

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
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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, August 27, 2023 | 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Venerable Poemen (Pimen) the Great (ca. 450).
Saint Liberius, Pope of Rome (336) | Ven. Poemen of Palestine (602}
Saint Hosius the Confessor, Bishop of Cordova (359).

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

Tuesday: August 29 - Beheading of Saint John the Baptist. **Strict Fast Day**

Friday: September 1 – Church New Year (Indiction)

Saturday: September 2 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: September 3 – Hieromartyr Anthimus
Reading of Hours – 8:30am
Divine Liturgy – **9:00am [SUMMER HOURS!]**
FINAL SUNDAY OF SUMMER HOURS THIS SEASON!
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Friday: September 8 – Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos
Service schedule has yet **To Be Determined!**

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 8 – Venerable Pimen)

By a flood of tears thou made the desert fertile, / and thy longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles thou illuminated the whole universe! // Our Father Pimen, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 3)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Venerable Pimen)

The memorial of thy illustrious struggles / delights the souls of the devout today, // Pimen, our venerable father, wise in God.

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

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

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 3)

v. In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame. Alleluia (3x's)
v. Be Thou a God of protection of me, a house of refuge in order to save me. Alleluia (3x's)

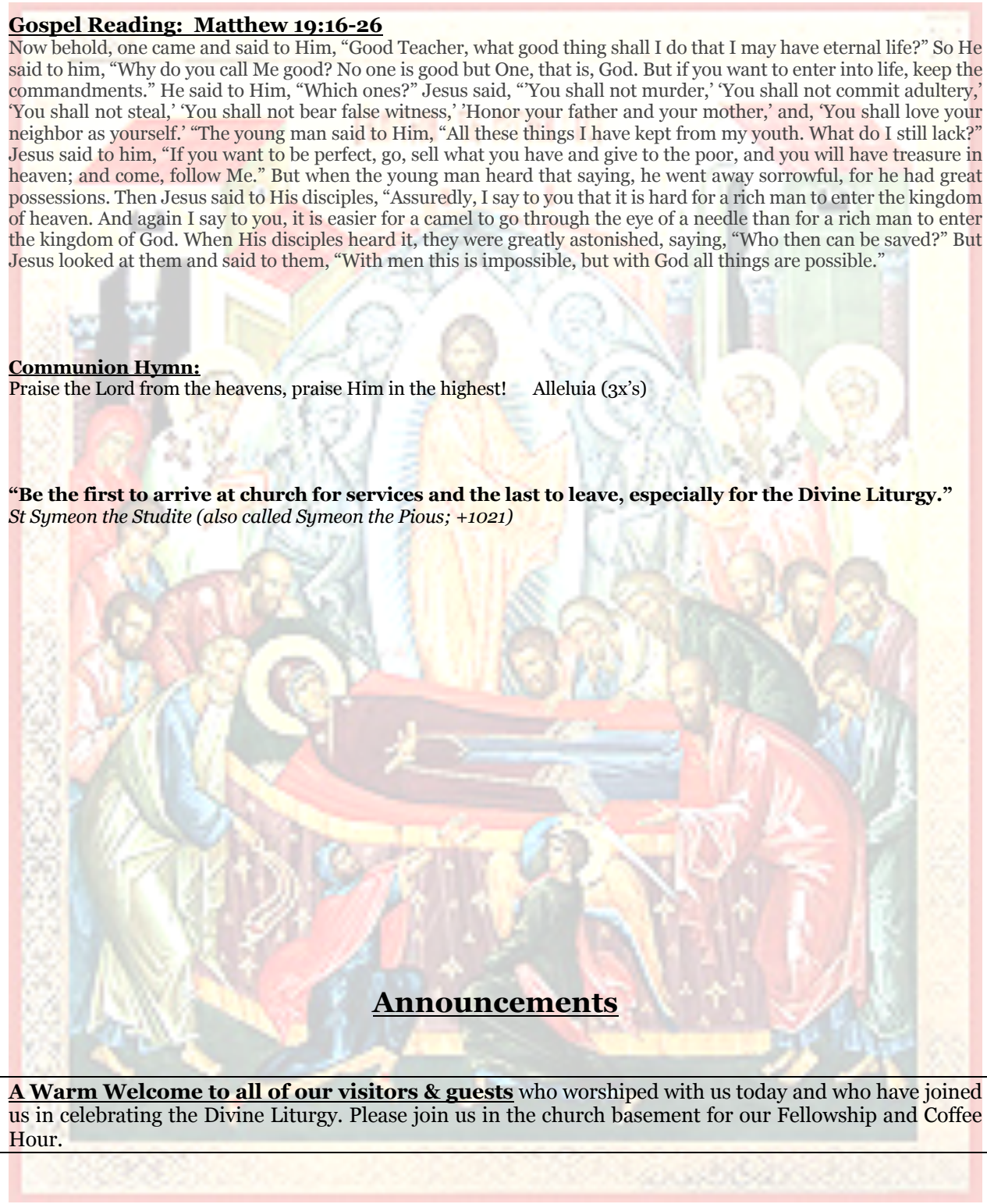
Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:16-26

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

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

[...continue the life story of Venerable Pimen the Great from the last page of bulletin...]

Once, after Saint Pimen and his disciples arrived at the monastery of Scetis, he learned that the Elder living there was annoyed at his arrival and was also jealous of him, because monks were leaving the Elder to see Abba Pimen.

In order to console the hermit, the saint went to him with his brethren, taking food with them as a present. The Elder refused to receive them, however. Then Saint Pimen said, "We shall not depart from here until we are permitted to see the holy Elder." He remained standing at the door of the cell in the heat. Seeing Saint Pimen's humility and patience, the Elder received him graciously and said, "Not only is what I have heard about you true, but I see that your works are a hundred times greater."

He possessed such great humility that he often sighed and said, "I shall be cast down to that place where Satan was cast down!"

Once, a monk from another country came to the saint to receive his guidance. He began to speak about sublime matters difficult to grasp. The saint turned away from him and was silent. They explained to the bewildered monk that the saint did not like to speak of lofty matters. Then the monk began to ask him about the struggle with passions of soul. The saint turned to him with a joyful face, "Now you have spoken well, and I will answer." For a long while he provided instruction on how one ought to struggle with the passions and conquer them.

Saint Pimen died at age 110, about the year 450. Soon after his death, he was acknowledged as a saint pleasing to God. He was called "the Great" as a sign of his great humility, uprightness, ascetic struggles, and self-denying service to God.

Thank You to everyone who came out last Sunday and joined the parish in its annual social event with our Dining Out in Delaware at Taco Grande.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and everyone had a great time with great food, good beverages, and excellent company with our parish family.

Many thanks to Matushka Jan for once again organizing this parish dining event!!!

Please keep in your prayers those who lost everything in the devastation fires on the island of Maui in Hawaii, especially those in the historic area of Lahaina.

To those who were concerned about the orthodox churches in Hawaii, rest assure that the two OCA orthodox missions (St Juvenaly in Honalo and Holy Ascension in Honomu) are on the Island of Hawai'i, not Maui. Fires not affecting those areas yet.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Alexandria and Jonon Woodino offered by David Pellack
John Spack offered by Nina Patterson
Patricia, Emily, Sharon, and Steve offered by Debbie Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 8/15/23

[The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary]

Two Small Vigil Crosses – Memory of Paul & Irene; Stephen & Mary; and
Michael & Julia offered by Nina Patterson

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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 (August)

<u>Week of Sun Aug 13 to Sat Aug 19</u>	<u>August Month to date</u>
Attendance: 33	34 (average)
Funds In: \$ 949.00	\$ 5,192.00
Funds Out: \$ 1,641.67	\$ 5,470.49
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$ 692.67)	(\$ 278.49)

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

2023 Monthly/Quarterly Schedule

- 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.
- 4th 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 (Aug 27)</u>	<u>Next Week (Sep 3)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Simon Herbert	Reader Mark
6 th Hour:	Michael Spack	Michael Wanenchak
Epistle:	Simon Herbert	Reader Mark

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 September 2023.

Friday, September 8 – Feast of the Nativity of our Most-Holy Theotokos
Service Schedule To Be Determined!

Tuesday, September 12 – Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform
ONLY!

Thursday, September 14 – Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross!

Thursday, September 28 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at 6:30PM on the ZOOM media platform ONLY!

Friday, September 22 – The 6th Annual Golf Tournament of the “Two Holies and a Saint” (sponsored by Orthodox Church of the HOLY Cross in Medford, NJ; Assumption of the HOLY Virgin Orthodox Church in Philadelphia, PA; and SAINT Stephen Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA). at Ron Jaworski’s Ramblewood Country Club in Mount Laurel, NJ. Golf Registration deadline is **Thursday, August 31**. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit special needs children in Uzhhorod, Ukrainian!

** **Sunday November 5** – Visitation of Archbishop MARK to our parish! **



Venerable Pimen the Great [August 27th]

Saint Pimen the Great was born about the year 340 in Egypt. He went to one of the Egyptian monasteries with his two brothers, Anoub and Paisius, and all three received monastic tonsure. The brothers were such strict ascetics that when their mother came to the monastery to see her children, they did not come out to her from their cells. The mother stood there for a long time and wept. Then Saint Pimen said to her through the closed door of the cell, "Do you wish to see us now, or in the future life?" Saint Pimen promised that if she would endure the sorrow of not seeing her children in this life, then surely she would see them in the next. The mother was humbled and returned home.

Fame of Saint Pimen's deeds and virtues spread throughout the land. Once, the governor of the district wanted to see him. Saint Pimen, shunning fame, thought to himself, "If dignitaries start coming to me and show me respect, then many other people will also start coming to me and disturb my quiet, and I shall be deprived of the grace of humility, which I have acquired only with the help of God." So he refused to see the governor, asking him not to come.

For many of the monks, Saint Pimen was a spiritual guide and instructor. They wrote down his answers to serve for the edification of others besides themselves. A certain monk asked, "If I see my brother sinning, should I conceal his fault?" The Elder answered, "If we reproach the sins of brothers, then God will reproach our sins. If you see a brother sinning, do not believe your eyes. Know that your own sin is like a beam of wood, but the sin of your brother is like a splinter (Mt. 7:3-5), and then you will not enter into distress or temptation."

Another monk said to the saint, "I have sinned grievously and I want to spend three years at repentance. Is that enough time?" The Elder replied, "That is a long time." The monk continued to ask how long the saint wished him to repent. Perhaps only a year? Saint Pimen said, "That is a long time." The other brethren asked, "Should he repent for forty days?" The Elder answered, "I think that if a man repents from the depths of his heart and has a firm intention not to return to the sin, then God will accept three days of repentance."

When asked how to get rid of persistent evil thoughts, the saint replied, "This is like a man who has fire on his left side, and a vessel full of water on his right side. If he starts burning from the fire, he takes water from the vessel and extinguishes the fire. The fire represents the evil thoughts placed in the heart of man by the Enemy of our salvation, which can enkindle sinful desires within man like a spark in a hut. The water is the force of prayer which impels a man toward God."

Saint Pimen was strict in his fasting and sometimes would not partake of food for a week or more. He advised others to eat every day, but without eating their fill. Abba Pimen heard of a certain monk who went for a week without eating, but had lost his temper. The saint lamented that the monk was able to fast for an entire week, but was unable to abstain from anger for even a single day.

To the question of whether it is better to speak or be silent, the Elder said, "Whoever speaks on account of God, does well, and whoever is silent on account of God, that one also does well."

He also said, "If man seems to be silent, but his heart condemns others, then he is always speaking. There may be a man who talks all day long, but he is actually silent, because he says nothing unprofitable."

The saint said, "It is useful to observe three things: to fear God, to pray often, and to do good for one's neighbor." "Wickedness never eradicates wickedness. If someone does evil to you, do good to them, and your goodness will conquer their wickedness."

[...continue the life story of Venerable Pimen the Great on page 4...]