

ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH
2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

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

Sunday, April 16, 2023 | HOLY PASCHA
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
(BEGINNING OF THE PENTECOSTARION)
CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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

(BRIGHT WEEK - NO FASTING THIS WEEK!!!!)

Today: PASCHA VESPERS approximately 15 minutes after the Blessing of the Easter Baskets
(Blessing of Easter Baskets in basement after Liturgy)

Monday: ~~Bright Monday Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM**~~ **CANCELLED!!!**
(Procession with Water Blessing and Gospel Readings afterwards)

Saturday: April 22 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: April 23 – AntiPascha | 2nd Sunday of Pascha - St. Thomas Sunday
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: April 23 - Blessing of Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery
(For those that stay at the cemetery after the grave blessing, a Paschal picnic will be held near the Spack family gravesite) *(Weather Permitting!!!)*

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead, / trampling down death by death, / and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Hypakoe (Tone 8)

Before the dawn Mary and the women / came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. / They heard the angelic voice: “Why do ye seek among the dead as a Man / the One Who is everlasting Light? / Behold the clothes in the grave; go and proclaim to the world: / “The Lord is risen; He has slain death, // as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man.”

Kontakion (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women, // granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, / have put on Christ.
Alleluia. (3x's)

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

This is the day which the Lord has made! / Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
v. O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!

Epistle Reading: Acts 1:1-8

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

v. Thou didst arise and have mercy on Zion. Alleluia (3x's)
v. The Lord looked down from heaven and saw all the sons of men. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing the following

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: / "Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice, / Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! / With Himself He has raised all the dead." / Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! / The glory of the Lord has shone on you. / Exult now, / and be glad, O Zion! / Be radiant, / O pure Theotokos, / in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn:

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality! 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

Holy Thursday – Vigil Cross Candles – 4/13/23

Two Small Votive Crosses – Memory of mother Annette Krawchuk
offered by Tanya Krawchuk and Brett McKenna

Holy Saturday – Vigil Cross Candles – 4/15/23

Two Small Votive Crosses – Memory of Perzsel, Obrazik, & McCartney Families offered by Deacon
Michael and Matushka Janine McCartney

Votive Vigil Cross Candles Scheduling

We are scheduling to have the votive vigil cross candles lit for services during the Lenten and Pascha 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 Thomas Sunday (Sunday, April 23) = 1 Large Cross is reserved

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.

Attendance during Holy Week at the Parish

Sunday, April 9 – Bridegroom Matins Service at St Stephens Cathedral = 31
[4 from our parish attended]
Monday, April 10 – Bridegroom Matins Service at our Parish = 17 (20 Last Year)
Tuesday, April 11 – Bridegroom Matins Service at our Parish = 14 (15 Last Year)
Thursday, April 13 – Holy Thursday Vespers Divine Liturgy = 10 (15 Last Year)
Thursday, April 13 – Holy Thursday - Friday Matins with 12 Passion Gospels = 29
(27 Last Year)
Friday, April 14 – Holy Friday Vespers (Burial Service) = 30 (39 Last Year)
Friday, April 14 – Holy Friday – Matins with Lamentations and Procession = 45
(42 Last Year)
Saturday, April 15 – Holy Saturday – Divine Liturgy with Old Testament = N/A

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Steven Ferguson offered by sister Debbie Kavalkovich
Patricia, Catherine, Barbara, Catherine, Christopher, Levi, Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Family and Friends offered by Richard Mackiewicz
Kavalkovich, Andrews, and Coan Families offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Marc Sr. on his 51st birthday offered by sister Debbie Kavalkovich
Vito, Albert, Ronald Sr., Marc Sr., Marc Jr., Carmen, William, John, Bridget, offered by Patricia Ferguson
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 4/9/23

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Albert Kavalkovich and Ronald Kavalkovich Sr.
offered by daughter and sister Barbara Andrews

One Large Vigil Cross – Health of Cheryl, John, Jackie Homa and
Anne (Homa) Killoran offered by Ron Homa

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Please remember in your prayers:

Christopher Andrews; Elton Andrews; Catherine Kavalkovich; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Justine & John McCann; Nina Patterson; 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 (April)

<u>Week of Sun Apr 2 to Sat Apr 8</u>	<u>April Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 37	37 (average)
Funds In: \$ 2,440.00	\$ 2,440.00
Funds Out: \$ 8,655.38	\$11,334.72
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$ 6,215.38)	(\$ 8,894.72)

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 (Apr 16)</u>	<u>Next Week (Apr 23)</u>
3 rd Hour:	PASCHA	Matthew Andrews
6 th Hour:	PASCHA	Mark Klus
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Reader Mark Klus and Matthew Andrews

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

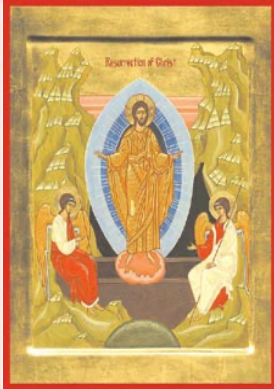
If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which Team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside of the office room.

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 April 2023.

Tuesday, April 18 – Bible Study at 6:30PM on the ZOOM media platform only! (Rescheduled from April 11 since second Tuesday of the month in April is Holy Week)!

Sunday, April 23 – **Saint Thomas Sunday**: The Parish traditionally blesses graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery. If scheduled to out to the cemetery, weather permitting, please dress appropriately for that day's weather (jackets and windbreakers if its windy and cool, or hats and sunscreen if it's hot and sunny).

Thursday, April 27 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform **ONLY!**



The Resurrection of Our Lord (HOLY PASCHA (Easter))

[April 16th]

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith; receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness.
(Sermon of St John Chrysostom, read at Paschal Matins)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Christian faith. St Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and faith are in vain (I Cor. 15:14). Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The disciples of Christ would have remained the broken and hopeless band which the

Gospel of John describes as being in hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They went nowhere and preached nothing until they met the risen Christ, the doors being shut (John 20: 19). Then they touched the wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the basis of everything they said and did (Acts 2-4): "... for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39).

The resurrection reveals Jesus of Nazareth as not only the expected Messiah of Israel, but as the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . the holy city, new Jerusalem. And I heard a great voice from the throne saying "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. . . He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away (Rev. 21:1-4).

In His death and resurrection, Christ defeats the last enemy, death, and thereby fulfills the mandate of His Father to subject all things under His feet (I Cor. 15:24-26).

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing (Rev. 5: 12).

THE FEAST OF FEASTS

The Christian faith is celebrated in the liturgy of the Church. True celebration is always a living participation. It is not a mere attendance at services. It is communion in the power of the event being celebrated. It is God's free gift of joy given to spiritual men as a reward for their self-denial. It is the fulfillment of spiritual and physical effort and preparation. The resurrection of Christ, being the center of the Christian faith, is the basis of the Church's liturgical life and the true model for all celebration. This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore (Irmos 8, Paschal Canon). **CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

