

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 21, 2024

Tone 5 – Fifth Sunday of Great Lent | Saint Mary of Egypt
Hieromartyr Januarius, Bishop of Benevento and his companions.
Hieromartyr Theodore of Perge in Pamphylia and all with him.

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com

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 Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church located at 506 Stahr Road in Elkins Park, PA 19027 Website: Parish only has a Facebook site

Wednesday: April 24 - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM

Thursday: April 25 - Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at **6:30PM** on the ZOOM media platform ONLY!!!

Friday: April 26 - Vespers of Lazarus Saturday at 6:00PM

Saturday: April 27 - Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM

Saturday: April 27 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
(along with the Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)

Sunday: April 28 – Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem *(Palm Sunday)*
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion (Tone 8 – Saint Mary of Egypt)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, / for thou didst take up the Cross and followed Christ. / By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passeth away; / but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. // Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoiceth with the angels.

Kontakion (Tone 5)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, / shattering its gates as Almighty, / resurrecting the dead as Creator, / and destroying the sting of death. / Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Saint Mary of Egypt)

Having been a sinful woman, / thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. / Having attained angelic life, / thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. // Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

Prokeimenon (Tone 5)

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Saint Mary of Egypt)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:11-14

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 1]

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:32-45

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again. Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

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.

*** ALSO ***

PROJECT HOME HUB OF HOPE (Clothes and toiletries for the homeless)

Travel sized toiletries including shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes | New men’s and women’s underwear | New cotton socks | Laundry detergents pods | New towels and washcloths | New/gently used casual clothing such as T-Shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, coats, hats, scarves, gloves.

Please put the clothes and toiletries in a box marked “For The Homeless” (the box will be on the last table close to the exit door / parking lot)

The Charity Committee wishes to 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 are still Available:

- * Lazarus Saturday (Saturday, April 27) = Both Crosses are Available
- * Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 28) = Both Crosses are Available
- * Holy Friday (Friday, May 3) = ONE Large Cross is Available!

Attendance during Lenten Services (5th Week of Lent)

Wednesday, April 17 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts = 7	(14 Last Year)
Thursday, April 18 – Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete = 17	(12 Last Year)
Friday, April 19 – Akathist (to the Theotokos) = 9	(11 Last Year)

**[Note: Today's readings for Saint Mary of Egypt are as follows:
Epistle – Galatians 3:23-29 and Gospel – Luke 7:36.50]**

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

John Bilaski offered by Nina Patterson
Family Members offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Emily Gerasimoff, Family Members offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Debbie Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Tammy Carns offered by Nina Patteson
Parishioners offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
John Pellack Family offered by the Reader David Pellack
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Friends offered by Daria LeRoy
Natalie and John Nedbal offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 4/14/24

One Small Vigil Cross – Memory of All Deceased Family Members
offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

One Large Vigil Cross – Health of Josephina, Justine, John McCann and
Michael Spack offered by Reader Mark Klus and Tish Berchtold

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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 Apr 7 to Sat Apr 13</u>	<u>April Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 47	47 (average)
Funds In: \$ 3,576.00	\$ 3,576.00
Funds Out: \$ 1,539.27	\$12,456.05
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 2,036.73	(\$ 8,880.05)

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 21)
3rd Hour: Reader David Pellack
6th Hour: Dr. David Albrecht
Epistle: Simon Herbert
and Dr. David Albrecht

Next Week (Apr 28)
Reader David Pellack
Simon Herbert
Reader 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 April 2024.

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

Wednesday, April 24 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM
Friday, April 26 – Vespers of Lazarus Saturday at 6:00PM
Saturday, April 27 – Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM
Saturday, April 27 – Great Vespers at 4:00PM (Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)

Pussywillows and Palms to be Blessed for Palm Sunday

Reminder: If you are bringing your own Pussywillows and/or Palms to be blessed after the Vesper service for Palm Sunday (Saturday evening, April 27), please be sure that you somehow identify which ones are your branches (i.e. tied together with a ribbon; place a tag with your name if necessary; etc...). Thank You!

Sunday, April 28 – Bridegroom Matins (Monday) Service – 4:00PM

Saint Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral * 8598 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19111 * Phone: 215.342.0866



Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: Saint Mary of Egypt [April 21th]

On the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, the Church provides us with one final theme of prayer and repentance before we enter Holy Week, the life of Saint Mary of Egypt. Saint Mary explained to Abba Zosimas, “I was born in Egypt, and when I was 12 years old, I left my parents and went to Alexandria. There I gave myself to unrestrained sensuality. For more than 17 years I lived like that.”

Saint Mary described how she boarded a ship of pilgrims on its way to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Upon arrival she attempted to enter the church, but a force prevented her entrance. She realized that she had to repent of her sinful ways, and the Blessed Theotokos revealed to her that salvation awaited her in the desert beyond the Jordan River by means of continual prayer and fasting.

Abba Zosimas asked her, “How many years have passed since you began to live in the desert?” She replied, “It is 47 years.” Abba Zosimas asked, “What food do you find here?” She said, “I had two and a half loaves of bread when I crossed the Jordan. Eating a little at a time, I finished them after a few years.”

On this Sunday of Great Lent, the Church encourages us to emulate this powerful example of lifelong repentance by prayer and fasting. While we all surely eat more than two and a half loaves of bread in a few years, our meager fasting should heighten our compassion for the poor and the hungry, and whatever resources we are able to preserve by fasting become available for “the least of these my brethren.” Let us reach out to the poor and destitute throughout the world with the inspiration of Saint Mary of Egypt, especially during this time of tumult and suffering.

[Source: Very Reverend Father Michael Ellias from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the **IOCC** (2016)]

NOTE: If anyone wishes to read more about the life of both Saint Mary of Egypt and Abba Zosimas, please go on the OCA website (www.oca.org) and click on the Feast & Saints link, then select today’s date, and then click on the “Read the Life” box for 5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt.