

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, June 16, 2024 | Seventh Sunday of Pascha

Tone 6 – Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Afterfeast of the Ascension!

Saint Tychon (Tikhon, Tyco) Bishop of Amathus in Cuprus (4th-5th c.)

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

Saturday: June 22 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: June 23 – 8th Sunday of Pascha | **Holy Pentecost!**
Reading of Hours – 8:30am
Divine Liturgy – **9:00am [Summer Hours]**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: June 23 – ~~Annual Pentecostal Dinner with Pascha food after Divine Liturgy.~~
CANCELLED - With Liturgy in the church basement, limited room due to services in the basement, and no one signing up to bring or prepare anything for this dinner, decision made to cancel the dinner for this year. Thank you for your understanding.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 6)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion (Tone 4 - Ascension)

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing they were assured, / that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world!

Troparion (Tone 8 – Holy Fathers)

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, / Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. / Through them Thou hast guided us to the true Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Holy Fathers)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Ascension)

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, / and didst unite earth to heaven: / Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, / not being parted from those who love Thee, / but remaining with them and crying: // "I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!
v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

Epistle Reading: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. The Lord, the God of gods, speaketh and summoneth the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Gather to Me, My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-13

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing:

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven! / We magnify thee, O Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gavest birth in time to the Timeless One.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

(Instead of "We have seen the True Light," we sing the Troparion of Ascension (on page 2))

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

New Video “Recollections of Saintly Matushka Olga” Now Available

SPRINGFIELD, VA - The documentary video “Recollections of Saintly Matushka Olga” is now available for viewing.

This video gives an important window into the place Matushka Olga continues to hold in the lives of the Alaskan faithful. It also explains the decision of the Holy Synod of Bishops to keep her relics in her home village of Kwethluk, making it a place of pilgrimage for Orthodox peoples around the world.

You can help the efforts of the faithful Orthodox people of Kwethluk and all of Alaska in setting up this pilgrimage center through your generous donations. They will go towards the construction of a new church temple on Kuskokwim that will be the earthly home for Matushka Olga’s holy relics, a Hospitality Center to accommodate pilgrims, and a Cultural Center to preserve and celebrate the rich Yup’ik heritage. Donations can be made here at the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska website.

His Grace Bishop Alexei of Sitka and Alaska invites all the faithful to watch and share this documentary. Most importantly, he requests all who view this video to ask the intercessions of Matushka Olga in preparation for her coming glorification by the Orthodox Church in America.

The 18 minute video is now available for streaming on the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska YouTube channel.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQ-f7SOLMxE>]

The Diocese of Sitka and Alaska website: <https://odoso.org>

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Leads Delegation of OCA overseas

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and the delegation from the Orthodox Church in America traveled abroad and visited Ukraine (June 1 to 4), Romania (June 4 to 7), and Constantinople (June 7 to 10). They met with Metropolitan Onufriy of Kyiv and All Ukraine and members of the Holy Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to discuss the current situation in Ukraine; preside and concelebrate liturgical services; and visit well known monasteries and orphanages. Then, the OCA delegation’s visit to Romania strengthened the OCA’s ties and friendship with the Romanian Orthodox Church and included engagements at the Putna Monastery with the Abbot Archimandrite Melchisedec (Velnic) and an audience at the Patriarchal Palace with His Grace Bishop Varlaam of Ploiesti, Patriarchal Vicar Bishop. Finally, the OCA delegation traveled to Constantinople where they were warmly received by the hierarchs and members of the Patriarchal Court. The OCA delegation attended divine services in the sanctuary of the Patriarchal Cathedral of Saint George. Afterwards, the OCA delegation was invited to luncheons with His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of Chalcedon, His Eminence Metropolitan Stephanos of Tallinn and All Estonia, Metropolitan Stephanos, and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew; along with other members of the Sacred and Holy Synod of Constantinople.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Parishioners of St Theodosius Cathedral offered by the Reader David Pellack
Subdeacon Daniel and his family offered by the Reader David Pellack
Ken Kavalkovich, Emily Gerasimoff offered by Catherine 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 – 6/9/24

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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; Fania Wanenchak; 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 (June)

<u>Week of Sun Jun 2 to Sat Jun 8</u>	<u>June Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 34	34 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,512.77	\$ 1,512.77
Funds Out: \$ 7,783.80	\$ 9,367.14
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$ 6,271.03)	(\$ 7,854.37)

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 (Jun 16)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jun 23)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Reader David Pellack	Reader Mark Klus
6 th Hour:	Dr David Albrecht	Reader David Pellack
Epistle:	Dr David Albrecht	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 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. [PLEASE NOTE: As a result of Divine Liturgy being served in the church basement until the air conditioning unit is repaired, limited space in the basement with services being held there, and the fact that no one has signed up to bring or prepare food/beverages, the dinner has been Cancelled!]**~~

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!



Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council [June 16th]

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, “I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior’s words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor’s sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ’s Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), St Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius (who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18). He is called “the Great,” for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today’s Feast, he is referred to as “the thirteenth Apostle.”

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, “God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous.”

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan’s knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. St Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word “consubstantial,” which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ’s divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).