

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, May 14, 2023 | Fifth Sunday of Pascha**

Tone 4 – The Samaritan Woman

Martyr Isidore of Chios (251)

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

**V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector**

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Choir Director – Nina Patterson

Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich

Reader – Mark Klus

Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

**Weekly Schedule**

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!**

Saturday: May 20 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: May 21 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha | The Blind Man

Reading of Hours – 9:30am

Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**

*Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

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

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

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 4)**

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

### **Troparion (Tone 8 - Midfeast)**

In the middle of the feast, O Savior, / fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety, / as Thou didst cry to all: “If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!” // O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!

### **Kontakion (Tone 8 – Pentecostarion)**

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith; / she saw Thee, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly. // She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 - Midfeast)**

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, / cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law: / “Come and draw the water of immortality!” / We fall before Thee and faithfully cry: // Grant us Thy mercies, for Thou art the Fountain of our life!

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 3)**

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
v. Clap thy hands, all ye people, shout to God with loud songs of joy!

### **Epistle Reading: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30**

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)



v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! Alleluia (3x's)  
v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42**

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock? Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly. The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship. Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth. The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ? Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

**Communion Hymn:**

Receive the Body of Christ, taste the fountain of immortality!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

## Announcements

**A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guest** 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.

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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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### **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:

- \* 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

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**During the Reading of Hours!** When entering the church after the bells have rung at 9:30am, the Reading of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours takes place. As you enter the church, **PLEASE** remain as quite as you can! Remember that you are in God's House, and that the Reading of the Hours is just as important as Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy. In addition, with people talking (sometimes even talking over the person who is reading the Hours), it is not only distracting to those who are already in church praying or listening to the Reading of the Hours, but also distracting to the individual themselves who is actually reading the Hours.

Thank you for your understanding regarding this matter.



**Announcements** (cont.)

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

**Health for the Living:**

Brett McKenna and Tanya Krawchuk offered by Nina Patterson  
Brett McKenna and Tanya Krawchuk offered by David Pellack  
Brett McKenna and Tanya Krawchuk offered by M/M K Kavalkovich  
Chris, Patricia, Catherine, Daniel, Debra offered by M/M K Kavalkovich  
Anastasia & Levi on their safe travels offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

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

**Memory for the Departed:**

John Homa offered by Ronald Homa

**May Their Memories Be Eternal!**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 5/7/23**

One Large Vigil Cross – Health of Brett McKenna and Tanya Krawchuk on their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary offered by Father Mark & Matushka Jan Kozak and 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/May)**

Week of Sun Apr 30 to Sat May 6

April Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	36	51 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,074.72	\$15,047.20
Funds Out:	\$ 3,065.03	\$13,753.13
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 990.31)	\$ 1,294.07

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 (May 14)</u>	<u>Next Week (May 21)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	Daniel Herbert	Sbdcn Daniel Kavalkovich
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Matthew Andrews	David Albrecht
Epistle:	Daniel Herbert	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.

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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 May/June 2023.

**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 at **10:00AM** for the Feast Day of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**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.

**Tuesday, June 13** – Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!



## Sunday of the Samaritan Woman [May 14<sup>th</sup>]

The Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, her sons Victor (named Photinus) and Joses; and her sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva, Kyriake; Nero's daughter Domnina; and the Martyr Sebastian: The holy Martyr Photina was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob's Well (John. 4:5-42).

During the time of the emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, St Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed military commander in the city of Attalia (Asia Minor). Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to St Victor, "I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret."

St Victor replied, "I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother." Sebastian said, "O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother." Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber.

For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, "The God of the Christians is the only true God." St Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, "Because Christ is calling me." Soon he was baptized, and immediately regained his sight. St Sebastian's servants, after witnessing the miracle, were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, "Fear not, for I am with you. Nero, and all who serve him, will be vanquished." The Lord said to St Victor, "From this day forward, your name will be Photinus, because through you, many will be enlightened and will believe in Me." The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage St Sebastian to persevere until the end.

All these things, and even future events, were revealed to St Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome.

At Rome the emperor ordered the saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. Then the emperor gave orders to smash the martyrs' finger joints. During the torments, the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed.

Nero ordered that Sts Sebastian, Photinus and Joses be blinded and locked up in prison, and St Photina and her five sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva and Kyriake were sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero's daughter Domnina. St Photina converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer, who had brought her poisoned food to kill her.

Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Saints Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified.

*[Due to length of article, the above is just an excerpt of the life of the Samaritan Woman]*