

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

Sunday, May 7, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Pascha

Tone 3 – Sunday of the Paralytic

Rest of St Alexis, Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in America

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: After Divine Liturgy, the marriage blessing of Tanya Krawchuk and Brett McKenna on their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Afterwards there will be a meal in the church basement for all those parishioners present. May God Grant Both Tanya and Brett Many Blessed Years!

Tuesday: Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!

Wednesday: May 10 – Mid-feast of Pentecost! Apostle Simon the Zealot.

Thursday: May 11 - Saints Cyril and Methodius, 1st Teachers of the Slavs!

Saturday: May 13 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: May 14 – 5th Sunday of Pascha | Samaritan Woman

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4 - Saint Alexis Toth)

O righteous Father Alexis, / our heavenly intercessor and teacher, / divine adornment of the Church of Christ, / entreat the Master of All / to strengthen the Orthodox Faith in America, / to grant peace to the world // and to our souls great mercy!

Kontakion (Tone 5 – Saint Alexis Toth)

Let us, the faithful, praise the Priest Alexis, / a bright beacon of Orthodoxy in America, / a model of patience and humility, / a worthy shepherd of the flock of Christ! / He called back sheep who had been led astray / and brought them by his preaching // to the Heavenly Kingdom.

Kontakion (Tone 3 - Pentecostarion)

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord, / as Thou raised up the Paralytic of old, / so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; / so that being saved I may sing to Thee: / “Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!”

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 7 – Saint Alexis Toth)

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

Epistle Reading: Acts 9:32-42

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 6]

Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' " Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

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!
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:

- * Mother's Day (Sunday, May 14) = 1 Large (or 2 small) cross(es) is/are still 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) = 1 Large (or 2 small) cross(es) is/are still 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

Venerable Micah, disciple of Venerable Sergius of Radonezh (May 6)

Saint Micah of Radonezh was one of the first disciples of Saint Sergius of Radonezh, and lived with him in the same cell, and under his guidance he attained a high degree of spiritual perfection. For his meekness of soul and purity of heart, Saint Micah was permitted to witness the appearance of the Mother of God to his great teacher. Once, after Saint Sergius had completed the morning Rule of prayer, he sat down to rest for awhile; but suddenly he said to his disciple, "Be alert, my child, for we shall have a wondrous visitation."

Hardly had he uttered these words when a voice was heard, "The All-Pure One draws near." Suddenly there shone a light brighter than the sun. Saint Micah fell down upon the ground in fear, and lay there as if he were dead. When Saint Sergius lifted up his disciple, he asked, "Tell me, Father, what is the reason for this wondrous vision? My soul has nearly parted from my body from fright." Saint Sergius then informed his disciple about the appearance of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Saint Micah fell asleep in the Lord in the year 1385.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Cheryl Homa offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Margaret Pellack and Christine Mackiewicz Papi offered by David Pellack

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 4/30/23

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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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[Note: The readings for Saint Alexis Toth are as follows: Epistle – Galatians 1:11-19 and Gospel – John 10:1-9]

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 23 to Sat Apr 29</u>	<u>April Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 34	51 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,790.00	\$13,017.00
Funds Out: \$ 721.50	\$13,624.44
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 1,068.50	(\$ 607.44)

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 (May 7)</u>	<u>Next Week (May 14)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Simon Herbert	Daniel Herbert
6 th Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	Matthew Andrews
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus and Simon Herbert	Daniel Herbert

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 May/June 2023.

Today – Monthly Panikhida for month of May immediately after Divine Liturgy. Have your list of names for those deceased in May.

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

Wednesday, May 17 – Deadline to register for First Aid/CPR course on 6/17

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

Thursday, May 25 – Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ at **10:00AM**

Sunday, May 28 – Summer Hours begin with Sunday Divine Liturgy starting at 9:00AM!

Sunday, June 4 – Annual Pentecost (Pascha) Dinner after Vespers in the church basement! If you wish to bring or donate Pascha food, beverages, or kitchen supplies, please sign up on the sign sheet located in the church basement.

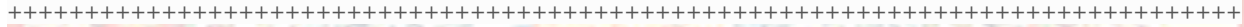


Sunday of the Paralytic
[May 7th]

On this day the Church remembers the man who lay by the Sheep's Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first one to enter the pool after an angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him.

Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

The Kontakion for this Fourth Sunday of Pascha asks Christ to raise up our souls, *“paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts.”*



Commemoration of the Apparition of the Sign of the Precious Cross Over Jerusalem in 351AD (May 7th)

The Precious Cross appeared in the sky over Jerusalem on the morning of May 7, 351 during the reign of the emperor Constantius, the son of Saint Constantine (May 21).

At that time the heresy of Arianism, which taught that Christ was merely a creature and not God, was causing great turmoil and division throughout the Empire. Even after the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 325, many people were drawn to this false teaching, and the Orthodox found themselves in the minority in many places.

Constantius, the ruler of the eastern part of the Empire, was a fervent supporter of Arianism. His brothers Constantine II and Constans, who were pious Orthodox Christians, ruled in the west. They were both killed in separate battles around 350, leaving Constantius as sole ruler. Also in 350, Saint Cyril (March 18) became Patriarch of Jerusalem and began his zealous struggle against Arianism.

In May of 351 a luminous Cross appeared over Jerusalem, stretching from Golgotha to the Mount of Olives, a distance of about five and a half miles. The Cross was wide as it was long, and shone more brightly than the sun. Many people left their homes and workplaces to gather in the church and glorify Christ. The historian Sozomen says that this wondrous sign led to the conversion of multitudes of pagans and Jews to Christianity.

A letter from Saint Cyril to the emperor describing this phenomenon, and admonishing him to become Orthodox, has been preserved. The apparition of the Cross remained over the city for a whole week.

The vision of the Cross over Jerusalem strengthened the Orthodox faithful and contributed to the return of many Arians to the Church. It is also a reminder of the awesome Second Coming of Christ, when “the sign of the Son of man shall appear in heaven” (Matthew 24:30).

