

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, July 9, 2023 | 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1st c.)

Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete (3rd – 4th c.).

Martyrs Paternuthius, Coprius, and Alexander the Soldier, in Egypt.

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: We will begin accepting monetary donations during the month of July to purchase school supplies for the parish's annual School Backpack Program.
- Tuesday: July 11 – Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!
- Saturday: July 15 – Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Vladimir, in Baptism Basil (Vasilii), Enlightener of Rus'
- Saturday: July 15 – Great Vespers – **CANCELLED!!!**
- Sunday: July 16 – Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils. A Reader's Service will be held at **9:00am**
NO Divine Liturgy – Father Mark will be away on vacation!
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow

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 4 – Hieromartyr Pancratius)

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / thou didst become a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. // O Hieromartyr Pancratius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Hieromartyr Pancratius)

O Pancratius, thou wast revealed as a brilliant star for the people of Taormina. / Thou wast also shown to be a sufferer for Christ. // Since now thou standest before Him, O blessed one, pray for those who honor thee.

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works / in wisdom hast Thou made them all!
v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

Epistle Reading: Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 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)

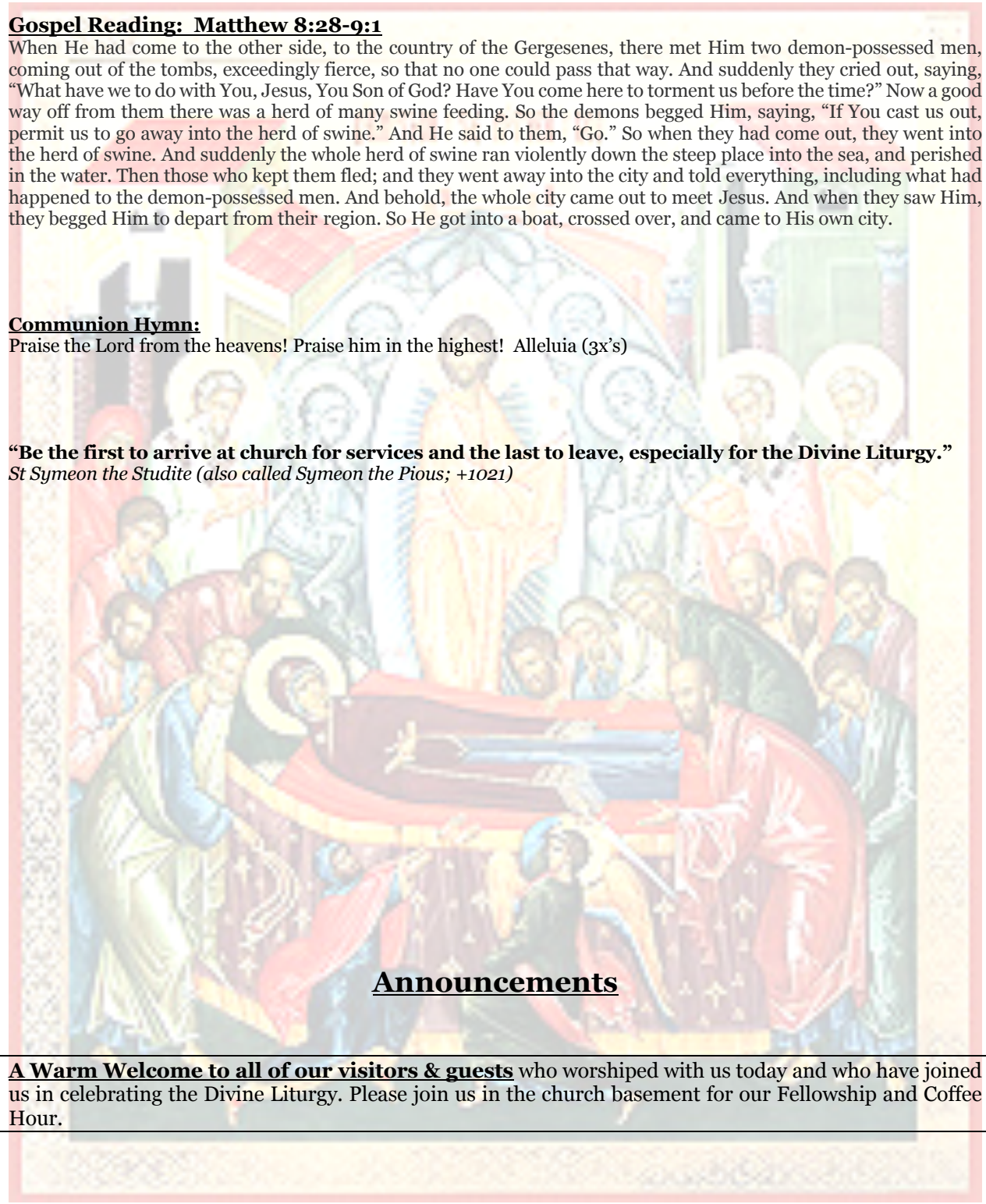
Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:28-9:1

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

"Be the first to arrive at church for services and the last to leave, especially for the Divine Liturgy."
St Symeon the Studite (also called Symeon the Pious; +1021)



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

Now that the Fourth of July is upon us, it is time for the next great American event...

“Getting ready to go Back to School” – Annual Backpack Program

Beginning today, **Sunday, July 9th**, the parish will accept monetary donations to purchase school supplies to fulfill **12** backpacks for this upcoming school year. The parish **has already received donations of the backpacks themselves**. It is the school supplies that we are looking for donations. We are looking to raise **\$500** to purchase enough school supplies to fill the backpacks

Last Date the parish will be accepting monetary donations to purchase school supply items for the backpacks is **Sunday, July, 30**. Please see Matushka Janine McCartney when making a donation to this program or for more information. Thank You!

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:

- * Transfiguration of our Lord (Sunday, August 6) = One Large cross is available
- * Sunday, August 13 = One Large cross is available
- * Dormition of the Holy Theotokos (Tuesday, August 15) = Both crosses are available

Delaware Dining Out – Summer 2023 – Taco Grande in Wilmington, DE

The parish will resume its parish summer outing with its dining out in Delaware on a Sunday afternoon sometime this summer. If interested in attending and enjoying an afternoon at the Taco Grande with fellow parishioners, please contact Matushka Jan Kozak, who is organizing this outing event for the parish. Thank You!

Revised Version of “Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs” Released

The Department of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) has released a partially revised version of “Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs”. As reported earlier, the initial version of Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs, compiled by the Departments of the OCA, was released. The announcement generated thousands of downloads across the English-speaking world. As stated in the document, newer versions supersede older versions. We urge readers and catechists to use the latest versions available in their instructions. The 271 page .pdf file link to the manual is as follows:
<https://www.oca.org/cdn/PDFs/2023-0609-EOCB.pdf>

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Levi, Ana, Colin & the Jones' Family on their travels, Patricia, Catherine, Sue, Barbara, Richard, Family & Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich Family and Parish offered by David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

David Albrecht Sr offered by Nina Patterson
David Albrecht Sr offered by Melanie Albrecht

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 7/2/23

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Please remember in your prayers:

Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; 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 (June/July)

Week of Sun Jun 25 to Sat Jul 1

June Month Unaudited

Attendance:	40	36 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,901.23	\$ 7,674.47
Funds Out:	\$ 2,883.12	\$ 6,534.85
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 981.89)	\$ 1,139.62

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 (July 9)</u>	<u>Next Week (July 16)</u>
3 rd Hour:	David Albrecht	David Pellack
6 th Hour:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Simon Herbert
Epistle:	David Albrecht	Sbdcn Daniel Kavalkovich
		David Pellack

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 July 2023.

Sunday, July 9 – Annual School Backpack Program Begins! The parish will begin accepting monetary donations for school supplies on this date.

Tuesday, July 11 – Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform **ONLY!**

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

Dining Out in Delaware – Summer 2023 – Taco Grande, Wilmington, DE
Exact Date is Still Yet To Be Determined. Check your emails & the bulletin for further updates and information.

Father Mark will be away on Sunday, July 16 and on Sunday, July 30. A Readers Service will be served by Deacon Michael on both Sundays. There will be NO Vespers served on the Saturday evening's before these two July dates.



Hieromartyr Pancratius, the Bishop of Taormina in Sicily [July 9th]

The Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina, was born when our Lord Jesus Christ yet lived upon the earth.

The parents of Pancratius were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, Pancratius' father took his young son with him and went to Jerusalem in order to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He

became close with the disciples of the Lord, especially with the holy Apostle Peter. It was during this period that young Pancratius got to know the holy Apostle Peter.

After the Ascension of the Savior, one of the Apostles came to Antioch and baptized the parents of Pancratius together with all their household. When the parents of Pancratius died, he left behind his inherited possessions and went to Pontus and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer and deep spiritual contemplation. The holy Apostle Peter, while passing through those parts, visited Pancratius at Pontus. He took him along to Antioch, and then to Sicily, where the holy Apostle Paul then was. There the holy Apostles Peter and Paul made Saint Pancratius Bishop of Taormina in Sicily.

Saint Pancratius toiled zealously for the Christian enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith.

Saint Pancratius governed his flock peacefully for many years. However, pagans plotted against the saint, and seizing an appropriate moment, they fell upon him and stoned him. Thus, Saint Pancratius ended his life as a martyr.

The saint's relics are in the church named for him in Rome. He is also commemorated on February 9.

