

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, April 23, 2023 | Second Sunday of Pascha

Tone 1 – Saint Thomas Sunday | Antipascha

Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Trophy-bearer & Wonderworker George

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

Today: 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!!!)

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

Saturday: April 29 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: April 30 – 3rd Sunday of Pascha -Holy Myrrhbearing Women
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: April 30 – Readers Meeting to be held after Fellowship Coffee Hour. If you are interested in reading during church services, please discuss with Deacon Michael and attend this informative meeting.

Sunday: April 30 – The Broad Street Run! Watch traffic driving!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7 – Pentecostarion)

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! / Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ God. / Renew in us through them an upright spirit, // by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Saint George)

As a martyr of Christ, thou wast bound for good deeds, O George; / by faith thou didst conquer the torturer's godlessness. / Thou wast offered as a sacrifice pleasing to God, / thus receiving the crown of victory. // Through thine intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Saint George)

God raised thee as His own gardener, O George, / for thou hast gathered for thyself the sheaves of virtue. / Having sown in tears, thou dost now reap with joy; / thou hast shed thy blood in combat and won Christ as thy crown. // Through thine intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

Kontakion (Tone 8 - Pentecostarion)

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, / when Thou didst come to Thy Apostles through closed doors. // He cried out with all: "Thou art my Lord and my God!"

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power! / His understanding is beyond measure!
v. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – Saint George)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him.

Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.

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. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth. Alleluia (3x's)
v. The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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:

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
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

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.

Votive Vigil Cross Candles Scheduling

We are scheduling to have the votive vigil cross candles lit for the major feast day services and federal designated government holidays during the spring/summer season. There will be 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 are available:

- * Saint Thomas Sunday (Sunday, April 23) = 1 Large Cross is still available
- * Mother's Day (Sunday, May 14) = Both crosses are available
- * Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ (Thursday, May 25) = Both crosses are available
- * Memorial Day (Sunday, May 28) = Both crosses are available
- * Pentecost (Sunday, June 4) = Both crosses are available
- * Father's Day (Sunday, June 18) = Both crosses are available
- * Independence Day (Sunday, July 2 Liturgy) = Both crosses are available
- * Transfiguration of our Lord (Sunday, August 6) = Both crosses are available
- * Dormition of the Holy Theotokos (Tuesday, August 15) = Both crosses are available

Attendance Last Weekend at the Parish

Saturday, April 15 – Holy Saturday – Divine Liturgy with Old Testament = 12
Sunday, April 16 – PASCHA Procession | Matins | Liturgy = 92 (79 Last Year)
Sunday, April 16 – PASCHA Vespers = 25 (18 Last Year)
Monday, April 10 – Bright Monday Divine Liturgy = Cancelled (6 Last Year)

A HVAC Donation was received from Julia Forte. May God Bless Her Many Years!

*[Note: The readings for the Holy Glorious Greatmartyr & Wonderworker George:
Epistle – Acts 12:1-11 and Gospel – John 15:17-16:2]*

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Cheryl Homa offered by Ron Homa
Catherine, Patricia, and Family offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Family and Friends offered by Richard Mackiewicz
Family members offered by Jack Drimak
Julia Forte offered by M/M Herbert
John, Marissa, Lila, Mia, Katerina, & Julianna Rabik offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Family members offered by Nina Patterson
Family members offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Pete Popelak offered by Robert Wanenchak
Family, Parishioners, and Friends offered by David Pellack
Family members offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Family and Friends offered by Richard Mackiewicz
Ronald Sr., Albert, Marc Sr., Marc Jr., offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Michael & Mary Popelak and Mary Ann Brodie offered by the DeVito Family
William & Julia Brasko, Marie Fortner, William Brasko, Jr., offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
John & Mary Libak, John & Anna Brasko offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Onufer & Julia Spack and Christine Ferraro offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 4/16/23

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Pellack and Zuzulock Families
offered by David Pellack

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Perzsel, and McCartney Families
offered by Deacon Michael & Matushka Janine McCartney

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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 9 to Sat Apr 15</u>	<u>April Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 41	39 (average)
Funds In: \$ 3,710.00	\$ 6,150.00
Funds Out: \$ 1,494.85	\$12,829.57
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 2,215.15	(\$ 6,679.57)

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 23)</u>	<u>Next Week (Apr 30)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Matthew Andrews	David Albrecht
6 th Hour:	Mark Klus	Sbdcn Daniel Kavalkovich
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus and Matthew Andrews	Sbdcn Daniel Kavalkovich and David Albrecht

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/May 2023.

Today – 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).

Sunday, April 30 – READERS Meeting following the Fellowship Coffee Hour somewhere within the church. If you are interested in reading during the church services, please discuss with Deacon Michael and attend this meeting, even if you wish not to be committed to a fixed scheduled reading

Tuesday, May 9 – Bible Study at 6:30PM on the ZOOM media platform ONLY!

Thursday, May 25 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!

Thursday, May 25 – ASCENSION of our Lord Jesus Christ!
The service schedule for this feast day will be determined in a few weeks!



**ANTIPASCHA:
Saint Thomas Sunday**
[April 23rd]

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” When St Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as “Antipascha.” This does not mean “opposed to Pascha,” but “in place of Pascha.” Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection. Sunday is called “Resurrection” in Russian, and “the Lord’s Day” in Greek.

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The Holy Martyr Empress Alexandra was the wife of Diocletian (284-305). Her supposed death was described in the Martyrdom of Saint George, which was written immediately after his death. The empress, however, received the crown of martyrdom several years later, in 314.

Many events occurred during these years. In 305 the emperor Diocletian resigned the throne and power passed to his co-ruler Maximian Galerius (305-311), a fanatic pagan, as well as a coarse and fierce soldier. His wife was Saint Valeria, the daughter of the holy Empress Alexandra, whom Diocletian had given in marriage against her will.

Saint Alexandra raised her daughter in Christian piety. When Galerius died, the emperor Maximinus sought her hand in marriage. When he was refused, he banished Saint Valeria to Syria, where she lived with her mother.

After the death of Maximinus in 311 the mother and daughter arrived in Nicomedia, trusting in the mercy of the emperor Licinius (311-324). Together with Saint Constantine, he had subscribed to the Edict of Milan, which gave Christians the freedom of religion, but secretly he remained an enemy of Christianity. Licinius gave orders to execute the holy Empress Alexandra and her daughter Valeria. They were beheaded, and their bodies thrown into the sea.

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**TODAY - Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery
after Divine Liturgy - (Weather Permitting)**

A reminder for those who will go to the cemetery, whether it’s just to bless graves or to also stay afterward for the Paschal picnic:

- * bring your favorite Pascha food and beverages, or anything people will enjoy;
- * bring chairs or lawnchairs if you wish to relax afterwards;
- * dress appropriately for that day’s weather (jackets, hats, sunscreen, etc...); and
- * bring a change of comfortable clothing and most importantly, comfortable shoes or sneakers (it doesn’t hurt)!