

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>



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

Sunday, February 28, 2021 | 38th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Venerable Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius at Decapolis (750)
Hieromartyr Nestor, Bishop of Magydos in Pamphyllia (250)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Deacon – Michael McCartney Choir Director – Nina Patterson
Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich Reader – Mark Klus
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

37 years ago on Feb 25, Father Mark was ordained to the priesthood.
May God Grant You, Father Mark, Many Happy, Healthy Years!!!

Saturday: March 6 – Saturday Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM!**

Saturday: March 6 - Great Vespers at **4:00PM!**

Sunday: March 7 – Sunday of Last Judgment | Meatfare Sunday
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy
(CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!!!)

Tuesday: March 9 - Bible Study at **6:30PM** in the church basement and on the ZOOM media platform. Social Distancing will be followed.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 5)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; / and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. / And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: / “I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; / receive me as a penitent, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 5)

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever!
v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

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: Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!' I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! 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

As a result of the new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials, the following changes will occur at the parish until at least the end of March 2021:

- * NO coffee hour after services;
- * NO Sunday school in church basement (ZOOM classes to be held instead); and
- * Father will serve a Saturday Divine Liturgy for those who wish to attend Liturgy in a smaller gathering. Now, if the Saturday Divine Liturgy attendance reaches levels near the maximum restriction amount, the parish may...repeat may, split the parishioners into two grouping with one group attending on Saturday and the other attending on Sunday.

CARDS FOR OUR TROOPS! SAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS!

Please save your Christmas cards this year. Matushka Janine and the Charity Committee are collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for next year. They will use the front cover and paste it on a new card, write an appropriate verse on the inside of the card, and address the card to our soldiers. Please consider donating your cards you received this year. Please see Matushka Janine as to where to drop off your Christmas cards at a designated area in the church basement, or whether she will collect them directly. As always, thank you for your generosity!

This year we collected and sent out just under **600** cards for our troops!

2021 House Blessing – Final Weeks – Last Day is March 13

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany, which is Wednesday, January 6. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

Please Note: House blessing schedule will also be based upon the current State and Local Civil Authority's travel and social gathering restrictions due to the Covid virus!

AMAZON SMILE!

When ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Alexandra Walker offered by David Pellack
Florence LeRoy offered by Daria LeRoy

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Richard OaKey, William Patzig offered by Nina Patterson

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 2/21/21:

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Please remember in your prayers:

All of those who reside in the Southeastern portion of this country, especially in Texas, who have been inconvenienced with the inclement winter weather storms!

Infant child Basil David Stafford (born January 27) and his parents Jerome & Darcy and big brothers Elias & Moses. May God Grant Basil and the Stafford Family Many Healthy and Blessed Years!

+ Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak (Feb 5); + Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar (Jan 20); Christina Andrews on her Chrismation into the church (Jan 30); Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Catherine Kavalkovich (recovery); Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich (treatment); Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Fania Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of February 21):

Sidewalk Repair Donation – John Spack

Announcements (cont.)

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

*******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
- 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)

Week of Sun Feb 14 to Sat Feb 20

February Month to Date

Attendance:	15	14 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 435.00	\$ 2,878.87
Funds Out:	\$ 8,617.00	\$18,174.69
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,065.00)	(\$15,295.82)

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 either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich 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 – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
5th Sunday of each quarter – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Feb 28)</u>	<u>Next Week (Mar 7)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Simon Herbert
6 th Hour:	William Filanowski	David Pellack
Epistle:	David Albrecht	Michael Spack

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

As a result of new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials on Monday, November 16 which went into effect on Friday, November 20, the formal coffee hour event held after Sunday Divine Liturgy has been suspended until further notice.

Once city officials ease restrictions relating to Covid, coffee hour will then resume.

When the coffee hour resumes (currently not until at least April 2021), a new coffee schedule with new team parishioners will be in the rotation as per the action taken during the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, November 1.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services in February / March 2021.

Saturdays in MARCH 2021 – Father Mark will determine Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 28 – Prodigal Son

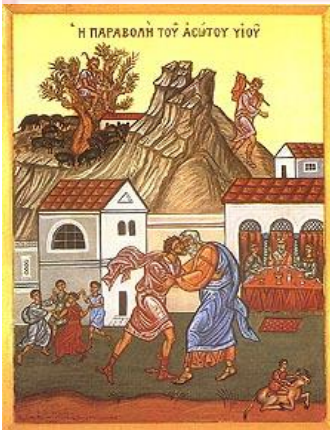
Sunday, March 7 – Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare Sunday)

The Annual Pork and Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon on Meatfare Sunday (March 7) after Divine Liturgy has been **CANCELLED!!!**

Tuesday, March 9 – Bible Study at 6:30PM in the church basement and on the ZOOM Media platform. Social distancing will be adhered to.

Sunday, March 14 – Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)

Monday, March 15 – Beginning of Great Lenten Fast



Sunday of the Prodigal Son [February 28th]

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.