

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, June 9, 2024 | Sixth Sunday of Pascha

Tone 5 – Blind Man

Saint Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria (444)

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

Tuesday: June 11 - Bible Study at 6:30PM on ZOOM media platform ONLY!

Thursday: June 13 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the
Feast of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Saturday: June 15 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: June 16 – 7th Sunday of Pascha | Afterfeast of the Ascension
Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Reading of Hours – 8:30am
Divine Liturgy – **9:00am [Summer Hours]**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: June 23 – Holy Pentecost | Feast of the Holy Trinity

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.

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Pentecostarion)

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, / and call to Thee in repentance: // Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.

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 8)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

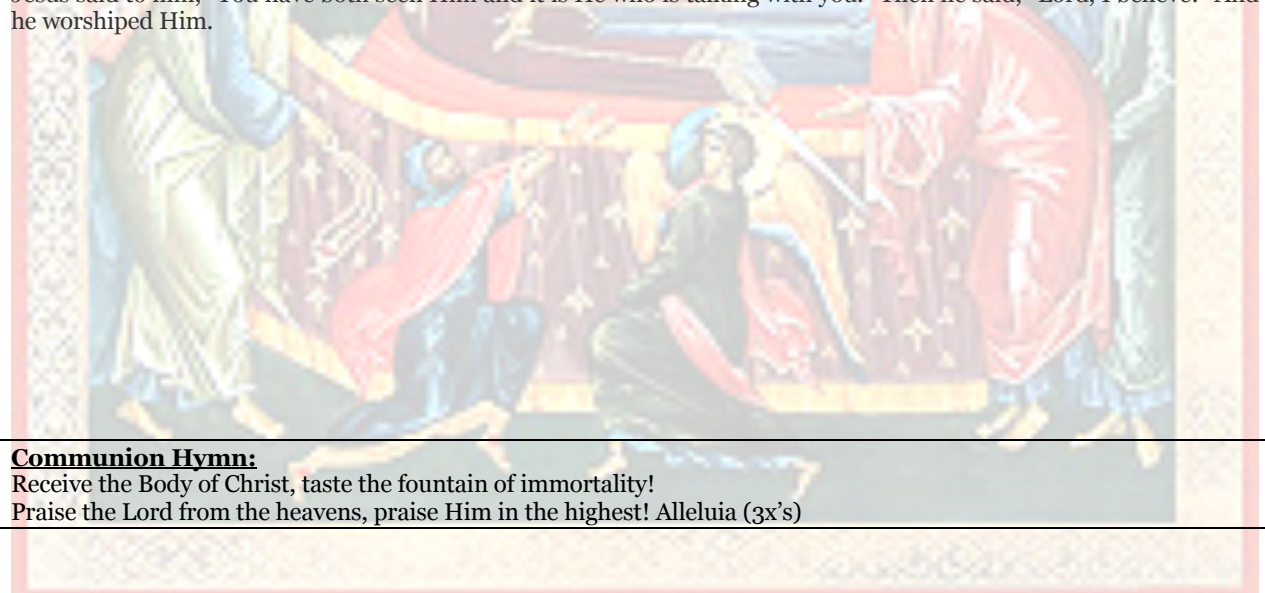
Epistle Reading: Acts 16:16-34

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe. Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.” Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. Alleluia (3x’s) (Tone 8)

v. Look upon me and have mercy on me! Alleluia (3x's)
v. Guide my steps according to Thy word! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-38

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself. His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.



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

Archpriest Daniel Geeza Awarded Right to Wear Miter on Memorial Day.

SOUTH CANAAN, PA - On Monday, May 27, at Saint Tikhon's Monastery, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, on behalf of the Holy Synod's unanimous decision, awarded Archpriest Daniel Geeza, attached to Saint Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia, for 24 years. [Note: Father Dan served at our parish from 1961 to 1966].

May God grant many years to the mitred Archpriest Daniel and his wife, Matushka Mary, for her sacrifices throughout their ministry. Axios!

Historic Cleveland Cathedral Suffers Damage after Fire by Bryn Caswell

CLEVELAND, OH - A historic Orthodox cathedral caught fire Tuesday, May 27. Parishioners and priests tried to salvage what they could, but the sanctuary was severely damaged. On Wednesday, fire officials said they believe the cause of the fire at Saint Theodosius was accidental, the result of work being done on the roof.

This reflects what Fire Chief Anthony Luke told News 5 on Tuesday about a construction crew that had been doing hot work welding copper up on the roof. "There's no danger to the integrity of the building, but it's not usable due to water and smoke damage," a Cleveland Fire Department spokesperson tells News 5. The Cleveland Fire Department estimates the damage to be about \$1 million dollars.

As fire crews rushed to Saint Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral on Starkweather Avenue, Kelly Taylor couldn't believe her eyes. "I was baptized in this church," Taylor added. "I really can't believe this is happening. This is surreal. It's such a landmark, I can't believe it's happening." The cathedral is over 110 years old, constructed between 1911 to 1912 for Russian immigrants living in Tremont. It's on the National Register of Historic Places and largely known for its iconic copper roof, which is what Cleveland Fire Chief Anthony Luke said made battling the fire Tuesday so challenging. "This building because most of the roof is encased in copper, the fire is burning underneath the copper, so we have to peel back the copper to get to the fire," said Luke. "There was a partial ceiling collapse so they pulled everybody out," Luke said. Choir master Kenneth Kovoach is also in disbelief over the damages. He said the church was undergoing an extensive roof restoration. "Now we're looking at a fairly expensive and extensive restoration process," Kovoach said.

This building is not only special to Clevelanders but movie lovers as well. The cathedral made its big screen appearance in the 1978 film "Deer Hunter." "This was the Deer Hunter church," said Kovoach. "This is where Robert De Niro and everybody came."

Congregants gathered Tuesday evening in prayer as they process their loss. "Everything can be replaced but what a shock, what a tragedy for Cleveland," said Kovoach.

Chief Luke said he's proud of the work his crews did because the building could have been a total loss if they didn't get ladders up to the copper roof. There are no reported injuries.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family offered by Barbara Andrews
Ken Kavalkovich, Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Kavalkovich Families, Gerasimoff Families offered by Reader David Pellack
Walker Family offered by the Reader David Pellack
Kenneth, Christina, Anastasis, Colin, Levi, Alex, Selena, Catherine, Patricia,
Emily, William, Barbara, Norman, Elton, offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Newborn Babies Kennedy and Margo offered by M/M K Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

John Bilaski offered by Nina Patterson

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 6/2/24

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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/June)

<u>Week of Sun May 26 to Sat Jun 1</u>	<u>May Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance: 32	42 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,985.91	\$10,825.34
Funds Out: \$ 1,683.34	\$ 5,453.48
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 302.57	\$ 5,371.86

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 (Jun 9)
3rd Hour: Reader Mark Klus
6th Hour: Daniel Herbert
Epistle: Simon Herbert

Next Week (Jun 16)
Reader David Pellack
Dr David Albrecht
Dr David Albrecht

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

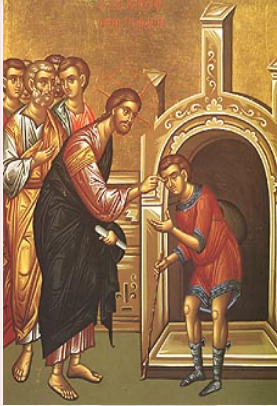
If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which Team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside of the office room.

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 June 2024.

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 located in the church basement.

Monday, June 24 – Nativity of Saint John the Baptist!
[PLEASE NOTE: There will be no service held at the parish on this day!]

Saturday, June 29 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Feast Day of the Holy Glorious Leaders of Saints Peter & Paul!



Sunday of the Blind Man [June 9th]

After the Midfeast (John 7:14), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (John 8:2). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man “who was blind from his birth (John 9:1).

The miracle described in today’s Gospel (John 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. St Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, “Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes...”.

The Gospel says, “Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind” (John 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mark 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man’s empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

In his MENAION, St Demetrius of Rostov calls the blind man St Celidonius (see his account of St Lazarus in the Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles on January 4).

