

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, March 9, 2025

Tone 4 – First Sunday of Great Lent | Sunday of Orthodoxy
The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste (ca. 320)
Martyr Urpasianus, of Nicomedia (ca. 295)

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

Today: Mission Service at 4:00PM at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church located at 900 S. Trooper Road in Jeffersonville PA 19403. Website: <https://www.saintsophiachurch.org>

The second week Lenten schedule at the parish is on page 7 of this Bulletin

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

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

Sunday: March 16 – Second Sunday of Great Lent! St Gregory Palamas
Reading of Hours – 9:00am
Divine Liturgy – **9:30am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: March 16 – Mission Service at 4:00PM at Saints Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church located at 9230 Old Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia PA 19115.
Website: <https://www.sspeterpaulphila.org>

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 4)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion (Tone 2 – Sunday of Orthodoxy)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; / and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. / Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. / Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: / “Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, // for Thou alone hast come to save the world.”

Troparion (Tone 1 – Holy 40 Martyrs)

Through the sufferings which Thy holy Forty Martyrs endured for Thy sake, O Lord, / we beseech Thee, O Lover of ^mankind: // “Heal all of our infirmities!”

Kontakion (Tone 4)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion (Tone 6 – Holy 40 Martyrs)

You have abandoned all earthly armies, / cleaving to the heavenly Master, O Forty Martyrs of the Lord. / Having passed through fire and water, O blessed ones, // you have fittingly received heavenly glory and many crowns.

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Sunday of Orthodoxy)

No one could describe the Word of the Father; / but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, / and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty // We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Prokeimenon (Tone 4 - Song of the Fathers)

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 5 -holy 40 Martyrs)

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

- v. Moses and Aaron were among His priest; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. They called to the Lord and he answered them. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give to Him glorious praise! [TONE 4] Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing the following

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: / the assembly of Angels and the race of men. / O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, / the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: / our God before the ages. / He made thy body into a throne, / and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. // Glory to thee!

Communion Hymn:

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

Prayer during the Service of The Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers

+ The Triumph of Orthodoxy +
This is the Faith of the Apostles,
this is the Faith of the Fathers,
this is the Faith of the Orthodox,
this is the Faith which has established the whole Universe!

Prayer of St Ephraim the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk. But rather grant unto me the spirit of humility, chastity, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

[Note: The readings for the Holy 40 Martyrs is as follows: Epistle - Hebrews 12:1-10 and Gospel - Matthew 20:1-16]

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

2025 House Blessing

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany, which is Monday, January 6. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless. **Final House Blessing date is Monday, March 31!!**

From March 5 until April 13 – The 40 Days for Life Spring Vigil

The campaign is a peaceful vigil. They are not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a peaceful physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves. Please visit their website: <https://www.40daysforlife.com> for a campaign location near your area.

Charity Committee - Parish Great Lenten Charity Project

As of the printing of this bulletin, there has yet to be a solicitation from the OCA, our Diocese, or a designated beneficiary assigned by our parish Charity Committee for any type of charity project for the Great Lent season. However, the Charity Committee would like to remind the parishioners that there is an ongoing charity collection year-round where the committee is accepting canned goods, boxed foods, personal hygiene products, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and seasonal clothing that will be donated to one of the food pantry and/or homeless shelters. Thank You for your generosity as always!

Attendance during Lenten Services (1st Week of Lent)

Monday, March 3 – Saint Andrew of Crete = 16	(24 Last Year)
Tuesday, March 4 – Saint Andrew of Crete = 11	(18 Last Year)
Wednesday, March 5 – Saint Andrew of Crete = 8	(12 Last Year)
Thursday, March 6 – Saint Andrew of Crete = 13	(19 Last Year)
Friday, March 7 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts = 17	(21 Last Year)

Sunday, April 6 – Our parish is hosting the Lenten Mission Service!!

More information will be provided beginning next week on what needs to be done at the parish to prepare for this Lenten Mission Vespers Service that we are hosting!!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Dr. David Albrecht Jr (on his birthday) offered by Nina Patterson
Dr. David Albrecht Jr (on his birthday) offered by Melanie Albrecht
Catherine, Patricia, Selena and her unborn child, Anastasia, Leila, Levi, Alexander, Colin, Annetta, John,
Family & Friends, Steven, Linda, Ryan, Taylor, Barbara, Kenneth, Norman offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Family and Friends offered by the Reader David Pellack

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Mary Spack Kaczmar offered by Nina Patterson
Mary Spack Kaczmar offered by Herbert Family
Mary Spack Kaczmar offered by Melanie Albrecht

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 3/2/25

#####

Please remember in your prayers:

Natalie Patterson-Nedbal and her unborn child; Darcy Stafford and her unborn child; Catherine
Kavalkovich; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Fania Wanenchak and all those who are serving in our
Armed Forces!

#####

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 (February/March)

<u>Week of Sun Feb 23 to Sat Mar 1</u>	<u>February Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 48	41 (average)
Funds In: \$ 7,076.36	\$35,328.18
Funds Out: \$ 392.13	\$ 8,662.77
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 6,684.23	\$26,665.41

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 will help support the parish's Charity projects at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Calendar of Events

2025 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 (Mar 9)</u>	<u>Next Week (Mar 16)</u>
3 rd Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6 th Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Epistle:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

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 March 2025

Choir Rehearsal schedule for Lent and Pascha

Please keep in contact with Choir Director Nina Patterson as to the schedule for choir rehearsals over the next two months. She will inform you when and where rehearsals will take place.

Second Week of Lent - Lenten Services here at the Parish!

- Wednesday, March 12 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM
- Friday, March 14 – Akathist at 6:00PM
- Saturday, March 15 – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy at **9:30AM**

Sunday, March 16 – Vesper Mission Service – 4:00PM

Saints Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church (Albanian Archdiocese of the OCA)
9230 Old Bustleton Avenue | Philadelphia PA 19115
Phone: 215.676.3311 Website: <https://www.sspeterpaulphila.org>

PLEASE NOTE: Depending on Father Mark's schedule and how well he is feeling, there may be updates and adjustments to the Lenten Schedule. It is the Parishioners responsibilities to check their emails, text messages, parish website, and Facebook page to any changes made to the schedule before attending one of the services. Thank You!



First Sunday of Great Lent Sunday of Orthodoxy [March 9th]

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm.

The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilus, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

Troparion (Tone 2 – Sunday of Orthodoxy)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; / and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. / Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. / Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: / "Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, // for Thou alone hast come to save the world."