

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, March 11, 2018

Tone 7 – Veneration of the Holy Cross
The Third Sunday of Great Lent
St Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638-644)

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

Parish President - Matthew Andrews

Phone: (856) 217.8075

Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.

Today: Mission Service at St. Vladimir's Church(OCA)
812 Grand Street * Trenton, NJ at **4:00PM!**

*Service Schedule for the Fourth Week of Great Lent is
noted under Calendar of Events (page 7) of this bulletin!*

Tuesday: March 13 – Bible Study at 6:30 in church basement.

Saturday: Lenten Lecture – St. Michael's in Wilmington, DE – **9:00AM**

Saturday: March 17 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: March 18 – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent!
St John Climacus of the Ladder
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship coffee 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 1 – Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance! / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

Kontakion (Tone 7 – Cross)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; / it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. / The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanshed; / for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell: // Enter again into Paradise!

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

Before Thy Cross / we bow down in worship, O Master / and Thy holy Resurrection // we glorify.
(3x's)

Prokeimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek" Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

- v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old!
Alleluia (3x's)
- v. God is our King before the ages; He hath wrought salvation in the midst
of the earth! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-9:1

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

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:

The light of Thy countenance is signed upon us, O Lord. 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

40 Days For Life – Philadelphia Campaign – Spring Season:

The 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign has begun (Feb 14 to Sunday, March 25). This will be the largest campaign ever with peaceful vigils occurring in ALL 50 states at the same time!

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.

The 40 Days For Life is 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.

Other peaceful vigils located in the surrounding areas include:

- New Jersey – Cherry Hill
- Delaware - Dover
- Pennsylvania – Northeast Philadelphia, Bryn Mawr, Norristown, and West Chester

The Parish Mailing Address is the PO Box address!!!

Please be aware that our mailing address is the PO Box address noted at the top on the front of the bulletin. The church location is no longer a valid mailing address and the mail will no longer be delivered to it. This includes any one of the following combinations below that will no longer be accepted:

- 2101 South 28th Street * Philadelphia, PA 19145
- 28th Street and Snyder Avenue * Philadelphia, PA 19145
- 2800 Snyder Avenue * Philadelphia, PA 19145

Mission Service at our Parish on Sunday, March 25 at 4:00PM!

As a result of hosting this service on St. Mary of Egypt and the Annunciation, a church cleaning is scheduled the day before **on Saturday, March 24** with a start time around **9:00AM!**

Attendance: Second Week of Great Lent Services

- Saturday (3/3) – Memorial Saturday Service = 10
- Saturday (3/3) – Vespers = 15
- Sunday Mission Service (3/4) = 4 from our parish attended!
- Wednesday (3/7) – Presanctified Liturgy = (cancelled due to inclement weather)
- Friday (3/9) – Presanctified Liturgy = 10

Cleaning Team:

Today (Mar 11) – Blessed Olga (Debbie Kavalkovich, Anastasia Kavalkovich and Martha Palubniak). Next Sunday (Mar 18) – Saint Juvenaly (Jennifer Cantrell (and family) and Ronald & Cheryl Homa).

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Herbert Family, Joseph Herbert offered by MM Herbert

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Emelie Albrecht, Robert Corba offered by MM Herbert
Emelie Albrecht offered by Joseph Rabik
Emelie Albrecht, Robert Corba offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Irene Kavcsak offered by Nina Patterson

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

- + Newly Departed handmaiden of God Emelie Albrecht (Feb 6)
- + Newly Departed servant of God Robert Corba (Feb 6)

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

Also, please keep in your prayers the victims (14 students and 3 teachers), those injured, and the first responders assisting them from the terrible and senseless tragedy that occurred on Wednesday, February 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Memory Eternal!

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

Announcements (cont.)

Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

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 (2016-18)
- 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/March)

	<u>Week of Feb 26 to Mar 4</u>	<u>February Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	39	38 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 3,086.71	\$11,488.71
Funds Out:	\$ 5,468.48	\$ 9,776.71
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 2,381.77)	\$ 1,712.00

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

Sunday, March 11 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2nd Sunday of each month)! All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-up from the previous meeting, status of the meeting with the tenant of the parish house, and any additional action(s) that need to be taken.

Sunday, March 11 – Mission Service at 4:00pm.
St Vladimir's Orthodox Church (OCA) * 812 Grand Street
Trenton, NJ 08610. Phone #609.393.1234 or Office/Mobile #908.494.3620
Website: <http://www.saintvladimir.org>

Fourth Week of Great Lent Service Schedule – March 12th to March 18^h

Tuesday, March 13 – Bible Study (Book of Deuteronomy) beginning at 6:30PM!
Wednesday, March 14 – The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts beginning at 6:30PM
Friday, March 16 – The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts beginning at 6:30PM
Saturday, March 17 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM
Sunday, March 18 – Divine Liturgy (St John the Ladder) beginning at 10:00AM
Sunday, March 18 – Mission Vespers Service (See below for location and details)

Any changes in the schedule or time will be announced in our parish media outlets (church bulletin, sent by email, the parish website and parish FaceBook page).

Bible Study – Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will be beginning readings and discussing the section in the Bible – The Book of **Deuteronomy**.

Sunday, March 18 – Mission Service at 4:00pm.

St Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church * Corner of 2499 West 3rd St & Ward St
Chester, PA 19013. Phone #610.497.1993
Website: N/A

PASCHA FLOWERS. We are collecting for Pascha (Easter) flowers during the Lenten Season. There are special envelopes available to use for your offering for Pascha flower donations. Please give the envelopes to a member of the parish council for your offering. Thank You!



Third Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross

[March 11th]

Through the Cross, joy has come into all the world.

At the midpoint of Great Lent, Orthodox Christians are invited to the Veneration of the Cross of Christ. In the Lenten journey, we are taught to be mindful of the importance of repentance, fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and forgiveness.

Without these, our spiritual pilgrimage is lacking in meaning. We cannot be disciples of Christ without these marks of Christian life and practice.

After an enthusiastic beginning of Great Lent, little by little we show signs of being tired, our attention begins to flag, our love for God and neighbor begins to wear out. In other words, our own comfort again becomes the priority.

The veneration of the Cross renews and refocuses our Lenten journey by brining our attention back to Christ, back to the love of God for us. This love is given as a gift to us in the form of the Cross, the symbol both of Christ's suffering and of the resurrection. We are taught by Jesus Christ to take up our own cross and follow Him. To venerate the Cross of Christ is to be inspired, strengthened, and enabled to carry our cross.

All of the above is true. Yet it is incomplete. An important dimension is missing – the dimension of joy. “Through the Cross joy has come into all the world.” These words in a hymn of the Resurrection reveal the dimension of joy as central and essential. Where there is faith without joy, faith is deficient. Where there is almsgiving without joy, charity is deficient. Where there is love, there is joy. Where there is Christ, there is joy.

As we walk the pilgrimage of Great Lent, let it be full of joy, and therefore full of Christ.

[Source: Father Leonid Kishkovsky from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the IOCC (2016)]