

## 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: <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, March 19, 2023

Tone 7 – Third Sunday of Great Lent | Veneration of the Cross  
Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, and those with them at Rome:  
Claudius, Hilaria, Jason, Maurus, Diodorus the Presbyter & Marianus

### 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 at 4:00PM at Saint Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church  
located at 1855 Middletown Road in Glen Mills, PA 19342  
Phone: 610.459.5310 Website: <https://www.sthermansoca.org>

The fourth week Lenten schedule at the parish is on page 7 of Bulletin

Thursday: March 23 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at **6:30PM**  
on the ZOOM media platform ONLY!!!

Saturday: March 25 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the  
Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

Saturday: March 25 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: March 26 – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent | St 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**

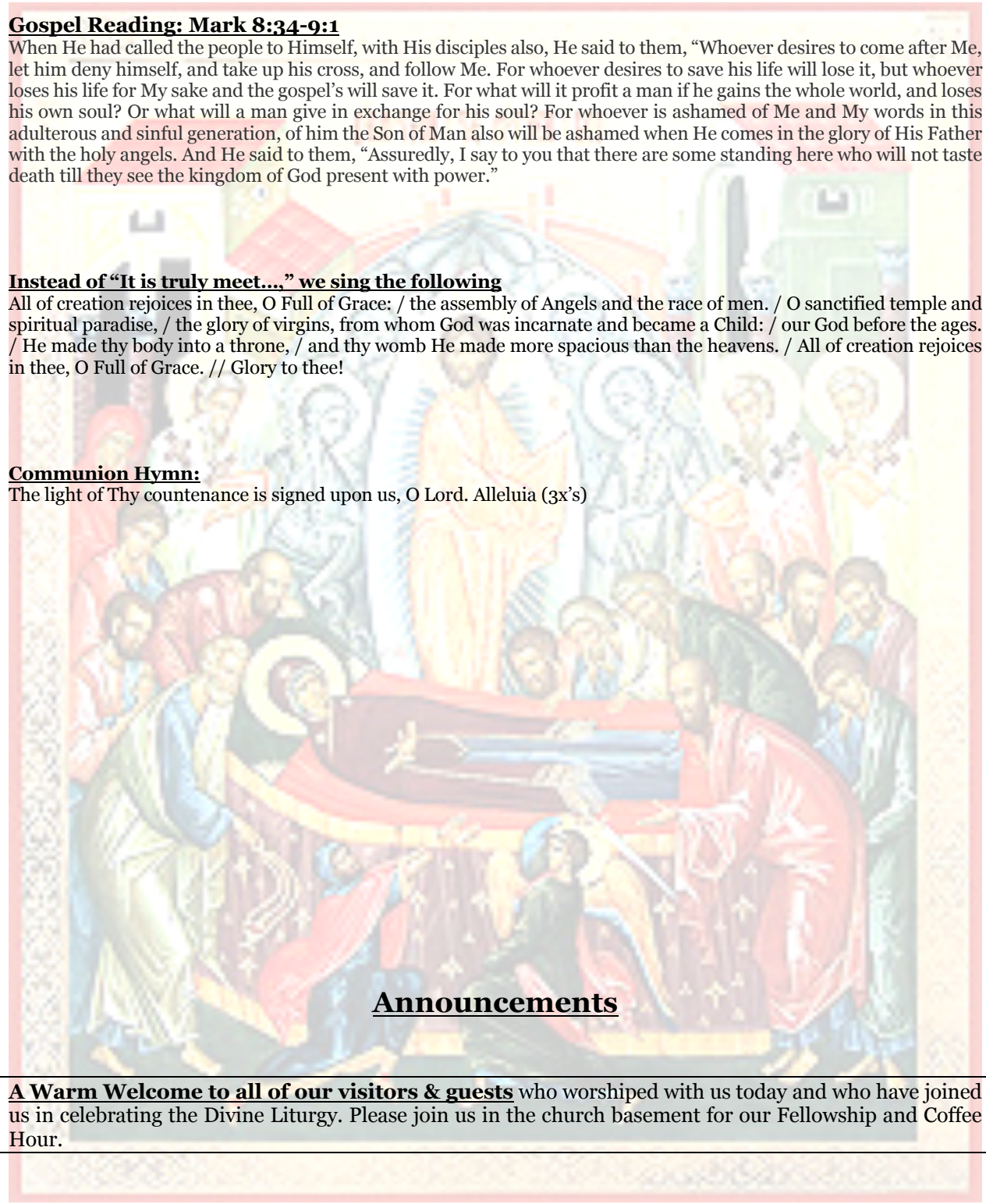
When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For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

### **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.

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### **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...

- \* Saint Mary of Egypt (Sunday, April 2) = BOTH Large Crosses are reserved!
- \* Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 9) = 1 Large Cross is reserved
- \* Holy Saturday (Saturday, April 15) = 1 Large Cross is reserved
- \* PASCHA (Sunday, April 16) = BOTH Large Crosses are reserved!

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### **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.

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### **Attendance during Lenten Services (3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent)**

Wednesday, March 15 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts = 15	(11 Last Year)
Friday, March 17 – Akathist to Saint Jacob = 5	(No Service Last Year)
Saturday, March 18 – Great Vespers = 9	(Unknown Last Year)

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Catherine Kavalkovich offered by Nina Patterson  
Anastasia, Colin, Levi, Alex, Selena, Kenny, offered by MM K Kavalkovich  
Catherine, Barbara, Edward, Emily, David, David, Daniel, Linda, Steve, Ryan, Family and Friends offered by MM K Kavalkovich

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Family, Parishioners, and Friends offered by David Pellack  
Albert Kavalkovich, Ronald Kavalkovich Sr. offered by Barbara Andrews  
Marc Sr., Marc Jr., Vito, Helen, Andrew, Margaret, Thomas, John, Julia, Anne, Bridget, John offered by MM K Kavalkovich

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 3/12/23**

Two Small Vigil Crosses – Memory of the John and Anna Homa offered by Ron and Cheryl Homa

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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 (March)**

Week of Sat Mar 5 to Sat Mar 11

March Month to Date

Attendance:	52	52 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 5,905.08	\$ 5,905.08
Funds Out:	\$ 9,071.50	\$10,613.17
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 3,166.42)	(\$ 4,708.09)

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

### Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Mar 19)</u>	<u>Next Week (Mar 26)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	John Spack	David Pellack
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Michael Spack	Dr. David Albrecht
Epistle:	John Spack	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.

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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 & events in March 2023.

### Fourth Week of Lent - Lenten Services here at the Parish!

- Wednesday, March 22 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM
- Thursday, March 23 – Book Club [Through ZOOM Media Platform] at **6:30PM**
- Friday, March 24 – Akathist at 6:00PM
- Saturday, March 25 – Divine Liturgy – Annunciation of Holy Theotokos at **10:00AM**

**Thursday, March 23 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!**

### **Sunday, March 26 – Vesper Mission Service – 4:00PM**

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church \* 8210 West Chester Pike  
Upper Darby, PA 19082 \* Phone: 610.853.1171



**Third Sunday of Great Lent:  
Veneration of the Cross**  
[March 19<sup>th</sup>]

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!