

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, April 14, 2024

Tone 4 – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent | Saint John Climacus
Saint Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome (655).

Martyrs Anthony, John and Eustathius of Vilnius (Lithuania – 1347)

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: Mission Service at 4:00PM at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church located at 1236 Juniper Street in Pottstown, PA 19464 Website: <https://www.holytrinitypottstown.org>

Wednesday: April 17 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM

Thursday: April 18 - Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete service at 6:00PM

Friday: April 19 - Akathist Service at 6:00PM

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

Sunday: April 21 – Fifth Sunday of Great Lent | St Mary of Egypt
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

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 1 – Saint John Climacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer. / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

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 – St John Climacus)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, / to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, // O our father and teacher John.

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – St John Climacus)

Let the Saints be exalted in glory / let them sing for joy on their couches.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

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)
- v. They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:17-31

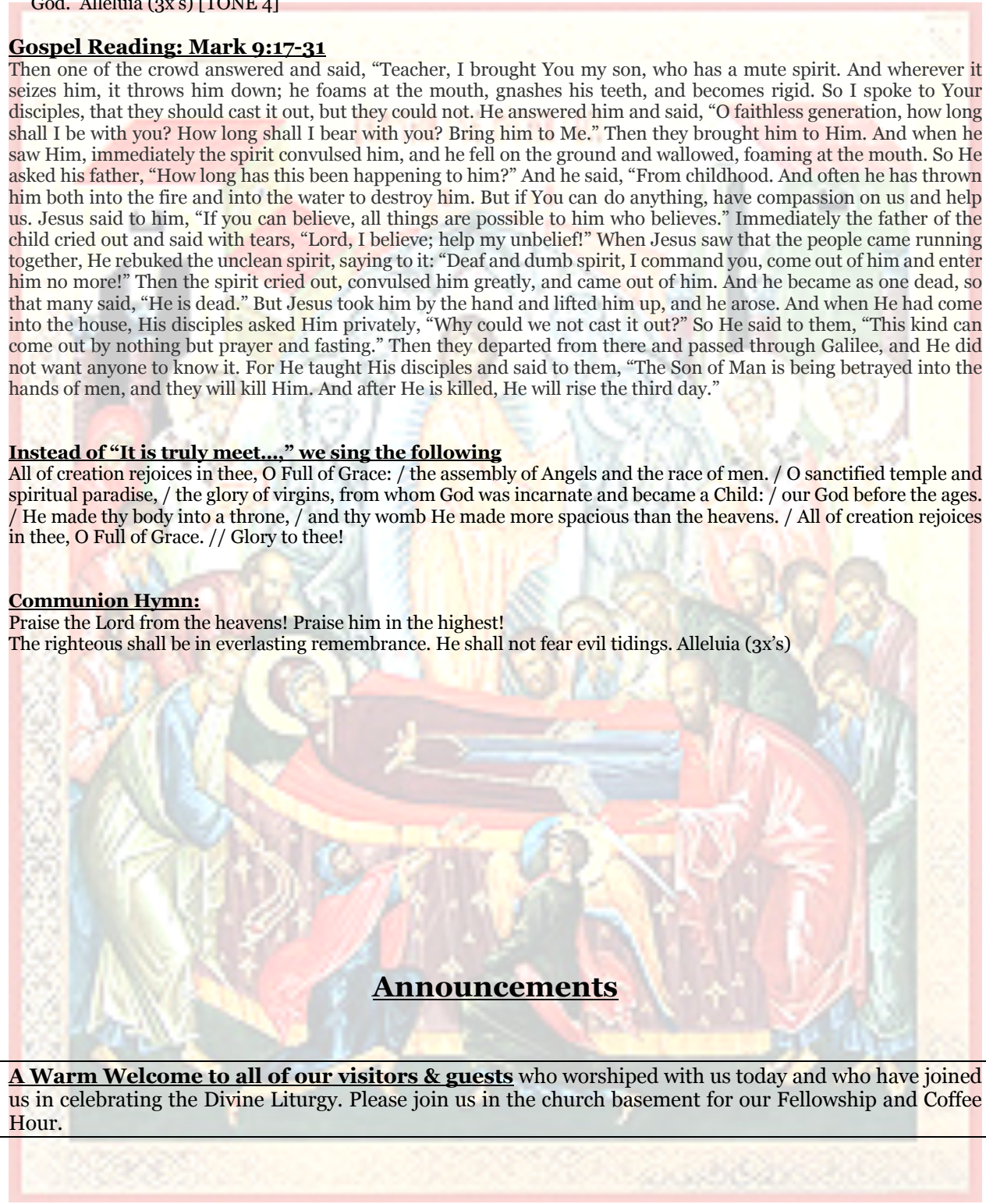
Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not. He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing the following

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: / the assembly of Angels and the race of men. / O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, / the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: / our God before the ages. / He made thy body into a throne, / and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. // Glory to thee!

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. 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 Great Lenten Charity Project – April Charity Collection

For the parish's Great Lent Charity Project, we will be designating from the April Charity Collection (Sunday, April 28th), those financial contributions received towards the nuns at Saint Mary Magdelene Monastery in upstate Pennsylvania. Our own Mother Catherine is one of the nuns at Saint Mary Magdelene Monastery. Please be generous in your gift donation.

If you wish to purchase a Shop Rite gift card instead, please consider purchasing one from the Reader David Pellack and then give the gift card to Mother Catherine or ask the Reader David to give her the gift card directly.

If you wish instead to donate food, it will be much appreciated also. We all go food shopping and if you can remember to pick up one or two items on each trip for this charity project, that would be great. Food collection bins will be made available for your donations. Please consider a special emphasis on donating protein-based items such as peanut butter, cans of tuna, cans of fruits and vegetables and gluten free. If deciding to go this route, please speak to Mother Catherine for more specifics on the exact type of food and beverage the nuns consume. Thank You for your generosity!!

Votive Vigil Cross Candles Scheduling

We are scheduling to have the votive vigil cross candles lit for services during the Lenten season. There is 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 last night, the following dates and cross sizes have been reserved...

- * Saint Mary of Egypt (Sunday, April 21) = **BOTH Large Crosses are Reserved!**
- * Lazarus Saturday (Saturday, April 27) = Both Crosses are Available
- * Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 28) = Both Crosses are Available
- * Holy Thursday (Thursday, May 2) = **BOTH Large Crosses are Reserved!**
- * Holy Friday (Friday, May 3) = **ONE Large Cross is Reserved!**
- * Holy Saturday (Saturday, May 4) = **BOTH Large Crosses are Reserved!**
- * PASCHA (Sunday, May 5) = **BOTH Large Crosses are Reserved!**
- * Saint Thomas Sunday (Mother's Day) (May 12) = **BOTH Large Crosses are Reserved!**

Attendance during Lenten Services (4th Week of Lent)

Wednesday, April 10 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts = 13	(15 Last Year)
Friday, April 12 – Akathist = 15	(10 Last Year – Annunciation Vespers served)
Saturday, April 13 – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy = 10	(No Service Last Year)

**[Note: Today's readings for Saint John Climacus are as follows:
Epistle – Ephesians 5:9-19 and Gospel – Matthew 4:25-5:12]**

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

John Bilaski offered by Nina Patterson
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patteson
Christopher, Kenneth, Anastasia, Levi, Colin offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Alexander, Selena, Debra, Pat, Catherine offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Emily, Edward, Paul, Edward, William offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Family and Friends offered by the Reader David Pellack
Caroline Lewis, Debbie Kavalkovich offered by Cheryl Homa
Cheryl Homa, Tanya Krawchuk (birthdays) offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Marc Ferguson Sr. (on his birthday) offered by Patricia Ferguson
Julia Drimak offered by Sandra Hourahan
Marc Ferguson Sr (anniversary of his birth) offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 4/7/24

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Jugan
offered by the Reader David Pellack

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Julia Drimak
offered by the Hourahan Family

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Please remember in your prayers:

Ignatius Gabriel Parsells (newly born on March 21 * 7lbs. 3oz. & 19 inches long), his siblings Luke, Theodore, Miriam Anastasia & his parents Peter & Heather Parsells. May God Grant Ignatius & his family Many Blessed Years!!

Josephina Ann McCann (newly born on April 2 at 9:12pm * 7lbs. 13oz.), her parents John & Justine Spack McCann, and her grandparents John & Michele Spack. May God Grant Josephina Ann & her family Many Blessed Years!!

Christina Andrews and her unborn child; Emily Gerasimoff; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; 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 (March/April)

<u>Week of Sun Mar 31 to Sat Apr 6</u>	<u>March Month (Unaudited)</u>	
Attendance:	27	37 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,427.84	\$ 7,770.84
Funds Out:	\$10,952.78	\$ 6,129.52
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 9,524.94)	\$ 1,641.32

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:

Today (Apr 14)
3rd Hour: Reader Mark Klus
6th Hour: Reader David Pellack
Epistle: Reader Mark Klus
and Matthew Andrews

Next Week (Apr 21)
Reader David Pellack
Dr. David Albrecht
Simon Herbert
and Dr. 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.

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 April 2024.

Fifth Week of Lent - Lenten Services here at the Parish!

Wednesday, April 17 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM
Thursday, April 18 – Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete at 6:00PM
Friday, April 19 – Akathist (to be determined) at 6:00PM

Sunday, April 21 – Vesper Mission Service – 4:00PM

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church | 506 Stahr Road | Elkins Park, PA 19027
Phone: 440.864.7346 (Rectory) Website: Parish only has a Facebook account!!



Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Saint John Climacus (of the Ladder) [April 14th]

Saint John Climacus (or Saint John of the Ladder) was a monk of Mt. Sinai who lived and wrote in the seventh century. He is venerated in the Orthodox Church on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent because of his spiritual struggles and his authorship of the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, a book that describes the spiritual struggle to climb closer to God through acquiring ascetic virtues.

There are among 30 steps on the ladder that correspond to the 30 years of Christ's life, with the entire volume divided into three main sections: 1) general virtues; 2) instructions on overcoming vices and building up the corresponding virtues; and 3) higher virtues that lead to the goals at which ascetic life aims, including prayer, stillness, dispassion, and finally love (agape).

The Ladder was originally written at the request of the abbot of a neighboring monastery, but now its use is widespread in the Church and even in the broader Christian community. Orthodox Christians are called upon to read this book during Lent, and monasteries in particular often read the entire text in the refectory during the Lenten season.

This book calls all to purification through a series of cleansing steps, including denial of self and caring for others. We are invited to examine ourselves in order to learn our faults and purify. Caring for others is a way of cleansing through decreasing our focus on the self. Ultimately, if one is able to follow Saint John's steps, the final goal – the love of others – is accomplished. Saint John's message is one of repentance, of changing around one's life. Saint John wrote, "Do not be surprised that you fall everyday; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience. He who really keeps account of his actions considers as lost every day in which he does not mourn, whatever good he may have done in it."

[Source: Gayle E. Woloschak, PhD from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the IOCC (2016)]