

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: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>

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

Sunday, February 14, 2016 | 37th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 4 – Sunday of Zacchaeus.
Venerable Auxentius of Bithynia (ca 470)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302-322-0943 | Mobile: 302-547-4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com or mkoczak05@aol.com

Parish President – Matthew Andrews

Phone: 856-217-8075

Weekly Schedule

Today: Bake/Cake Sale! Please stop downstairs after Divine Liturgy to gaze at all of the Yummy desserts and sweets available for purchase.

Today: Readers class after Divine Liturgy in the Church. Anyone wishing to learn how to read the Hours and Epistle are encourage to attend this discussion.

Tuesday: February 16 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the Church Basement!
Continue reading the Book of Genesis

Saturday: February 20 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: February 21 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
[Beginning of the Lenten Triodion]
Reading of Hours – 9:40am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: February 21 – Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week and Pascha starts this Sunday after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship Hour.

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 1 – Venerable Auxentius)

Dweller of the desert and angel in the body, / thou wast shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father Auxentius. / Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted thee a ^crown! / Glory to Him Who through thee granteth healing to all!

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 2 – Venerable Auxentius)

Thou didst delight in abstinence, / restraining the desires of the flesh. / Divinely wise and holy Father Auxentius, / thou wast revealed to be shining with faith, / blossoming like a plant in the midst of Paradise.

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! / In wisdom hast Thou made them all!
v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)

v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!

Alleluia (3x's)

v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Communion Hymn:

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

Announcements

Welcome to all of our visitors & guest worshiping with us today. A warm welcome to all of our visitors and guest who have joined us today in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

Announcements (cont.)

In Memoriam + Archimandrite Athanasz [Mastalski]

Archimandrite Athanasz [Mastalski] of St Tikhon's Monastery fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, February 5, 2016.

Born here in Philadelphia, PA on June 24, 1946, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1976 by His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon of Washington of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR). In December 1978, His Eminence, Metropolitan Philaret, First Hierarch of ROCOR, tonsured him to monastic rank.

Archimandrite Athanasz served the Joy of All Who Sorrow Church located at 20th and Brandywine St here in Philadelphia, PA. He was a member of the Brotherhood of the Orthodox Clergy of Greater Philadelphia and was a very close friend to Archpriest John Udics. He also served in parishes in Central New Jersey. In December 2005, His Eminence, Metropolitan Laurus, First Hierarch of ROCOR, elevated Father Athanasz to the dignity of Archimandrite.

For many years, Archimandrite Athanasz was the guardian of the Myrrh-Streaming Icon of the Holy Righteous Anna, the Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos, with which he visited many churches and monasteries. Painted in the Mount of Olives Convent, it began to stream myrrh after being brought to the U.S.

Archimandrite Athanasz's Monastic Funeral was this past Wednesday, February 10 at St Tikhon's Monastery. May the Lord God grant rest eternal in blessed repose to His faithful servant, the Archimandrite Athanasz, and make his memory to be eternal!

Soup N' Bowl I Challenge – Thank you to all who prepared and thoroughly enjoyed the tasty and delicious soups and stew last Sunday! However, the parish did not decide as to which soup/stew they felt was their favorite. Therefore, we need to make a selection as to which one was most enjoyed by the parishioners. Below is the line-up of the cooks and their soups/stew:

Catherine Kavalkovich's Chicken Noodle Soup
Herbert's "Lenten" Lentil Soup
J Spack's "Sea Surf'n" Lobster Bisque
Pellack's Pumpkin Curry
Heather's "Pipe'n Hot" Beef Stew

Commissioner M Kozak will announce when & how the parishioners can cast a ballot for the meal they enjoyed.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Simon Herbert, Mary Herbert, Alexandra Hourahan, Justin Drimak offered by M/M Herbert
Lorna Broszat, Judi Currier, Mary Herbert offered by Albrecht Family
Maxima Kavalkovich offered by M/M A Kavalkovich
Kavalkovich Family, Andrews Family, Ferguson Family, Herbert Family, Pellack Family, Friends
offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Helen Herbert Leonard Macalush, William Brasko Sr offered by M/M Herbert
Father John Udics offered by Nina Patterson
Father John Udics, Mary Spack (Winton St), Ann Korin offered by Albrecht Family
Father John Udics offered by Pellack Family
Father John Udics offered by M/M A Kavalkovich & Family
Father John Udics offered by M/M K Kavalkovich & Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Julia
Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; + Father John Udics; Father Vincent
Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church
in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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A Historical meeting a 1,000 years in the making; East meets West

On Friday, February 12, 2016 in Havana, Cuba, Pope Francis of the Roman Catholic Church and
Patriarch Kirill, Patriarchate of Moscow of the Russian Orthodox Church held a 2 hour open
discussion meeting regarding both Churches; working closely together in the future along with all
the Christians around the world; and unifying against the suffering and genocide of Christians in
the Middle East & in Africa. Both were grateful for the opportunity to meet face to face.

Both church leaders signed a joint Declaration (a copy of the declaration is posted on the bulletin
boards in the back of the church and in the church basement).

**Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on
vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!**

Announcements (cont.)

Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items for are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

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. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – ~~Youth Fund~~ Icon Fund (2016)
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (January/February)

	<u>Week of Feb 1 to Feb 7</u>	<u>January Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	32	33 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,081.00	\$17,449.19
Funds Out:	\$ 3,496.59	\$ 5,842.58
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,415.59)	\$11,606.61
[NOTE: \$11,521.44 from insurance claim proceeds for Hall repairs]		

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 David Pellack 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

TODAY - Bake Sale following Divine Liturgy. Please come downstairs in the church basement to see the variety of baked goods and treats available for purchase.

TODAY - Reading the Hours and Epistle Discussion begins following the Divine Liturgy! Anyone wishing to learn how to read the Hours and the Epistle are welcome to attend this discussion. Father Mark, and those knowledgeable with the readings, will offer instruction and information on how the readings are presented.

Bible Study – Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30pm in the church basement. The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Genesis.

Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week & Pascha begins on Sunday, February 21 after Divine Liturgy! Choir members and anyone wishing to sing during Holy Week & Pascha are highly encouraged to attend. Nina plans on holding five or six rehearsals between Feb 21 & Holy Week!

Annual Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday – Sunday, March 6 after Divine Liturgy! Plans on organizing the luncheon will begin next week (Feb 21). Please see Catherine Kavalkovich if you wish to provide a dish for this annual pre-Lenten luncheon.

Our parish will be hosting a Mission Vesper Service during Lent on Sunday, April 10 (Fourth Sunday of Great Lent – St John of the Ladder (Climacus))
This is just an early FYI for your Lenten plans. We will begin coordinating the schedule and Lenten meal menu sometime next month once lent was started. We have time to plan for this service!!!

With the meeting of Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill this past Friday, a few notable members of the Orthodox Church were on television discussing the importance of this historical event. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of Orthodox Church in America was on the PBS News Hour (Public Broadcasting Service) and BBC's World News America (British Broadcasting Corporation) on Friday evening. Also, Father Yaroslav Sudick, retired, attached to St Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC, was on The World Over on the EWTN network. A rebroadcast of this show will occur tonight at 7PM and tomorrow at 10PM. Check local listings for your channel in your area.



Sunday of Zacchaeus [February 14th]

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection “Today salvation has come to the world,” which echoes the Lord’s words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.