

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 26, 2024 | Fourth Sunday of Pascha

Tone 3 – Paralytic

Apostles Carpus and Alphaeus of the Seventy (1st c.)

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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

Wednesday: May 29 - Midfeast of Pentecost!

Saturday: June 1 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: June 2 – 5th Sunday of Pascha | Samaritan Woman

Reading of Hours – 8:30am

Divine Liturgy – **9:00am [Summer Hours]**

Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Kontakion (Tone 3 - Pentecostarion)

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord, / as Thou raised up the Paralytic of old, / so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; / so that being saved I may sing to Thee: / "Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!"

Kontakion (Tone 8 - Pascha)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, "Rejoice!" to the Myrrhbearing Women, // granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Epistle Reading: Acts 9:32-42

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

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)

Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' Then they asked him, 'Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

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:

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!
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

Saint Vladimir's Seminary Announces the Retirement of Archbishop Chad Hatfield

YONKERS, NY [OCA] - St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (SVOTS) announces the retirement of the Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield as SVOTS President and Rector of Three Hierarchs Chapel, effective July 1, 2024. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, along with the Board of Trustees, received and accepted a request for retirement from Fr. Hatfield on Friday, May 17 at the 2024 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

During his seventeen-year tenure at SVOTS, as Chancellor and then President, Fr. Hatfield oversaw significant developments at SVOTS, including but not limited to the expansion of the faculty and academic programs, enhancing of campus facilities, strengthening of the staff and administration, and the reinforcement of the Seminary's financial foundation. Fr. Hatfield will begin a six-month sabbatical, continuing as the Skvir Professor of Pastoral Theology, concluding on December 31, 2024.

His Beatitude and the Board of Trustees expressed gratitude and appreciation for Fr. Hatfield's many years of service at SVOTS. His Beatitude, Chairman of the Board, stated, "Fr. Chad's leadership has been transformative for the Seminary. His commitment to service in the Church and for the Church has preserved and strengthened the legacy of St. Vladimir's Seminary as a beacon of Orthodox Christian education. We are immensely grateful for his unwavering dedication to upholding the teachings of the Orthodox Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Over the course of the summer, SVOTS will initiate a comprehensive search for Fr. Hatfield's successor, led by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon as Chairman of the Board, who will chair a President Search Committee, as mandated by the SVOTS bylaws. The Board of Trustees also appointed a Transition Committee to assist with and ensure a seamless transition. In the interim, the Board of Trustees appointed Academic Dean, Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, as the Interim President and Academic Dean, effective July 1, 2024, to oversee the Seminary's operations.

THANK YOUALL!!!

We would like to say "Thank You" everyone who went out and bought flowers to bring to the church to be placed around the tomb on Holy Friday and Holy Saturday and to be decorated around the church on Pascha and on Saint Thomas Sunday. We hope you were able to take the real flowers with you either to bring home or take to the cemetery to be planted at a grave site. If there are any real flowers left today, please take them since they will be taken out of the church and disposed of properly. With the warm weather this week and no one to water them during the week, they will just wilt away. Thank You.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Tammy Cairns offered by Nina Patterson
Emily, Sharon, Levi, Scarlett, Ken & Debbie offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Emily, Sharon, Edith, Levi (on his Birthday), offered by Debra Kavalkovich
Kenneth & Debra (anniversary), Patricia, Cass offered by Debra Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Ronald Kavalkovich, Albert Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Ronald, Albert, Vito offered by Debra Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 5/19/24

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Please remember in your prayers:

Christina Andrews and her unborn child; Darren Bodnar, 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!

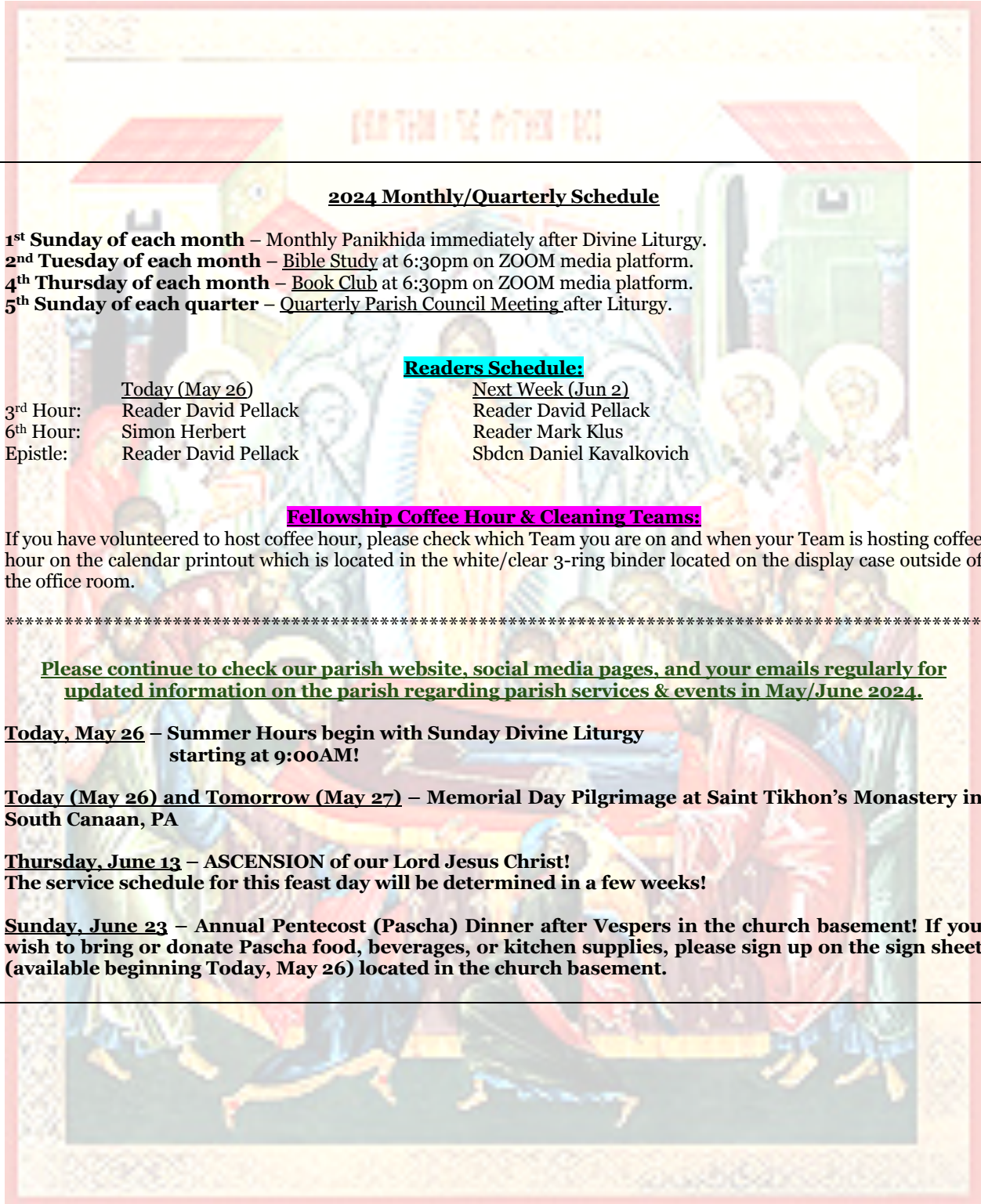
Cash Flow Activity (May)

<u>Week of Sun May 12 to Sat May 18</u>		<u>May Month to Date</u>
Attendance:	26	50 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,122.00	\$ 8,088.43
Funds Out:	\$ 1,583.34	\$ 4,803.82
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 461.34)	\$ 3,284.61

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 26)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jun 2)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Reader David Pellack	Reader David Pellack
6 th Hour:	Simon Herbert	Reader Mark Klus
Epistle:	Reader David Pellack	Sbden Daniel Kavalkovich

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/June 2024.

Today, May 26 – Summer Hours begin with Sunday Divine Liturgy starting at 9:00AM!

Today (May 26) and Tomorrow (May 27) – Memorial Day Pilgrimage at Saint Tikhon’s Monastery in South Canaan, PA

Thursday, June 13 – ASCENSION of our Lord Jesus Christ!
The service schedule for this feast day will be determined in a few weeks!

Sunday, June 23 – Annual Pentecost (Pascha) Dinner after Vespers in the church basement! If you wish to bring or donate Pascha food, beverages, or kitchen supplies, please sign up on the sign sheet (available beginning Today, May 26) located in the church basement.



Sunday of the Paralytic [May 26th]

Many miracles in the Old Testament involve water. To name but a few, the water of the Nile turned to blood after Moses lifted his rod and struck the water before Pharaoh and His servants (Exodus 7:20). Not only was the Nile turned to blood, but also "their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone" (Exodus 7:19).

In chapter 14 of Exodus, Moses divided the waters of the Red Sea, and the Hebrews passed over as if on dry land. When they were safely across, the waters came together, and their Egyptian pursuers were drowned.

On their forty year journey to the Promised Land, the Hebrews camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for them to drink. The people murmured against Moses, asking him why he had led them out of Egypt. God told Moses to strike the rock at Horeb. Then water came out of it so that everyone could drink (Exodus 17:6).

In Judges 6:36-40 we read about Gideon and the dew on the fleece. When Gideon squeezed the fleece, there was enough to fill a bowl with water.

On the Fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Church remembers the man who lay paralyzed at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first person to enter the pool after an Angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

The Lord healed the paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and He remained there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Theologian, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

Like some Old Testament miracles, many of Christ's miracles also involved water, and they prefigure the Church's Baptism, which cleanses us of every sin. In the Sheep Pool, once a year, only one person was healed, but Christ saves endless multitudes by divine Baptism. Sometimes, as in the case of Saint Vladimir (July 15), Baptism can also heal our bodily infirmities.

In the Canon for the Paralytic, the Angel who stirred the water in the Sheep Pool is identified as the Archangel Michael. Some of the Troparia call him "Leader of the Angels," and "Supreme Commander" (Ode 1). In Ode 3 we ask him to "protect us from falling into the passions of life." In Ode 6, we ask Saint Michael to guide us on the paths of life." In Ode 8, we ask him to pray with all the Bodiless Hosts, that we may be granted deliverance from our offenses, correction of our life, and the enjoyment of eternal blessings.

As we remember the paralytic, let us ask Christ to "raise up our souls, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts" (Kontakion of the paralytic).