

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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

Sunday, August 19, 2018 | 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 3 – Afterfeast of the Dormition

Martyr Andrew Stratelates and those with him in Cilicia (4th c.)

St. Pitirim, Bishop of Perm (1456)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Weekly Schedule

Tuesday: Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement.
Begin reading & discussing The Book of Joshua.

Saturday: August 25 – Youth Trip to the Philadelphia Zoo
See Calendar of Events on page 7 of this bulletin for details

Saturday: August 25 – Great Vespers at **5:00PM!**

Sunday: August 26 – Martyrs Adrian and Natalia & 33 companions
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

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 1 – Dormition)

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity. / In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. / Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life, // and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

Troparion (Tone 5 – Martyr Andrew Stratelates)

Thou didst renounce the glory of earthly rank / and didst inherit the Kingdom of Heaven; / thou didst adorn thine incorruptible crown as with beautiful stones. / Thou didst lead an army of martyrs to Christ, / and with the Angels in the never-fading light / thou didst find Christ the never-setting Sun. / Together with those who suffered with thee, / holy General Andrew, // ever pray to Him that He may save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 3)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Dormition)

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, / who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. / For being the Mother of Life, / she was translated to life // by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

Kontakion (Tone 2 – Martyr Andrew Stratelates)

Standing before the Lord in prayer like a star near the sun, / thou wast filled with ineffable joy beholding thy desire: the treasure of the Kingdom. / Thou dost sing without ceasing to the immortal King / together with the Angels throughout the ages. // With them, General Andrew, unceasingly pray for us all!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v. Clap your hands, all ye people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 3 – Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 3)

v. In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame. Alleluia (3x's)
v. Be Thou a God of protection of me, a house of refuge in order to save me. Alleluia (3x's)

v. Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness! Alleluia (3x's) (TONE 2)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:16-26

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing Irmos of Ode 9:

Refrian: The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonder, seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

Heirmos: The limits of nature are overcome in thee, O Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death; a virgin after childbearing and alive after death, thou dost ever save thine inheritance, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the 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

The Supplication to the Mother of God services during August 2018, sponsored by Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood, is as follows beginning at 4:00PM:

Today – St Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral
6740 North 5th Street * Philadelphia, PA 19126
Phone: 215.424.9295 Website: www.stvladimirspbila.org

Sunday, August 26 - St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church
506 Stahr Road * Elkins Park, PA 19027
Phone: 215.782.8448 Website: n/a

Parishioner Volunteers Needed:

Over the past two years, the Church Property Committee has undertaken the task of overseeing needed restoration projects for Our Parish, Church Hall and the two Parish owned row houses. We are pleased that the Church Hall has been restored to the point where it has been rented and is now providing much needed revenue for our Parish and Church Hall. However, after further assessment of ongoing issues in the Church Hall, we know that many necessary repairs, e.g. brick pointing, lintel repair, cleanup in basement, etc... need to be resolved in the near future.

We are also in the process to make available one of the row houses rentable. To assist in offsetting the costs associated in hiring expensive contractors, both the Property Committee and Parish Council sincerely request the help of **every** parishioner who is able to provide some assistance in the few months ahead (most work will be done on Saturdays). Task range from maintenance repairs, painting, cleaning, etc...

A form asking for dates that parishioners may be available to help with some of the repairs need is being distributed to our parishioners. We hope that each parishioner would complete this form and place it in the folder outside the church office.

Participation is, of course, optional, however we hope all can help in some way.

Thank you to all who have been coming to the church on Saturdays and to those who have been coming during the week (for some, almost everyday) to clean up and fix items needing repair around the church, the parish property, and the parish homes. Your tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed. We know the work is time consuming and sometimes slow, but you all have been doing an excellent job. May God continue to give you guidance and strength as we continue with our parish projects!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Dr Jane Kelly offered by Nina Patterson
Gregory Lindsay, John Bilaski, Melanie Albrecht offered by Nina Patterson
Anastasia Kavalkovich, Ronald Kavalkovich offered by M/M Al Kavalkovich
Jane, Roxanne, Charles offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Ana, Alex, Kenneth, Patricia, Ronald, Sharon, Christopher, David, Matthew, Marc, Katherine,
Helen, Nancy, Sandra, Marc, Daniel, Taylor, Ryan, Steve, Lydia offered by Debbie Kavalkovich
Sandra Hourahan, Dr Jane Kelly offered by M/M Herbert

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:

Grace Corba; Sandra Hourahan, Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Dr. Jane Kelly; 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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Donation towards the Building Fund on behalf of Margaret Pellack on her 90th birthday:
* M/M Michael Spack

SUNDAY PUNDAY.....

The worst gift you can give your uncle is an anteater.

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 – Youth Fund (*reactivated July 2018*)
- 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 (August)

	<u>Week of August 6 to August 12</u>	<u>August Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	42	38 (average)
<i>Great Vespers (8/14)</i>	23	
<i>Divine Liturgy (8/15)</i>	16	
Funds In:	\$ 1,998.44	\$ 4,124.44
Funds Out:	\$ 1,477.86	\$ 5,359.48
Net Surplus/ (Deficit):	\$ 520.58	(\$ 1,235.04)

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.

Bible Study – Tuesday, August 21 at 6:30pm in the church basement.

The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and will begin the next book of readings and discussing the section in the Bible – The Book of **Joshua**.
Joshua is a story of conquest and fulfillment for the people of God. After many, many years of slavery in Egypt and 40 years in the desert, the Israelites were finally allowed to enter the land promised to their fathers.

Saturday, August 25, 2018 – Trip to the Philadelphia Zoo (A Parish Church School activity for our children/teens)

Youth and chaperons to meet at the church by 10am for a light morning snack. Then Fr. Mark to talk on “God’s Creatures and the Salvation Story.” Then caravanning to the Zoo around 11:15am. Lunch around 1:30 at the Zoo. Leave back for the church around 3:30pm. Then Vespers at 5pm. Information and details posted on our parish bulletin board.

September Dates for your Calendar.

Holy and Feast Days:

September 8 – Nativity of the Theotokos
September 14 – Elevation of the Cross

[The date(s) and time(s) for the above services are still to be determined. They will be printed in the bulletin once they have been finalized by Father Mark.]

Parish Events:

September 9 – Property Committee Meeting
September 11 – Bible Study
September 23 – Church Life Discussion Class Resumes!!!
September (a Saturday afternoon) – Saturday Sunday School *[Saturday Date TBD]*

Cleaning Teams: Today (Aug 19): Saint Herman of Alaska
(Peter & Heather Parsells, Gale Rutan and Joseph Francis).
Next Week (Aug 26): Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre
(John Spack and Julia Fagbo)



Martyr Andrew Stratelates In Cilicia [August 19th]

The Martyr Andrew Stratelates was a military commander in the Roman army during the reign of the emperor Maximian (284-305). They loved him in the Roman army because of his bravery, invincibility and sense of fairness. When a large Persian army invaded the Syrian territories, the governor Antiochus entrusted Saint Andrew with the command of the Roman army, giving him the title of “Stratelates” (“Commander”). Saint Andrew selected a small detachment of brave soldiers and proceeded against the adversary.

His soldiers were pagans, and Saint Andrew himself had still not accepted Baptism, but he believed in Jesus Christ. Before the conflict he persuaded the soldiers that the pagan gods were demons and could not help them in battle. He proclaimed to them Jesus Christ, the omnipotent God of Heaven and earth, giving help to all who believe in Him.

The soldiers went into battle, calling on the help of the Savior. The small detachment routed the numerous host of the Persians. Saint Andrew returned from the campaign in glory, having gained a total victory. But jealous men denounced him to the governor Antiochus, saying that he was a Christian who had converted the soldiers under his command to his faith.

Saint Andrew was summoned to trial, and there he declared his faith in Christ. For this they subjected him to torture. He laid himself upon a bed of white-hot copper, but as soon as he sought help from the Lord, the bed became cool. They crucified his soldiers on trees, but not one of them renounced Christ. Locking the saints away in prison, Antiochus sent the report of charges on to the emperor, unable to decide whether to impose the death sentence upon the acclaimed champion. The emperor knew how the army loved Saint Andrew, and fearing a rebellion, he gave orders to free the martyrs. Secretly, however, he ordered that each be executed on some pretext.

After being freed, Saint Andrew went to the city of Tarsus with his fellow soldiers. There the local bishop Peter and Bishop Nonos of Beroea baptized them. Then the soldiers proceeded on to the vicinity of Taxanata. Antiochus wrote a letter to Seleucus, governor of the Cilicia region, ordering him to overtake the company of Saint Andrew and kill them, under the pretext that they had deserted their military standards.

Seleucus came upon the martyrs in the passes of Mount Tauros, where they were evidently soon to suffer. Saint Andrew, calling the soldiers his brothers and children, urged them not to fear death. He prayed for all who would honor their memory, and asked the Lord to create a curative spring on the place where their blood would be shed.

At the time of this prayer the steadfast martyrs were beheaded with swords. During this time, a spring of water issued forth from the ground. Bishops Peter and Nonos, with their clergy, secretly followed the company of Saint Andrew, and buried their bodies. One of the clergy, suffering for a long time from an evil spirit, drank from the spring of water, and at once he was healed. Reports of this spread among the local people and they began to come to the spring. Through the prayers of Saint Andrew and the 2593 Martyrs suffering with him, they received gracious help from God.