

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

Sunday, July 21, 2024 | 4th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Prophet Ezekiel (6th c. B.C.)
Venerable Simeon of Emessa, Fool-for-Christ,
and his fellow ascetic, Venerable John (ca. 590)

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

Monday: Myrrhbearer Equal of the Apostles Mary Magdalene

Wednesday: Funeral for the handmaiden of God Emily Gerasimoff
Viewing at 9:30am with Funeral Service at 10:00am
[Burial will be at Saint Tikhon's Monastery]

Thursday: Dormition of the Righteous Anna, mother of the Most Holy Lady Theotokos

Thursday: July 25 – Blessed Mother Olga Book Club at **6:30PM**
on the ZOOM media platform **ONLY!!!**

Saturday: July 27 – Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon

Saturday: July 27 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: July 28 – Holy Apostles of the Seventy
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.

Troparion (Tone 4 – Saints Simeon and John)

O God of our Fathers, / always act with kindness towards us; / take not Thy mercy from us, / but guide our lives in peace // through the prayers of Venerable Simeon and John!

Troparion (Tone 2 – Prophet Ezekiel)

We celebrate the memory / of Thy Prophet Ezekiel, O Lord; / through him, we beseech Thee: // save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 3)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Saints Simeon and John)

Let us praise the venerable Simeon / as an equal to the angels, / for he walked in the flesh upon the earth as a bodiless angel / shining forth to all as an example of the virtues; / and with him let us honor his companion, / the ever memorable and God-bearing father John, // for they ceaselessly pray to the Lord for us with faith and love!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Prophet Ezekiel)

Thou hast been revealed as a Prophet of God, wondrous Ezekiel, / proclaiming to all the incarnation of the Lord, the Lamb and Creator, // the Son of God, Who has ever revealed Himself.

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v. Clap your hands, all ye people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:18-23

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 3)

v. In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame. Alleluia (3x's)
v. Be Thou a God of protection of me, a house of refuge in order to save me. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:5-13

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it. When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)



“LIFE IS FRAGILE...HANDLE WITH PRAYER”!

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

2024 Summer Charity Project – July Charity Collection

For the parish's Summer Charity Project, we will be designating from the July Charity collection (next Sunday, July 28th), those financial contributions received towards the Cradles to Crayons - Philadelphia organization. Cradles to Crayons – Philadelphia knows the needs for starting school without the tools needed to succeed can put big obstacles in a developing child's way. Items like backpacks, art supplies, writing tools, and back-to-school clothing and shoes are imperative to help get children mentally, emotionally, and physically prepared for school. New backpacks and supplies give children a sense of pride and excitement to go back to school. With these tools, they are more likely to attend school and complete homework — knowing they have the same chance at school success as their peers. Parents can focus on rent and groceries instead of facing the stress of school-related expenses.

This year, the Cradles to Crayons – Philadelphia *Ready for Learning* initiative will distribute 55,000 backpacks filled with new, age-appropriate school supplies and packages filled with shoes, clothing, and more, to ensure that kids throughout Greater Philadelphia, Southern New Jersey, and Northern Delaware arrive at school on the first day prepared and excited to learn! This annual initiative promotes equitable learning by empowering children to feel safe, valued, and ready to learn.

The Parish Charity Committee wishes to “Thank You” for your generosity!

One Year to the 21st All-American Council

The Orthodox Church in America is one year away from convening the 21st All-American Council, set to take place from July 14-18, 2025, in Phoenix, AZ. The theme of the 21st AAC is “Gathered Together By Christ.”

Clergy and laity from across the Orthodox Church in America will meet at the Arizona Grand Resort, a premier destination in the American Southwest which offers ample meeting space and excellent amenities, including the largest water park in Arizona, multiple dining options, a golf course, spa, and athletic club.

The visit of the Pre-Conciliar Commission to the location in March 2023 confirmed its suitability for the work of the AAC, the exhibition hall, presentations, youth program, and the social life of the delegates which comes along with gathering in Council.

As defined in the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, “the All-American Council is the highest legislative and administrative authority within the Church. The Council brings together the various elements of the Church to bear witness to her identity, unity, and mission.”

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Emily Gerasimoff offered by sister Catherine Kavalkovich
Emily Gerasimoff offered by Ronald and Cheryl Homa

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 7/14/24

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Please remember in your prayers:

+ Newly Departed Handmaiden of God Emily Gerasimoff who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday morning, July 19, 2024. May Her Memory Be Eternal!
Vetchnaya Pamyat!

Christina Andrews and her unborn child; Darren Bodnar; 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 (July)

<u>Week of Sun Jul 7 to Sat Jul 13</u>		<u>July Month to Date</u>
Attendance:	29	29 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 914.00	\$ 914.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,473.67	\$ 3,275.59
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 559.67)	(\$ 2,361.59)

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 (Jul 21)
3rd Hour: Reader David Pellack
6th Hour: Reader David Pellack
Epistle: Reader David Pellack

Next Week (Jul 28)
Reader Mark Klus
Reader David Pellack
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 August 2024.

Tuesday, August 6 – Feast of the Holy Transfiguration of our Lord
Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM!
[\[Please bring fresh fruit & vegetables to be blessed after Vesper\]](#)

Wednesday, August 14 – Eve of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos
Vespers at 6:00PM!
[\[Please bring flowers \(herbal plants\) to be blessed\]](#)

Thursday, August 15 – Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos
Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM!
[\[Please bring flowers \(herbal plants\) to be blessed\]](#)



Prophet Ezekiel

[July 21st]

The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. He was born in the city of Sarir, and descended from the tribe of Levi; he was a priest and the son of the priest Buzi. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with King Jechoniah II and many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnessar.

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in captivity by the River Chebar. When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and in the

midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces (Ez. 1:6). Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back (Ez. 1:10). There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes.

Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow (Ez. 1:4-28).

According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (St Matthew), a lion (St Mark), an ox (St Luke), and an eagle (St John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all the nations of the earth. During this vision the holy prophet fell down upon the ground out of fear, but the voice of God commanded him to get up. He was told that the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic service.

The Prophet Ezekiel announces to the people of Israel, held captive in Baylon, the tribulations it would face for not remaining faithful to God. The prophet also proclaimed a better time for his fellow-countrymen, and he predicted their return from Babylon, and the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple.

There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory (Ez. 44:1-10); and the bones in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life (Ez. 37:1-14). The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel's description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter (Ez. 44: 2), is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The holy Prophet Ezekiel received from the Lord the gift of wonderworking. He, like the Prophet Moses, divided the waters of the river Chebar, and the Hebrews crossed to the opposite shore, escaping the pursuing Chaldeans. During a time of famine the prophet asked God for an increase of food for the hungry.

Ezekiel was condemned to execution because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for idolatry. Bound to wild horses, he was torn to pieces. Pious Hebrews gathered up the torn body of the prophet and buried it upon Maur Field, in the tomb of Sim and Arthaxad, forefathers of Abraham, not far from Baghdad. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him, and is included in the Old Testament.