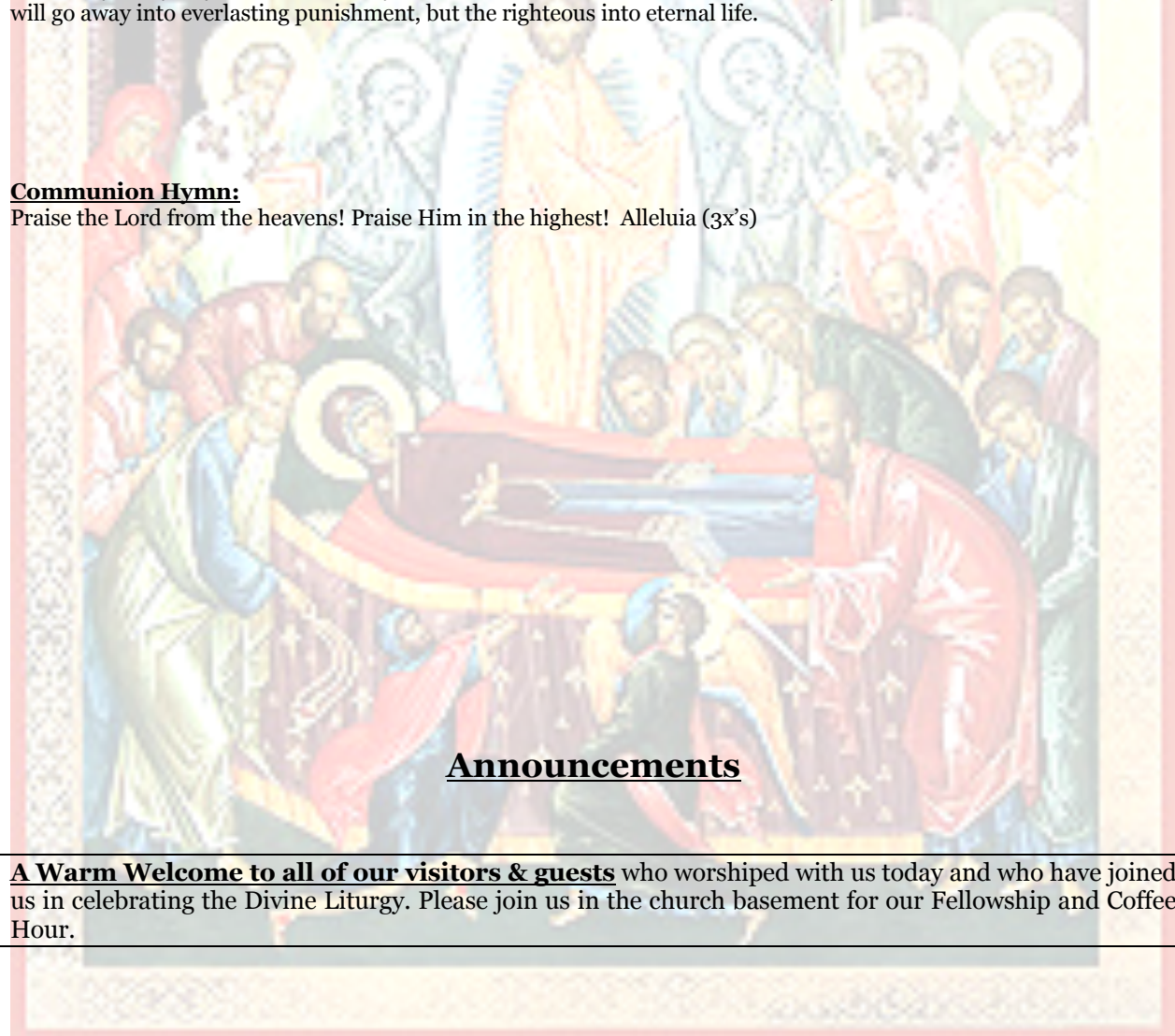
- v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High Alleluia (3x's)
- v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:14-21

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?' 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! 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

40 Days for Life Spring Vigil – February 22 to April 2

The campaign is a peaceful vigil. They are not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a peaceful physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves. Please visit their website: <https://www.40daysforlife.com> for a campaign location near your area.

CARDS FOR OUR TROOPS! BRING IN YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS!

2023 House Blessing

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany, which is Friday, January 6. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless. Final House Blessing date is TODAY, February 26!!

Votive Vigil Cross Candles Scheduling

We are scheduling to have the votive vigil cross candles lit for services during the Lenten season. There is a sign-up sheet located at the candle desk in the Vestibule.

Either 1 Large or 2 Small candles per each votive vigil cross candles can be reserved
As of this morning, the following dates and cross sizes have been reserved...

- * Forgiveness Sunday (Today) = Both Large Crosses reserved
- * Sunday of Orthodoxy (March 5) = Two Small Crosses reserved

2023 Parish Community Projects – Food Drive Donations

Throughout the 2023 calendar year, one of the parish community projects will be accepting donations of both Shop Rite gift cards and food items for our very own Mother Catherine and the nuns at Saint Mary Magdelene Monastery in upstate Pennsylvania. We all go food shopping and throughout the year if you can remember to pick up one or two items each trip for this food drive, it will be much appreciated. Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine will be delivering the food to Mother Catherine once a month. They will also be taking her shopping. Food collection bins will be made available for your donations. Please consider purchasing Shop Rite gift cards from David Pellack and then give them to Matushka Janine so they can be provided to Saint Mary Magdelene Monastery. Please consider a special emphasis on donating protein-based items such as peanut butter, cans of tuna, cans of fruits and vegetables and gluten free.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Alexandra Walker offered by David Pellack
Family, Friends, and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Kavalkovich, Andrews Gerasimoff Families offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Catherine, Patricia, Barbara, Kenneth, Alex, Selena, offered by MM K Kavalkovich
Anastasia, Colin, Levi, Steve, William offered by MM K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

William Brasko Sr. offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Ronald Sr., Albert, Marc Sr., Marc Jr. offered by MM K Kavalkovich
Anne, Helen, Sharon offered by MM K Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 2/19/23

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Please remember in your prayers:

Justine & John McCann; Elton Andrews; Catherine Kavalkovich; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; Dr. Gale Rutan; Joseph Rabik; Peter Witiak; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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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 back on Sunday, October 10, 2021, 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 began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021.
Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (February)

<u>Week of Sun Feb 12 to Sat Feb 18</u>	<u>February Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 36	40 (average)
Funds In: \$ 2,605.00	\$ 6,156.29
Funds Out: \$ 309.19	\$ 7,196.76
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 2,295.81	(\$ 1,040.47)

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 on ZOOM media platform.
- 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.
- Last Thursday of each month** – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Feb 26)</u>	<u>Next Week (Mar 5)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	David Pellack
6 th Hour:	John Spack	Reader Mark Klus
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus	David Pellack

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 on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder 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 February/March 2023.

Sunday, February 26 - Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The parish traditionally serves this Vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading “Vouchsafe, O Lord”) that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!

First Week of Lent - Lenten Services here at the Parish (Confirmed!!!)

- Monday, February 27 – Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete at 6:00PM
- Tuesday, February 28 – Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete at 6:00PM
- Wednesday, March 1 – Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete at 6:00PM
- Thursday, March 2 – Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete at 6:00PM
- Friday, March 3 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM

Sunday, March 5, 2023 – Vesper Mission Service – Sunday of Orthodoxy

Saint John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church * 237 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1292 * Phone: 215.563.0979 * Vesper Service begins at **4PM**



Sunday of Cheese-fare | Expulsion of Adam from Paradise [February 26th]

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendents became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit..."

Taking Lent Seriously: (an excerpt from Fr Steven Kostoff's column in Reflection in Christ from the oca.org website)...

"What can we do during Great Lent? How do we not squander this time that we should set aside for God?"

- **Prayer** - Make provision to be in church for some of the Lenten services. Start with the first week of Great Lent and the Canon of Repentance of Saint Andrew of Crete. Assume or resume a regular Rule of Prayer in your home. Read the psalms and other Scripture carefully and prayerfully. Pray for others.
- **Charity** – Open your heart to your neighbor. If you believe that Christ dwells within you, then try to see Christ in your neighbor. Make your presence for the "other" encouraging and supportive. Restrain your "ego" for the sake of your neighbor. Help someone in a concrete manner this Great Lent.
- **Fasting** – Set domestic goals about the manner in which you will observe the fast. Test yourselves. Resist minimalism. If you "break" the fast, do not get discouraged or "give up," but start over. Assume that your Orthodox neighbor is observing the fast. Seek silence. Allow for a different atmosphere in the home."

2023 Lenten Schedule

1st Week of Lent

Monday, February 27, 2023 - Lesser Compline and Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - 6:00 PM
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 - Lesser Compline and Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - 6:00 PM
Wednesday, March 1, 2023 - Lesser Compline and Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - 6:00 PM
Thursday, March 2, 2023 - Lesser Compline and Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - 6:00 PM
Friday, March 3, 2023 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Saturday, March 4, 2023 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 5, 2023 - MISSION VESPER - St. John Chrysostom Church – 4:00 PM

ADDRESS: 237 North 17th Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103-1292

WEBSITE: <https://stjcaoc.org/> [Albanian Archdiocese, OCA Parish]

2nd Week of Lent

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Friday, March 10, 2023 - Akathist (of the Theotokos) - 6:00 PM
Saturday, March 11, 2023 - Memorial Saturday - Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM
Saturday, March 11, 2023 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 12, 2023 - MISSION VESPER - CHURCH - 4:00 PM [To Be Determined]

ADDRESS:

WEBSITE:

3rd Week of Lent

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 - Bible Study - 6:30 PM [Through ZOOM media platform only]
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Friday, March 17, 2023 - Akathist (To Be Determined) - 6:00 PM
Saturday, March 18, 2023 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 19, 2023 - MISSION VESPER - 4:00 PM [To Be Determined]

ADDRESS:

WEBSITE:

4th Week of Lent

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM
Thursday, March 23, 2023 - Book Club - 6:30 PM [Through ZOOM media platform only]
Friday, March 24, 2023 - Akathist (of the Blessed Olga) - 6:00 PM
Saturday, March 25, 2023 - Divine Liturgy - Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos - 10:00 AM
Saturday, March 25, 2023 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 26, 2023 - MISSION VESPER - 4:00 PM [To Be Determined]

ADDRESS:

WEBSITE:

5th Week of Lent

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM

Thursday, March 30, 2023 - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete - 6:00 PM

Friday, March 31, 2023 - Akathist (To Be Determined) - 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 1, 2023 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

Sunday, April 2, 2023 - MISSION VESPER - 4:00 PM [To Be Determined]

ADDRESS:

WEBSITE:

6th Week of Lent

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - 6:00 PM

Friday, April 7, 2023 - Vespers of Lazarus Saturday - 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 8, 2023 - Lazarus Saturday - Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

Saturday, April 8, 2023 - Great Vespers at 4:00 PM - (after Vespers - Blessing of Pussywillows & Palms)

Sunday, April 9, 2023 - BRIDEGROOM MATINS – St Stephens Cathedral - 4:00 PM

ADDRESS: 8598 Verree Road | Philadelphia, PA 19111

WEBSITE: <https://www.ststephenscathedral.org/> [OCA Parish]

Holy Week

Monday, April 10, 2023 - Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday - 6:00 PM

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 - Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday - 6:00 PM

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 - Matins and Holy Unction at St. Stephen's Cathedral - Time: TBD

Thursday, April 13, 2023 - Holy Thursday - Vespers Divine Liturgy of St Basil - 10:00 AM

Thursday, April 13, 2023 - Holy Thursday - Friday Matins (Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels) - 6:00 PM

Friday, April 14, 2023 - Holy Friday - Vespers (Burial of Service) - 3:00 PM

Friday, April 14, 2023 - Holy Friday - Matins of Holy Saturday with Lamentations - 4:00 PM

Saturday, April 15, 2023 - Holy Saturday - Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great (with All 15 Old Testament Readings) - 9:00 AM

Sunday, April 16, 2023 - Pascha Service (Procession, Matins, Divine Liturgy) - 8:30 AM

Sunday, April 16, 2023 - Pascha Vespers approximately 15 minutes after the Blessing of the Easter Baskets in the church basement

Bright Week

Monday, April 17, 2023 - Bright Monday Divine Liturgy (Procession & Water Blessing) - 10AM

Saturday, April 22, 2023 - Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

Sunday, April 23, 2023 - St. Thomas Sunday - Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

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!