

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
Website: <https://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



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

Sunday, March 10, 2024 | Meatfare Sunday

Tone 7 – Sunday of the Last Judgement

Martyr Quadratus and all those with him at Corinth (258, 267-268)
Saint Athanasius the Patrician, of Alexandria (567-568)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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

Weekly Schedule

- Today: Parish Annual Roast Pork/Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon
after Divine Liturgy in the church basement
- Tuesday: March 12 – Bible Study at **6:30PM** on the
ZOOM media platform ONLY!!!
- Saturday: March 16 – Final Day of House Blessings
- Saturday: March 16 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: March 17 – Forgiveness Sunday | Cheesefare Sunday
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service
- Sunday: March 17 – Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately
to be served after Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst chang weeping into joy. / And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Kontakion (Tone 1 – Lenten Triodion)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble, / and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; / the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Great is our Lord and abundant in power; / His understanding is beyond measure!
v. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

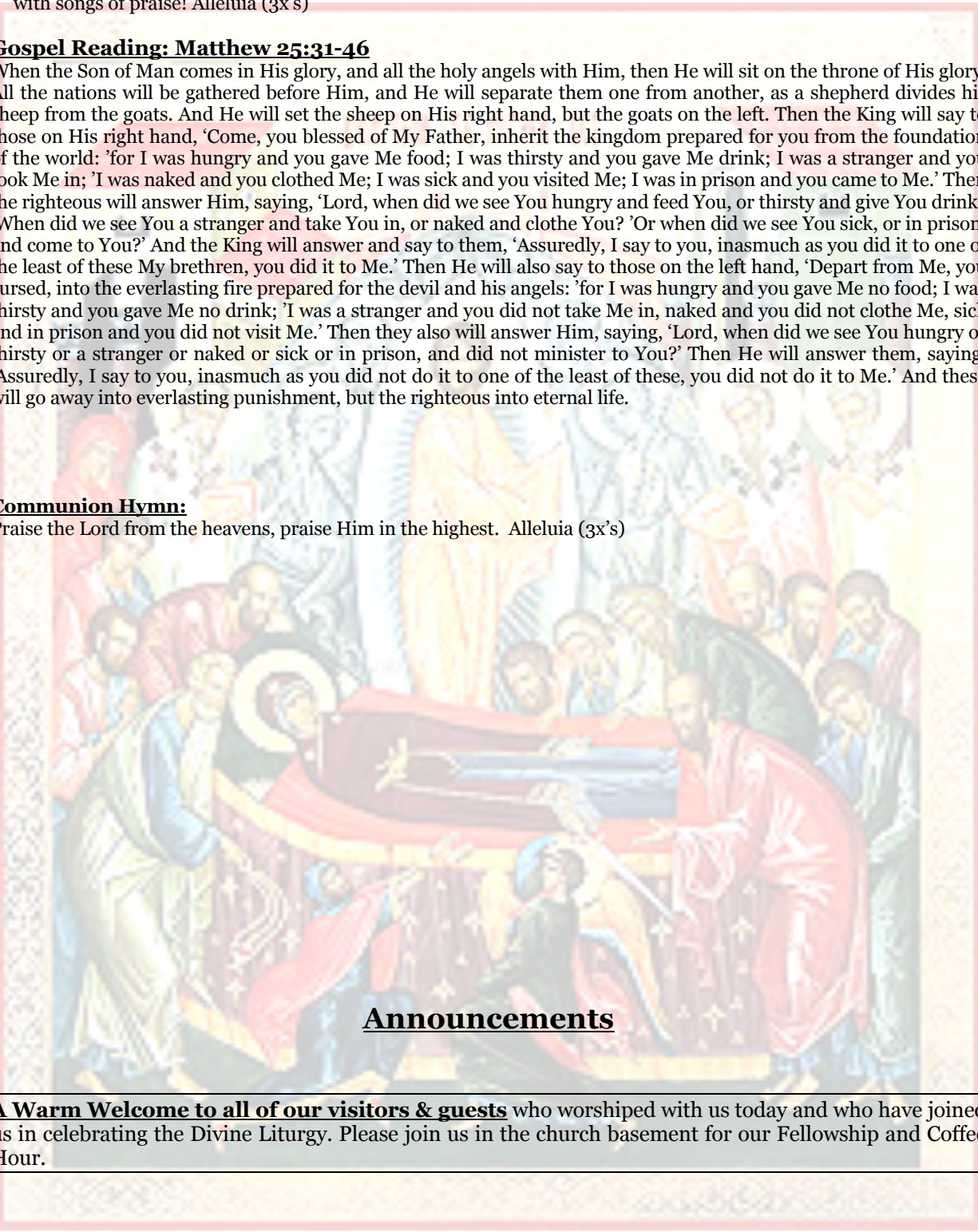
- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!
Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him
with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. 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

The History of the Orthodox Church

The history of the Orthodox Church begins with Pentecost, when the Decent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles gave birth to the Church.

1) Early Christianity

Saint Paul spread the gospel throughout the east. In 313 A.D., Christianity was legalized by Roman emperor Constantine.

2) Eastern Roman Empire

In 330, Constantine moved the capital of the Roman empire to Constantinople. It has been the official center of Orthodoxy for over 17 centuries.

3) Church Growth

In the 9th century, the Greek missionaries Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius began converting the Slavs in Moravia. Bulgaria, Serbia and Russia were converted to Christianity in the 9th and 10th centuries.

4) Rome Breaks Away

Gradually, East and West grew apart in matters of faith, dogma, church custom, politics and culture. Eventually, the Eastern and Western churches officially divided over the authority of the Pope.

5) The Church in Russia

After the conquest of Constantinople by the Ottomans in 1453, Russia began to play a more important role in the Orthodox Church.

6) Foundations in America

A Russian Orthodox. Mission, established in Alaska in 1794, became the first American diocese in 1840. Thousands of Orthodox immigrants arrived between the 1880s & World War II, increasing the number of Orthodox in the U.S.

Great Lent: It's Meaning For Orthodox Christians by V. Rev. Alexander Schmemmann

On Meat Fare Saturday (preceding this Sunday) the Church prescribes the universal commemoration of all her departed members. The Church is unity and love in Christ. We all depend on each other, belong to each other, are united by the love of Christ. Our repentance, therefore, would not be complete without an act of love towards all those who have departed this life before us. Repentance is primarily the recovery of the spirit of love: "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love to one another" (John 13, 35). Liturgically this commemoration includes Vespers on Friday, Matins and Divine Liturgy on Saturday.

The Sunday Gospel (Matthew 25, 31-46) reminds us of the third theme of repentance: preparation for Divine Judgement. A Christian lives under Christ's judgement. This means that we must refer our actions, attitudes, judgements to Christ to His presence in the world, that we must see Christ in our fellow men. For "inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it to Me..." The parable of the Last Judgement gives us the "terms of reference" for our self-evaluation as Christians.

On the week following the Meat Fare Sunday a limited fasting is prescribed. We must train and prepare ourselves for the great effort of Lent. On Wednesday and Friday the Divine Liturgy is not served and the type of worship is already Lenten. On the Cheese Fare Saturday the Church commemorates all men and women who were "illuminated through fasting" – the Holy Ascetics and Fasters. They are the patterns we must follow, our guides in the difficult art of fasting and repentance.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
John Bilaski offered by Nina Patterson
Anastasia, Levi, Christina, John, Lawrence offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Jude , Simone offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Dr. David Albrecht Jr. offered by Melanie Albrecht
Fania Wanenchak offered by Robert Wanenchak

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Jane Holefelder offered by Nina Patterson
John & Julia Jugan offered by the Reader David Pellack
Mary S. Herbert, offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 3/3/24

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed Handmaiden of God Mary S. Herbert who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday morning, February 4, 2024. May Her Memory Be Eternal!
Vetchnaya Pamyat!

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 (February/March)

Week of Sun Feb 25 to Sat Mar 2

February Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	41	37 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,847.26	\$24,489.26
Funds Out:	\$ 4,164.79	\$15,724.73
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,317.53)	\$ 8,764.53

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 (Mar 10)</u>	<u>Next Week (Mar 17)</u>
3 rd Hour:	John Spack	Reader Mark Klus
6 th Hour:	Reader David Pellack	N/A
Epistle:	Matthew Andrews	Reader Mark Klus

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 March 2024.

Sunday, March 17 - Forgiveness Sunday Vespers immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The parish traditionally serves this Vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading “Vouchsafe, O Lord”) that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!

From now until March 24 – The 40 Days for Life Spring Vigil

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.

Monday, March 25 – Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM for The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

The 2024 Lenten Schedule will be made available in the bulletin, posted in the vestibule, on the bulletin board in the church basement, & on the parish website once they’re finalized by next Sunday.



Sunday of the Last Judgement | Meatfare Sunday [March 10th]

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11).

This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

