

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>



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

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

Sunday, May 7, 2017 | Fourth Sunday of Pascha

Tone 3 – Sunday of the Paralytic

Rest of St Alexis Toth, Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in America

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Holy Ghost Byzantine Church's Spring Fling Hawaiian Themed Fundraiser
[2310 South 24th Street * Philadelphia, PA]
Doors open at 11am and Lunch begins at 12pm.
Tickets are \$15 for adults 13 and older & \$7 for children 12 and under.

Tuesday: May 9 - Bible Study at 6:30pm. Book of Leviticus

Wednesday: May 10 - Midfeast of Pentecost! Apostle Simon the Zealot.

Thursday: May 11 - Saints Cyril and Methodius, First Teachers of the Slavs

Saturday: May 13 - Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: May 14 – 5th Sunday of Pascha! Samaritan Woman!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church Basement!

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 – Saint Alexis Toth)

O righteous Father Alexis, / our heavenly intercessor and teacher, / divine adornment of the Church of Christ, / entreat the Master of All / to strengthen the Orthodox Faith in America, / to grant peace to the world // and to our souls great mercy!

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Pentecostarion)

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord, / as Thou raised up the Paralytic of old, / so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; / so that being saved I may sing to Thee: / “Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!”

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Pascha)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women, // granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Epistle Reading: Acts 9:32-42

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5)

- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

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

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: / "Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice, / Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! / With Himself He has raised all the dead." / Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! / The glory of the Lord has shone on you. / Exult now, / and be glad, O Zion! / Be radiant, / O pure Theotokos, / in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn:

Receive the Body of Christ, taste the fountain of immortality!
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! 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 (cont.)

Biography of Maria C. Khoury, Ed. D. (Visiting our parish – Saturday, May 13)

Maria (Kouremenou) Khoury is the author of Orthodox Christian children's books including *Christina Goes to the Holy Land* which walks the footsteps of Christ. She is a graduate of Hellenic College (1982), Harvard University (1985) and Boston University (1992) with a doctor of education degree. Born in Tripoli, Greece, she was raised in Denver, Colorado. On Dec 31, 2009 she was included on the top 4 Human Rights Champions list by DC Human Rights Examiner including the Ecumenical Patriarch and Hilary Clinton. She has been selected with her husband Alumni of the Year (2015).

Maria is the author of *Witness in the Holy Land* (distributed by www.HolyCrossBookstore.com), a publication reflecting personal experiences living under military occupation with her husband the former Mayor of Taybeh, David Canaan Khoury and three children Elena, Canaan, and Constantine. Her articles have been published world-wide in numerous newspapers and magazines and have been translated to various languages bringing awareness of the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Dr. Khoury has been a volunteer at St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Taybeh, Palestine, (www.saintgeorgetaybeh.org) fundraising for a housing project (24 houses built) helping sustain the small Christian community. She has also spent three years training teachers in new classroom strategies in the Latin Patriarchate Schools throughout Palestine. She served as the only female principal at the Friends Boys School of Ramallah (1996) and worked closely with church leaders in Jerusalem as a consultant for the World Council of Churches (2004) and also headed the project to establish the International Academy of Art-Palestine (2007). She served on the Advisory Council of World Vision Jerusalem and the Taybeh Education Fund which she founded as an endowment helping students with university tuition locally and support for elementary students also; She was a speaker at the International Bishops' Conference at Bethlehem University (Jan 2004) and over 140 churches throughout the United States including key note 2008 Orthodox Institute. Maria Khoury organized 11 successful village festivals, the Taybeh Oktoberfest initiated in 2005 boosting the local economy during 50% unemployment reflecting non-violent action and peaceful resistance developed into the most popular festival in Palestine celebrating cultural heritage.

The Khourys returned to the Holy Land (1995) following the Oslo Peace Agreement boosting the economy with an investment in a microbrewery producing the one and only Palestinian beer, "Taybeh Beer" (www.taybehbeer.com) and diversified (2001) to help farmers in fair trade bottling Taybeh Olive Oil. The new family projects include the Taybeh Winery (2013) and Taybeh Golden Hotel welcoming pilgrims to overnight in Taybeh, the heart of Palestine.

The "Christina Book Series," published in Jerusalem promote ancient Christian values, centuries-old traditions and spiritual growth:

Christina Goes to Church (1992)
You Are Special: An Alphabet Book for Children (1993)
My Orthodox Counting Book (1999)
Christina Learns the Sacraments (2001)
Christina's Favorite Saints (2002)
Christina Goes to the Holy Land (2003)
Christina's True Heroes (2005)
Coloring with Christina (2007)
Meet the Evangelists (2009)
Christina's Counting Book (2013)

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Gregory Lindsay offered by Nina Patterson
Marissa Rabik offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Marion Stea offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Drimak Family offered by Sandra Hourahan

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Julia Makara (*newly departed*); Dave Albrecht Sr (on his recovery & rehabilitation); Emelie Albrecht (on her recovery & rehabilitation); Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; 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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“God gave one man a very good life when he blessed me with the gift of religious vocation”
~ Mother Angelica 😊😊

*[Note: Today's readings for Saint Alexis Toth are as follows:
Epistle – Galatians 1:11-19 and Gospel – John 10:1-9]*

Additional Kontakion (Tone 5 – St Alexis Toth)

Let us, the faithful, praise the Priest Alexis, / A bright beacon of Orthodoxy in America, / A model of patience and humility, / A worthy shepherd of the Flock of Christ. / He called back the sheep who had been led astray / And brought them by his preaching // To the Heavenly Kingdom!

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 – Icon Fund (2016-17)
- 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 (April)

	<u>Week of Apr 24 to Apr 30</u>	<u>April Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	37	50 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,628.08	\$ 12,698.08
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,139.07
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 1,628.08	\$ 5,559.01

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

1st Sunday of each month – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Liturgy.

Today - Holy Ghost Byzantine Church's Spring Fling Hawaiian Themed Fundraiser!
[2310 South 24th St – Philadelphia, PA]

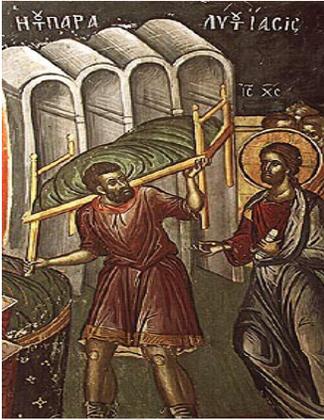
Father Ed and the parishioners at Holy Ghost have invited our parish to their Spring Fling Fundraiser on May 7. Doors open at 11am and Lunch will be served at 12pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults 13 and older and \$7 for children 12 and under.
See the Flyers posted on our bulletin boards in the church and downstairs!

Bible Study – Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30pm in the church basement. The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will continue reading and discussing the Book of Leviticus.

Saturday, May 13 - Visit from Maria (Kouremenou) Khoury Ed. D The author of many Orthodox Christian children's books will be joining us for Vespers on that Saturday evening. She brings her personal life experiences living in Palestine Occupied Territories to bring awareness on the conditions for Christians in that area. Please see her biography in this weeks' issue of the parish bulletin

Sunday, May 14 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting, summary of work done over at the Hall, prioritize additional work that needs to be done over at the Hall now that the tenants have officially moved into the Hall, and any additional action needed to be taken as a result of deliberations that will occur during the Spring General Parish Meeting.

Spring General Parish Meeting - Sunday, May 21, 2017 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #2 of 3. According to Article 10, Section 1, of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 21. Discussions will include events since the Annual Parish Meeting; activities over the summer months; the Property Committee (Hall status) and other committee reports; and any other business that needs to be discussed. Meeting should take about an hour but should not exceed past 90 minutes.



Sunday of the Paralytic [May 7th]

On this day the Church remembers the man who lay by the Sheep's Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first one to enter the pool after an angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him.

Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

The Kontakion for this Fourth Sunday of Pascha asks Christ to raise up our souls, *“paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts.”*

