

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 23, 2024 | Holy Pentecost

Tone 7 - Eight Sunday of Pascha! Feast of the Holy Trinity!
Martyr Agrippina of Rome (253-260)
Righteous Artemius of Verkol'sk (1545)

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

- Today: Pentecost Vespers with kneeling service immediately after Divine Liturgy.
General dispensation from all fasting throughout the week (June 23 to July 2)
- Today: The Annual Pentecostal Dinner with Pascha food has been **CANCELLED** for this year!
- Thursday: June 27 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at **6:30PM** on the ZOOM media platform **ONLY!!!**
- Saturday: June 29 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for the Feast of the Holy Glorious Leaders of the Apostles Peter and Paul
- Saturday: June 29 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: June 30 – Sunday of All Saints
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 8)

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, / Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise/ by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, / and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. // O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

Kontakion (Tone 8)

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, / He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. // Therefore, with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, / have put on Christ.
Alleluia. (3x's)

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe!
v. The heavens are telling the Glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

Epistle Reading: Acts 2:1-11

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The Lord looks down from Heaven and beholds the sons of men. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed. Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing? They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

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

Rejoice, O Queen! Glory of mothers and virgins! / No mouth, however sweet or fluent, / is eloquent enough to praise thee worthily! / Every mind is overawed by thy childbearing / Therefore with one voice we glorify thee!

Communion Hymn:

Let Thy good Spirit lead me forth on a level path. 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

Services in the church basement

While the parish is serving Vespers and Divine Liturgy in the church basement due to the air conditioner still not working, there are some adjustments we need to make in order for the services to be performed smoothly as possible. As stated before, this will be a work in progress so please be patient with all those who are trying to make this work for everyone.

We have 2 portable air conditioners that have been set up in the church basement (one near the back door of the basement and the other near the middle window of the street side of the basement). We also have three (3) whirl fans which will assist in circulating the cold air while also cooling the basement to a comfortable level (one fan on the stage/altar blowing out to the congregation, one fan on the stage/altar blowing towards the altar/priest, and one near the basement inner front doors blowing towards the congregation to keep that cold air in the basement).

Other items of note:

* Prosfora – It will be available to be offered for your loved ones. The trays will be located on the display case in front of the office.

* Candles – They will NOT be available to burn. It will already be hot enough, no need to include more heat and with the fans and air moving, the candles will burn down more quickly than what they should be allowed to do.

* Collection - We will not be walking around taking a collection however, there will be a basket available to place your offering into either before or after liturgy.

* Reading Stand - The stand used for reading the Hours and the Epistle will also be used by Father Mark when he reads the gospel. If you're reading the Epistle, please bring the stand up with you to the stage after you've read to receive the blessing and to put the stand on the stage in front of Father Mark.

* Coffee Hour – We are limited with room and trying to avoid distractions during the services, so we are requesting from the coffee hour teams to please just bring either donuts, pastries, bagels, or other finger foods that do not need to be prepared, cooked, heated, or watched over while services are in progress. Also, we do not have enough room to stretch out and enjoy a meal since the tables will not be set up. Also, due to the use of all the electrical outlets, coffee will be made upstairs in the vestibule near the candle stand.

* Live Streaming – Since we will be using a large amount of electricity with the air conditioners and fans, along with the limited space in the basement, we will not be streaming services at this time, however, this option may change in the future.

* Basement back door – The back door basement will be locked 10-15 minutes BEFORE services begin to avoid any distractions during services. Please make every effort to use the basement front doors when entering the church through the basement.

Finally, please remember we will be in an area that is about half the size of the naïve of the church, so we would like to keep the moving around as minimal as possible to avoid distractions. Also remember the choir will be in the same space singing in front of where the coffee table is located.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 6/16/24

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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 9 to Sat Jun 15</u>	<u>June Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 32	33 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,231.18	\$ 2,743.95
Funds Out: (\$ 117.82) reimbursement	\$ 9,249.32
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 1,349.00	(\$ 6,505.37)

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 23)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jun 30)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	Reader David Pellack
6 th Hour:	Reader David Pellack	Matthew Andrews
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus	Matthew Andrews

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!



Holy Pentecost [June 23rd]

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time:

the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom...

THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

"Who is so great a God as our God?"

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God. In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost"—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—"the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope. *Father Alexandar Schmemmann (1974)*