

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, May 12, 2024 | Second Sunday of Pascha

Tone 1 – Saint Thomas Sunday | Antipascha
Saint Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus (403)
CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!

Today: ~~Blessing of Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery~~
[Postponed until next Sunday, May 19 (weather permitting)]

Tuesday: Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!

Saturday: May 18 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: May 19 – 3rd Sunday of Pascha -Holy Myrrhbearing Women
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: May 19 - Blessing of Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery
(For those that stay at the cemetery after the grave blessing,
a Paschal picnic will be held near the Spack family gravesite)
(Weather Permitting!!!)

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7 – Pentecostarion)

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! / Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ God. / Renew in us through them an upright spirit, // by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

Kontakion (Tone 8 - Pentecostarion)

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, / when Thou didst come to Thy Apostles through closed doors. // He cried out with all: “Thou art my Lord and my God!”

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: Acts 5:12-20

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.

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. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: / "Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice, / Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! / With Himself He has raised all the dead." / Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! / The glory of the Lord has shone on you. / Exult now, / and be glad, O Zion! / Be radiant, / O pure Theotokos, / in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! 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

Palm Sunday – Vigil Cross Candles – 4/28/24

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of John and Margaret Pellack
offered by the Reader David Pellack

One Large Vigil Cross – Health of Emily Gerasimoff
offered by Gerasimoff, Kavalkovich, and Andrews Families

Holy Thursday – Vigil Cross Candles – 5/2/24

Two Large Votive Crosses – Memory of Mary S. Herbert
offered by the Herbert Family

Holy Friday – Vigil Cross Candles – 5/3/24

One Large Votive Cross – Memory of Paul & Irene Kavcsak; Stephen & Mary
Spack; Michael & Julia Kavcsak; Arthur & Grace
Patterson offered by Nina Patterson

One Large Votive Cross – Health of Family
offered by Tanya Krawchuk and Brett McKenna

Holy Saturday – Vigil Cross Candles – 5/4/24

One Large Votive Cross – Health of Family
offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

One Large Votive Cross – Memory of All Deceased Family Members
offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik

Attendance Last Weekend at the Parish

Saturday, May 4 – Holy Saturday – Divine Liturgy with Old Testament = 19	(N/A Last Year)
Sunday, May 5 – PASCHA Procession Matins Liturgy = 74	(92 Last Year)
Sunday, May 5 – PASCHA Vespers = 21	(25 Last Year)
Monday, May 6 – Bright Monday Divine Liturgy = Cancelled	(No Service Last Year)

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

John Bilaski offered by Nina Patterson
Family and Friends offered by the Reader David Pellack
Joanne and Linda offered by their sister Cheryl Homa
Homa and Killoran Families offered by Ronald Homa
Edward, Kenneth, Catherine, Patricia, Barbara offered by Debie Kavalkovich
Sunny and Emily offered by Barbara Andrews
Kenneth offered by Kavalkovich (DH)
Emily Gerasimoff, Family offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Family members offered by John Drimak Jr.

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John and Anna Homa offered by Ronald Homa
John and Julia Drimak offered by John Drimak Jr.
Aunt Matsey Herbert offered by John Drimak Jr.

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 5/5/24

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Pellack and Zuzulock Families
offered by the Reader David Pellack

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of Mary S. ‘Matsey’ Herbert
offered by Mother Catherine

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Please remember in your prayers:

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 (April/May)

Week of Sun Apr 28 to Sat May 4

April Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	42	40 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 4,450.97	\$12,532.97
Funds Out:	\$ 94.16	\$17,533.51
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 4,356.81	(\$ 5,000.54)

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 (May 12)</u>	<u>Next Week (May 19)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Reader David Pellack	Reader Mark Klus
6 th Hour:	Daniel S Herbert	Reader David Pellack
Epistle:	Daniel S Herbert	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 May 2024.

Sunday, May 19 – Holy Myrrhberaring Women: The Parish traditionally blesses graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery on Saint Thomas Sunday. However, due to the weather this weekend and today being Mother’s Day, the parish has decided to postpone the Blessing of the Graves until next Sunday, May 19. If scheduled to go out to the cemetery, weather permitting, please dress appropriately for that day’s weather (jackets and windbreakers if its windy and cool, or hats and sunscreen if it’s hot and sunny).

Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery after Divine Liturgy (Weather Permitting)

A reminder for those who will go to the cemetery, whether it’s just to bless graves or to also stay afterward for the Paschal picnic:

- * bring your favorite Pascha food and beverages, or anything people will enjoy;
- * bring chairs or lawnchairs if you wish to relax afterwards;
- * dress appropriately for that day’s weather (jackets, hats, sunscreen, etc...); and
- * bringing a change of comfortable clothing and most importantly, comfortable shoes or sneakers (it doesn’t hurt)!

Thursday, May 23 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!



ANTIPASCHA: Saint Thomas Sunday [May 12th]

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” When St Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as “Antipascha.” This does not mean “opposed to Pascha,” but “in place of Pascha.” Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection. Sunday is called “Resurrection” in Russian, and “the Lord’s Day” in Greek.

Equal of the Apostles and Teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius [May 11th]

Saints Cyril and Methodius, Equals of the Apostles, and Enlighteners of the Slavs came from an illustrious and pious family living in the Greek city of Thessalonica. Saint Methodius was the oldest of seven brothers, Saint Constantine [Cyril was his monastic name] was the youngest. At first Saint Methodius was in the military and was governor in one of the Slavic principalities dependent on the Byzantine Empire, probably Bulgaria, which made it possible for him to learn the Slavic language. After living there for about ten years, Saint Methodius later received monastic tonsure at one of the monasteries on Mount Olympus (Asia Minor).

Saint Constantine distinguished himself by his great aptitude, and he studied with the emperor Michael under the finest teachers in Constantinople, including Saint Photius, the future Patriarch of Constantinople (February 6).

Saint Constantine studied all the sciences of his time, and also knew several languages. He also studied the works of Saint Gregory the Theologian. Because of his keen mind and penetrating intellect, Saint Constantine was called “Philosopher” (wise). Upon the completion of his education, Saint Constantine was ordained to the holy priesthood and was appointed curator of the patriarchal library at the church of Hagia Sophia. He soon left the capital and went secretly to a monastery.

Discovered there, he returned to Constantinople, where he was appointed as instructor in philosophy. The young Constantine’s wisdom and faith were so great that he won a debate with Ananias, the leader of the heretical iconoclasts. After this victory Constantine was sent by the emperor to discuss the Holy Trinity with the Saracens, and again he gained the victory. When he returned, Saint Constantine went to his brother Saint Methodius on Olympus, spending his time in unceasing prayer and reading the works of the holy Fathers.

The emperor soon summoned both of the holy brothers from the monastery and sent them to preach the Gospel to the Khazars. Along the way they stayed in the city of Korsun, making preparations for their missionary activity. There the holy brothers miraculously discovered the relics of the hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome (November 25).

There in Korsun Saint Constantine found a Gospel and Psalter written in Russian letters [i.e. Slavonic], and a man speaking the Slavic tongue, and he learned from this man how to read and speak this language. After this, the holy brothers went to the Khazars, where they won a debate with Jews and Moslems by preaching the Gospel. On the way home, the brothers again visited Korsun and, taking up the relics of Saint Clement, they returned to Constantinople. Saint Constantine remained in the capital, but Saint Methodius was made igumen of the small Polychronion monastery near Mount Olympus, where he lived a life of asceticism as before.

Soon messengers came to the emperor from the Moravian prince Rostislav, who was under pressure from German bishops, with a request to send teachers to Moravia who would be able to preach in the Slavic tongue. The emperor summoned Saint Constantine and said to him, “You must go there, but it would be better if no one knows about this.”

Saint Constantine prepared for the new task with fasting and prayer. With the help of his brother Saint Methodius and the disciples Gorazd, Clement, Savva, Naum and Angelyar, he devised a Slavonic alphabet and translated the books which were necessary for the celebration of the divine services: the Gospel, Epistles, Psalter, and collected services, into the Slavic tongue. This occurred in the year 863.

After completing the translation, the holy brothers went to Moravia, where they were received with great honor, and they began to teach the services in the Slavic language. This aroused the malice of the German bishops, who celebrated divine services in the Moravian churches in Latin. They rose up against the holy brothers, convinced that divine services must be done in one of three languages: Hebrew, Greek or Latin.

Saint Constantine said, "You only recognize three languages in which God may be glorified. But David sang, 'Praise the Lord, all nations, praise the Lord all peoples (Ps 116/117:1).' And the Gospel of Saint Matthew (28:18) says, 'Go and teach all nations....'" The German bishops were humiliated, but they became bitter and complained to Rome.

The holy brothers were summoned to Rome for a decision on this matter. Taking with them the relics of Saint Clement, Saints Constantine and Methodius set off to Rome. Knowing that the holy brothers were bringing these relics with them, Pope Adrian met them along the way with his clergy. The holy brothers were greeted with honor, the Pope gave permission to have divine services in the Slavonic language, and he ordered the books translated by the brothers to be placed in the Latin churches, and to serve the Liturgy in the Slavonic language.

At Rome Saint Constantine fell ill, and the Lord revealed to him his approaching death. He was tonsured into the monastic schema with the name of Cyril. On February 14, 869, fifty days after receiving the schema, Saint Cyril died at the age of forty-two.

Saint Cyril commanded his brother Saint Methodius to continue with their task of enlightening the Slavic peoples with the light of the true Faith. Saint Methodius entreated the Pope to send the body of his brother for burial in their native land, but the Pope ordered the relics of Saint Cyril to be placed in the church of Saint Clement, where miracles began to occur from them.

After the death of Saint Cyril, the Pope sent Saint Methodius to Pannonia, after consecrating him as Archbishop of Moravia and Pannonia, on the ancient throne of Saint Andronicus (July 30). In Pannonia Saint Methodius and his disciples continued to distribute services books written in the Slavonic language. This again aroused the wrath of the German bishops. They arrested and tried Saint Methodius, who was sent in chains to Swabia, where he endured many sufferings for two and a half years.

After being set free by order of Pope John VIII of Rome, and restored to his archdiocese, Saint Methodius continued to preach the Gospel among the Slavs. He baptized the Czech prince Borivoi and his wife Ludmilla (September 16), and also one of the Polish princes. The German bishops began to persecute the saint for a third time, because he did not accept the erroneous teaching about the procession of the Holy Spirit from both the Father and the Son. Saint Methodius was summoned to Rome, but he justified himself before the Pope, and preserved the Orthodox teaching in its purity, and was sent again to the capital of Moravia, Velehrad.

Here in the remaining years of his life Saint Methodius, assisted by two of his former pupils, translated the entire Old Testament into Slavonic, except for the Book of Maccabees, and even the Nomocanon (Rule of the Holy Fathers) and Paterikon (book of the Holy Fathers).

Sensing the nearness of death, Saint Methodius designated one of his students, Gorazd, as a worthy successor to himself. The holy bishop predicted the day of his death and died on April 6, 885 when he was about sixty years old. The saint's burial service was chanted in three languages, Slavonic, Greek, and Latin. He was buried in the cathedral church of Velehrad.

