

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 25, 2018

Tone 1 – Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos
The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent
Saint Mary of Egypt

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Today: Mission Service – **Here At Our Parish at 4:00PM!**

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

Saturday: Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy at **9:00AM!**

Saturday: March 31 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**
(along with the Blessing of Pussywillows and Palms)

Sunday: April 1– Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (*Palm Sunday*)
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am (*Church Procession after Liturgy!*)
Fellowship coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: April 1 – Bridegroom Matins Service
St. Nicholas Church (OCA) * Bethlehem, PA at 4pm!

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Troparion (Tone 4 – Annunciation)

Today is the beginning of our salvation, / the revelation of the eternal mystery! / The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin / as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. / Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: / “Rejoice, O Full of Grace, // the Lord is with thee!”

Kontakion (Tone 8 – Annunciation)

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! / We, thy servants delivered from evil / sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos. / As thou dost possess invincible might set us free from every calamity / so that we may sing: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Annunciation)

From day to day proclaim the salvation of our God

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:11-14

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David,
His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)

Tone 1

- v. He descends like rain upon the fleece, like raindrops that water the earth Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:32-45

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again. Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

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

O earth, announce good tidings of great joy: O heavens, praise the glory of God! / Since she is a living Ark of God / let no profane hand touch the Theotokos. / But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her, / praising her in joy with the Angel's song: // "Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!"

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. 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

“THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU”

We would like to say “Thank You to all of those who spent their time yesterday morning and brought their energy, rags, buckets, sponges, soaps, brushes, polishes, and vacuum cleaners to assist in cleaning the Church for both today’s Mission Service and for Pascha. The whole inside area including the choir loft, altar area and vestibule look beautiful.

May God Grant You All Many Happy, Healthy, and Blessed Years!

The Albrecht Family would like to express their hearth felt thanks to all of their family, parishioners, and friends for their thoughts, prayers, well wishes, sympathy cards and donations on behalf of the handmaiden of God, Emelie Albrecht who fell asleep in the Lord back on February 6.

Emelie was a dedicated parishioner of the church who always enjoyed being here and conversing with many of the parishioners. Throughout her life she assisted with parish responsibilities whether is was helping clean the church or helping prepare food for a parish function. She will be missed by all who knew her and loved her. May her Memory be Eternal! Vetchnaya Pamyat!

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

Attendance: Fifth Week of Great Lent Services

Sunday Mission Service (3/18) = 8 from our parish attended!

Wednesday (3/21) – Presanctificied Liturgy = (cancelled due to inclement weather)

Thursday (3/22) – Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete = 9

Friday (3/23) – Presanctificied Liturgy = 15

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Joseph Herbert offered by MM Herbert
Marc, William, Catherine, Albert, Anastasia, John, Susan, Patricia, Alexander, Selena, Calin, Hannah, David, Matt, Chris, Allison, Christina, Alli, Taylor, Ryan, Steven, Linda, Katherine, Maggie, and Robert offered by M/M Kenneth Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Emelie Albrecht, Robert Corba, Mary S. Spack offered by MM Herbert
Emelie Albrecht offered by Jack Drimak
Emelie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

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!

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{Note: The readings for the Feast of the Annunciation are as follows:
Epistle – Hebrews 2:11-18 and Gospel – Luke 1:24-38}

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 (March)

	<u>Week of Mar 12 to Mar 18</u>	<u>March Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	42	41 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,029.00	\$ 6,554.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,901.94	\$ 5,365.06
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 127.06	\$ 1,188.94

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.

TODAY – Mission Service at 4:00pm.

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Church Life Discussion Class for today has been cancelled due to our parish hosting today's Mission Service. Resuming next month.

Sixth Week of Great Lent Service Schedule – March 26th to April 1st

Wednesday, March 28 – The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts beginning at 6:30PM
Friday, March 30 – Vespers of Lazarus Saturday beginning at 6:30PM
Saturday, March 31 – Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy beginning at 9:00AM
Saturday, March 31 – Great Vespers at 5:00PM (blessing of pussywillows & palms)
Sunday, April 1 – Divine Liturgy (Palm Sunday) beginning at 10:00AM
Sunday, April 1 – Bridegroom Matins – Bethlehem, PA beginning at 4:00PM

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).

Sunday, April 1 – Bridegroom Matins Service at 4:00pm.

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church (OCA)
980 Bridle Path Road | Bethel, PA 18017-3120 | Phone #610.867.0402
Website: <http://www.stnicholasoca.org>

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!

Cleaning Teams: Today (Mar 18): Saint Juvenaly (Jennifer Cantrell (and family) and Ronald & Cheryl Homa). Next Week (Mar 25): Saint Innocent (David Albrecht, Melanie Albrecht, and Robert Wanenchak). *NOTE: Saint Juvenaly and Saint Innocent teams are switching weeks!!!!*

The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary [March 25th]



The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. There is a painting of the Annunciation in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome dating from the second century. The Council of Toledo in 656 mentions the Feast, and the Council in Trullo in 692 says that the Annunciation was celebrated during Great Lent.

The Greek and Slavonic names for the Feast may be translated as “good tidings.” This, of course, refers to the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation He brings. The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of Saint Luke (1:26-38). The troparion describes this as the “beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery,” for on this day the Son of God became the Son of Man.

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God’s promise to send a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15): “I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel.” The Fathers of the Church understand “her seed” to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

We see this echoed in the Liturgy of Saint Basil, as well: “When man disobeyed Thee, the only true God who had created him, and was deceived by the guile of the serpent, becoming subject to death by his own transgressions, Thou, O God, in Thy righteous judgment, didst send him forth from Paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Thy Christ Himself.”

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to Saint Joseph: “Hail, thou who art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

In contrast to Eve, who was readily deceived by the serpent, the Virgin did not immediately accept the Angel’s message. In her humility, she did not think she was deserving of such words, but was actually troubled by them. The fact that she asked for an explanation reveals her sobriety and prudence. She did not disbelieve the words of the angel, but could not understand how they would be fulfilled, for they spoke of something which was beyond nature.

Then said Mary unto the angel, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34).

“And the angel answered and said unto her, ‘The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: therefore also that which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.’ And Mary said, ‘Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.’ And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1: 35-38)

In his Sermon 23 on the day of the Annunciation, Saint Philaret of Moscow boldly stated that “the word of the creature brought the Creator down into the world.” He explains that salvation is not merely an act of God’s will, but also involves the Virgin’s free will. She could have refused, but she accepted God’s will and chose to cooperate without complaint or further questions.

The icon of the Feast shows the Archangel with a staff in his left hand, indicating his role as a messenger. Sometimes one wing is upraised, as if to show his swift descent from heaven. His right hand is stretched toward the holy Virgin as he delivers his message.

The Virgin is depicted either standing or sitting, usually holding yarn in her left hand. Sometimes she is shown holding a scroll. Her right hand may be raised to indicate her surprise at the message she is hearing.

Her head is bowed, showing her consent and obedience. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon her is depicted by a ray of light issuing from a small sphere at the top of the icon, which symbolizes heaven. In a famous icon from Sinai, a white dove is shown in the ray of light.

There are several famous icons of the Annunciation. One is in the Moscow Kremlin in the church of the Annunciation. This icon appeared in connection with the rescue of a prisoner by the Mother of God during the reign of Ivan the Terrible. Another is to be found in the Dormition Cathedral in Moscow (July 8). It was originally located in Ustiug, and was the icon before which Saint Procopius the fool (July 8) prayed to save the city from destruction in 1290. One of the most highly revered icons in Greece is the Tinos icon of the Annunciation (January 30).

The Annunciation falls during Lent, but it is always celebrated with great joy. The Liturgy of Saint Basil or Saint John Chrysostom is served, even on the weekdays of Lent. It is one of the two days of Great Lent on which the fast is relaxed and fish is permitted (Palm Sunday is the other).

