

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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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, February 4, 2024 | 35th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 2 – Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord into the Temple
Venerable Isidore of Pelusium (ca. 436-440)
Martyr Jadorus (3rd c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney Choir Director – Nina Patterson
Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich
Reader – Mark Klus Reader – David Pellack
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

Saturday: February 10 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: February 11 – Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Sunday: February 11 - Soup 'N Bowl VIII Challenge immediately following Divine Liturgy in the church basement. Be prepared to indulge in some of the best warm and tasty soups/stews/chilis!

Tuesday: February 13 - Bible Study - 6:30PM on ZOOM platform!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion (Tone 1 – The Meeting of our Lord into the Temple)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! / From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / enlightening those who sat in darkness. / Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, / thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, / Who grants us the Resurrection!

Troparion (Tone 8 – Venerable Isidore)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Father, / for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. / By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; / but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. // Therefore thy spirit, venerable Isidore, rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, / seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! / The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, // and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Venerable Isidore)

Finding thee to be another morning star, O glorious one, / the Church is illumined by the brilliance of thy words. // She cries out to thee: “Rejoice, all-blessed and divinely-wise Isidore!”

Kontakion (Tone 1 – The Meeting of our Lord into the Temple)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb / and didst bless Simeon’s hands, O Christ God. / Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. / Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, / O only Lover of Man!

Prokeimenon (Tone 2)

The Lord is my strength and my song / He has become my salvation.
v. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 3 – Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:12-16

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 2)

- v. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Instead of "It is truly meet.." we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee! In the shadow and letter of the Law, / let us, the faithful, discern a figure: / every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. / Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of a Father Who has no beginning, // the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. 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

2024 House Blessing

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany, which is Saturday, January 6. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

Highlights from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Sunday January 28

Parish President Matthew Andrews provided an update on parish projects and task from the past year. In more detail he presented the status of the squirrel and critter situation over at the Hall; he thanked all who were involved in the Icon Inventory Appraisal and provided the replacement value in the appraisal's report; and he gave a quick update on the Hall status and the situation with the houses (waiting for colder weather to break before continuing with any more work on the houses). Under new business, 1) Matt thanked Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine for all their hard work and time dedication as chairs of the Charity Committee. They will be stepping away from this responsibility to focus on other items. Reader David Pellack and Tish Berchtold have volunteered to co-chair the Charity Committee. 2) Matt discussed that with rising cost of paper and printing materials, the parish will be moving towards a digital platform regarding the parish bulletin sometime after Pascha. Bulletin will still be posted on website but will also include a printable version. Plans to email printable bulletins to all parishioners is also being considered. 3) Matt asked for volunteers to assist with snow removal. Reader Mark Klus has graciously agreed to head up this task force (Mark is now the parish Snow Marshall). 4) Finally, Matt discussed the conditions of the front door and the problems with them especially during frigid weather. Father Mark has graciously agreed to look into this situation.

Cards for Our Troops! Save your UNUSED Christmas Cards!

UPDATE: Please save your *UNUSED* Christmas cards from this past year. Matushka Janine is collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for this upcoming year. Please consider donating your *UNUSED* cards you purchased this year. Please see Matushka Janine as to where to drop off your Christmas cards at a designated area in the church basement, or whether she will collect them directly. As always, thank you for your generosity!

40 Days for Life Spring Vigil – February 14 to March 24

The campaign is a peaceful vigil. They are not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a peaceful physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves. Please visit their website: <https://www.40daysforlife.com> for a campaign location near your area.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Jane Holefelder offered by Nina Patterson
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Ron Homa offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Very Reverend John D. Bohush offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/28/24

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ V. Rev. John J. Udics on the 8th Anniversary of his falling asleep (Feb 3).
Fr. John was the longest serving priest at our parish serving for over 24 years (Jan 27, 1985 to May 31, 2009). May Fr. John's Memory Be Eternal!

+ Archpriest Moses Berry (Jan 12, 2024). Fr. Moses visited our parish over 10 years ago and gave a presentation on the African American cultural heritage with a deep knowledge and commitment to Eastern Orthodox Christianity. He was a founding member of the Brotherhood of Saint Moses the Black, an organization in support of African Americans in the Eastern Orthodox Faith.
Fr. Moses gifted to our parish the Icon of Saint Moses the Black, which is positioned in front of the Iconostas next to the stand which displays the Icon of Jesus Christ. May Fr. Moses' Memory Be Eternal!

Emily Gerasimoff; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Justine McCann and her unborn child; Sheba Patton; 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 (January)

<u>Week of Sun Jan 21 to Sat Jan 27</u>	<u>January Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 30	31 (average)
Funds In: \$ 878.00	\$ 8,152.33
Funds Out: \$ 322.73	\$12,625.78
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 555.27	(\$ 4,473.45)

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

2024 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 (Feb 4)</u>	<u>Next Week (Feb 11)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	Reader David Pellack
6 th Hour:	Daniel Herbert	John Spack
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus	Simon 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 February 2024.

Sunday, February 11, 2024 – Soup N’ Bowl VIII Challenge will be held in the church basement after Divine Liturgy.

We have two electric burners to be used to keep Soup warm and the remaining dishes we will use the Sterno heating trays to keep the dishes hot! Again, we will try to limit the number of food entrants between 4 to 6 dishes.

Sunday, February 18 – Zacchaeus Sunday



Venerable Isidore of Pelusium [February 4th]

Saint Isidore of Pelusium lived during the fourth-fifth centuries. He was a native of Alexandria, and was raised among pious Christians. He was a relative of Theophilus, Archbishop of Alexandria, and of his successor, Saint Cyril (January 18). While still a youth he quit the world and withdrew to Egypt to Mount Pelusium, which became the site of his monastic efforts.

Saint Isidore's spiritual wisdom and strict asceticism, combined with his broad learning and innate knowledge of the human soul, enabled him to win the respect and love of his fellow monks in a short time. They chose him as their head and had him ordained a priest (the earliest sources for his life, however, say nothing of him being an igumen).

Following the example of Saint John Chrysostom, whom he had managed to see and hear during a trip to Constantinople, Saint Isidore devoted himself primarily to Christian preaching, that "practical wisdom" which, in his own words, is both "the foundation of the edifice and the edifice itself", while logic is "its embellishment, and contemplation its crown".

He was a teacher and a willingly provided counsel for anyone who turned to him for spiritual encouragement, whether it was a simple man, a dignitary, a bishop, the Patriarch of Alexandria, or even the emperor. He left behind about 10,000 letters, of which 2,090 have survived. A large portion of these letters reveal profound theological thought and contain morally edifying interpretations of Holy Scripture. Saint Photius (February 6) calls Isidore a model of priestly and ascetical life, and also a master of style.

Saint Isidore's love for Saint John Chrysostom resulted in his support of Saint John when he was persecuted by the empress Eudoxia and Archbishop Theophilus. After the death of Saint John, Saint Isidore persuaded Theophilus' successor Saint Cyril to inscribe the name of Saint John Chrysostom into the Church diptychs as a confessor. Through the initiative of Saint Isidore the Third Ecumenical Council was convened at Ephesus (431), at which the false teaching of Nestorius concerning the person of Jesus Christ was condemned.

Saint Isidore lived into old age and died around the year 436. The Church historian Evagrius (sixth century) writes of Saint Isidore, "his life seemed to everyone the life of an angel upon the earth." Another historian, Nikēphōros Callistus (ninth century), praises Saint Isidore thus: "He was a vital and inspired pillar of monastic rules and divine vision, and as such he presented a very lofty image of most fervent example and spiritual teaching."