

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>

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/holyassumptionphilly>

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

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Tone 7 – Sunday of Meatfare. Sunday of the Last Judgment.

The 42 Martyrs of Ammoria in Phrygia (ca 845)

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 is the last day before Lent for eating meat until the Sunday of Pascha, but otherwise, there is no fasting this week of eggs, cheese, butter, milk and fish which are permitted each day, including Wednesday & Friday]

Today: Annual Roast Pork (and Mini Meatball) Sandwich Luncheon after Divine Liturgy.

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Meatfare Luncheon in the Church School Room. All property committee members are asked to attend.

Tuesday: March 8 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the Church Basement!
Continue reading the Book of Genesis.

Saturday: March 12 - Great Vespers at 5:00pm.

Sunday: March 13 – Daylight Saving Time begins – Spring forward 1 Hour!

Sunday: March 13 – Sunday of Cheesefare. Forgiveness Sunday.
The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise.

Reading of Hours – **9:30am [note time change]**

Divine Liturgy – 10:00am

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS – immediately after Divine Liturgy
Fellowship Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, / and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4 – 42 Martyrs of Ammoria in Phrygia)

Your forty-two holy martyrs, O Lord, / through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. / For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through their intercessions, save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 7)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / “The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Kontakion (Tone 1 – Lenten Triodion)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, / all things shall tremble, / and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat; / the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; / then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – 42 Martyrs of Ammoria in Phrygia)

Forty-two holy martyrs of Ammoria, / you contended for the sake of Christ on earth; / you were revealed as crown-bearing martyrs, / and have been received into the life of the joy of heaven. / Since you overthrew all the wiles of the enemy / by your sufferings and the blood of your wounds, / you continually send down from on high remission of sins to those who praise you.

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Great is our Lord and abundant in power; / His understanding is beyond measure!
v. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Communion Hymn:

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

Announcements

Welcome to all of our visitors & guest worshipping 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.)

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Lenten Season:

The next 40 Days for Life has begun during the Great Lent (February 10 to March 20). Meanwhile the killing continues at Planned Parenthood. Thank you so much in advance for signing up for this list and being willing to continue standing up for those that can't speak for themselves.

Information:

- * Contacts: Monique Ruberu or Pat Stanton at 469.231.9084
- * Email: roobearoo@hotmail.com
- * Website: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/philadelphia/>
- * Prayer vigil located at 12th & Locust St, Philadelphia – Planned Parenthood
- * Vigils open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.
- * Try to have at least one person there to cover the hour.
- * There are more abortions performed there than at any other Planned Parenthood in Pennsylvania!

The 40 Days For Life is not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves.

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania News...

The Diocese Assembly was held back on January 28 & 29, 2016. Two motions were passed unanimously that affects the dioceses and its parishes.

1) The Diocese By-Laws. Parishes within the diocese must be in conformity with both the OCA Statues and the Diocese By-Laws and update their parish By-Laws by December 31, 2017, and 2) Transition from assessment basis giving to proportional giving as it pertains to the Parish (as a whole) in its financial support of the diocese. The transition to proportional giving is based on a gradual adjustment over the next few years depending on how a parish decides to begin their giving level during this adjustment. Eventually, all parishes in the Diocese by 2020 will give 10% of their net operating income to the diocese.

Parish News (Annual Meeting)...

The parish annual meeting was held back on January 31, 2016. The following occurred: 1) Fr Mark presented his State-of-the-Parish report to the parishioners, 2) Fr Mark & Matt Andrews discussed the Diocese Assembly which both attended, 3) discussions on the church property continued with a Property Committee meeting scheduled before Lent, 4) the Finance Committee discussed financial matters regarding the church and the diocese, 5) Treasurer's report disclosed a surplus during the year as a result of a few extraordinary situations occurring during the year, 6) the 2016 budget was passed showing a deficit for the year, 7) a motion to change the 2nd week special collection for 2016 only and have those funds designated for the icon projects in the church passed (a/k/a Icon Fund), and finally, 8) the same slate of church officers from 2015 will continue to serve on the Parish Council for the upcoming calendar year (2016).

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Nina Patterson, Jane Kelly, Olga Macalush, Benjamin Macalush, Robert Corba, Grace Corba, Joyce Spack offered by M/M Herbert
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Peggy and Ken Walker offered by Pellack Family
Witiak Family offered by M/M Peter Witiak

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Father John Udics, Reader Leonard Macalush, Mary (Paytas) Wazelek, Nicholas Varga, Helen (Paytas) Wallace, Pauline (Hudak) Cardo offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Building Fund – In Memory of Father John Udics
* Emily Gerasimoff * Matt Andrews
* M/M Ken Kavalkovich

#####

Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Anastasia Kavalkovich; Nina Patterson; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; + Father John Udics; + Father Athanasy Mastalski; 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!

#####

2016 PARISH CALENDAR:

A computer printout version of the 2016 church calendar for the months of March and April are located on the back pew in the church. If this version is acceptable, we will continue to generate the remaining months for 2016.

Also, for those who have access to the Internet, the calendar for January through April are posted in color on the parish website for your convenience under the “Service Schedule” tab section. Thank you!

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 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 (February)

| | <u>Week of Feb 22 to Feb 28</u> | <u>February Month-to-Date</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Attendance: | 24 | 27 (average) |
| <i>At Vespers (Sat 2/27)</i> | 10 | |
| Funds In: | \$ 978.00 | \$ 7,066.00 |
| Funds Out: | \$ 791.43 | \$ 8,072.55 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit): | \$ 186.57 | (\$ 1,006.55) |

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 – Property Committee Meeting after Meatfare Luncheon in the Church School Room! All property committee members are asked to attend this initial meeting of the committee. A foundation will be laid out as to the responsibilities of the committee and its role regarding the upkeep and status of the church properties.

TODAY – Property Committee Meeting after Meatfare Luncheon in the Church School Room! All property committee members are asked to attend this initial meeting of the committee. A foundation will be laid out as to the responsibilities of the committee and its role regarding the upkeep and status of the church properties.

Bible Study – Tuesday, March 8 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.

Forgiveness Sunday Vespers – Sunday, March 13 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The parish traditionally serves this vespers right after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay and attend this beautiful service and asking forgiveness from your fellow parishioners and from God! It is during this service (during the reading “Vouchsafe, O Lord”) that the Great Lenten Fast Begins!

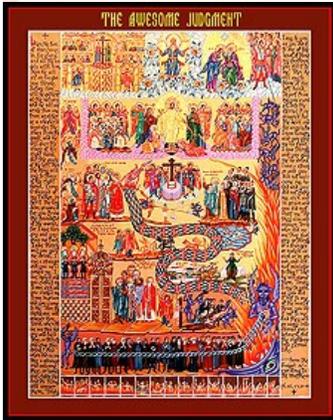
First Week of Great Lent - Monday, March 14 to Saturday March 19, 2016

Service schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 14 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Tuesday, March 15 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Wednesday, March 16 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Thursday, March 17 - St Andrew of Crete Service beginning at 6:30PM
Friday, March 18 – The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts begins at 6:30PM
Saturday, March 19 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM

Any changes in the schedule or time will be announced in church & bulletin.

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 within the next few weeks. We have time to plan for this service.



Sunday of Meatfare.
Sunday of the Last Judgment
[March 6th]

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our

transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.