

## 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, April 2, 2023

Tone 1 – Fifth Sunday of Great Lent | Saint Mary of Egypt  
Venerable Titus the Wonderworker (9<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Martyrs Amphianus (Apphianus) and Edesius of Lycia (306)

### 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 Michaels Orthodox Church  
located at 2300 West Huntington Drive in Wilmington, DE 19808-6900  
Phone: 302.998.1747      Website: <https://www.stmichael-delaware-oca.org>

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

Saturday: April 8 – Church Cleaning scheduled after Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy.  
Just the upstairs in the church (No outside or basement cleaning)!

Saturday: April 8 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**  
*(along with the Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)*

Sunday: April 9 – 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*

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 1)**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

### **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 1)**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

### **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 1)**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.  
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

### **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 1)

- v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David,  
His anointed, and his seed forever. 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**

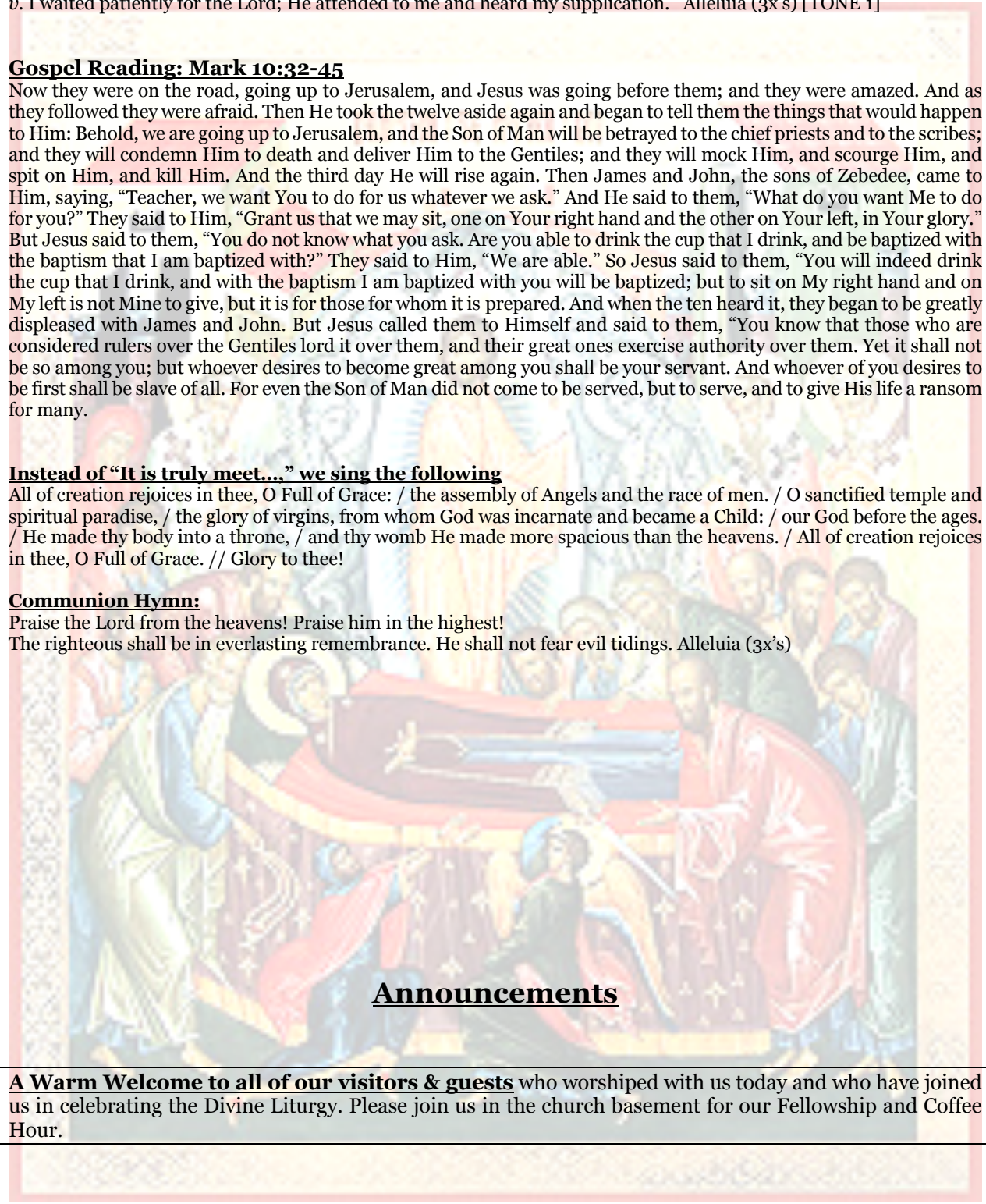
Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will 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

### **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 Thursday (Thursday, April 13) = 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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### **Church Cleaning – Sat April 8 – After Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy**

A church cleaning will be held on Saturday, April 8 after Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy. The focus of the cleaning will be the church itself (not the outside or the basement). Areas of focus will be vacuuming the carpets, cleaning the pews, dusting the window sills and baseboard trim, wiping down the tetrapod and icon stands, and cleaning the candle stands. This also includes the cleaning behind the altar in which Father Mark will be charge of that cleaning project. Please bring your dust rags and cleaning supplies in order to help clean the church in preparation of Pascha. Also, we already have people scheduled to clean the choir loft and the bathrooms, so those areas will already be handled by those who volunteered to clean those areas.

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### **First Aid / CPR Course offering at the parish – Saturday, June 17, 2023**

It has been some time since we held a First Aid/CPR course, and in the interest of helping our families and neighbors in need, the ECSI First Aid/CPR course will be offered at no charge for parishioners with the exception of the cost of the student manual of \$16.50 which includes shipping. The course will be held from **8:00 am-4:00 pm** on 6/17/2023 and taught by Matushka Janine McCartney. If you are interested, please contact Matushka Janine by **no later than May 17, 2023**. It will take some time to have the books ordered and sent. A class of at least 5 is needed to hold the class. Payment for the student manual will be expected prior to 5/17/2023.

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### **Attendance during Lenten Services (5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent)**

Wednesday, March 29 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts = 14	(14 Last Year)
Thursday, March 30 – Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete = 12	(10 Last Year)
Friday, March 31 – Akathist (to the Blessed Mother Olga) = 11	(12 Last Year)
Saturday, April 1 – Great Vespers = 9	(Unknown Last Year)

**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Family offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik  
Gabriel Andrews on his name's day offered by godfather David Pellack  
Family offered by Richard Mackiewicz  
Lorraine, Damian, Ron Jr, Ellen, Maxima offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

Paul Kavcsak offered by Nina Patterson  
William and Julia Brasko offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik  
William Brasko Jr offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik  
Marie Fortner offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 3/26/23**

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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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**[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. 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)**

<u>Week of Sun Mar 19 to Sat Mar 25</u>	<u>March Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 33	42 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,598.00	\$12,568.40
Funds Out: \$ 30.00	\$11,194.37
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 1,568.00	\$ 1,374.03

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 (Apr 2)</u>	<u>Next Week (Apr 9)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6 <sup>th</sup> 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 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 April 2023.

### Today – Vesper Mission Service – 4:00PM

Saint Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church \* 2300 West Huntington Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19808-6900 \* Phone: 302.998.1747

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

- Wednesday, April 5 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM
- Friday, April 7 – Vespers of Lazarus Saturday at 6:00PM
- Saturday, April 8 – Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM
- Saturday, April 8 – Church Cleaning after Divine Liturgy (Just the upstairs)
- Saturday, April 8 – Great Vespers at 4:00PM (Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)

### 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 8), 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!

### Sunday, April 9 – Bridegroom Matins Service – 4:00PM

Saint Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral \* 8598 Verree Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19111 \* Phone: 215.342.0866



**Fifth Sunday of Great Lent:  
Saint Mary of Egypt**  
[April 2<sup>nd</sup>]

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](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt.