

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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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, June 13, 2021 | Seventh Sunday of Pascha

Tone 6 – Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council  
Afterfeast of the Ascension  
Martyr Aquilina of Byblos in Syria (293)

#### 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

Today: Spring General Parish Meeting immediately following  
Divine Liturgy in the church basement.  
*[Postponed from last Sunday due to lack of a quorum]*

Saturday: June 19 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: June 20 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha | **Holy Pentecost!**  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*  
(POSTPONED UNTIL SUNDAY, JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>!!!!!!)  
*[See page 4 of this bulletin for details]*

Sunday: June 27 – Annual Parish Pentecostal Dinner with Pascha  
food in the church basement

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 6)**

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

### **Troparion (Tone 4 - Ascension)**

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing they were assured, / that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world!

### **Troparion (Tone 8 – Holy Fathers)**

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, / Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. / Through them Thou hast guided us to the true Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

### **Kontakion (Tone 8 – Holy Fathers)**

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

### **Kontakion (Tone 6 – Ascension)**

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, / and didst unite earth to heaven: / Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, / not being parted from those who love Thee, / but remaining with them and crying: // "I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 4)**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!  
v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

### **Epistle Reading: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36**

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. The Lord, the God of gods, speaketh and summoneth the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Gather to Me, My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.  
Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: John 17:1-13**

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

**Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing:**

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven! / We magnify thee, O Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gavest birth in time to the Timeless One.

**Communion Hymn:**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

*(Instead of "We have seen the True Light," we sing the Troparion of Ascension (on page 2))*

**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

## **Fellowship Coffee Hour Scheduling Update!**

As you are aware, with Covid restrictions being lifted over this past weekend (Friday, June 4) in the City of Philadelphia, this allows the parish to officially have Fellowship Coffee Hour after the Divine Liturgy. However, with the revised Covid restrictions being lifted a week earlier than scheduled, the parish has not fully finalized the groupings for those to host the Fellowship Coffee Hour. In addition, there are three parish events/services/luncheons and one Federal Holiday to contend with over the next four Sundays. Therefore, the parish will begin the Fellowship Coffee Hour with groups hosting the coffee hour beginning on Sunday, July 18!

The parish does not want to begin the group scheduling to host coffee hour one week and then delay the next group a few weeks later due to a parish function. We would like to start off with a clean slate, provide a continuing weekly schedule, and get into a proper rhythm as the parish resumes the Fellowship Coffee Hour.

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## **RECYCLING POLICY AT THE PARSIH**

Beginning today, the following are acceptable recycling items and should be placed in the **Blue** container next to the Black trash can:

- Paper and Cardboard (ensure cardboard boxes are flatten)
- Empty Plastic Bottles/Containers/Jugs (#1-2) where the neck is smaller than the base.
- Empty Glass Bottles/Jars - Empty Cartons - Empty Metal Cans

### **DO NOT RECYCLE THE FOLLOWING:**

Aerosol Cans	Aluminum foil	Broken Glass
Bubble Wrap	Clam shell containers	Dishes
Frozen food boxes	Flower pots	Hangers (Metal or Plastic)
Hardback books	Ice cream containers	Light Bulbs
Mirrors	Paint cans (full & empty)	Paper plates/cups/towels
Pizza boxes	Plastics (#3-7)	Plastic utensils/cups
Plastic Candle Cups	Plastic bags	Pots & pans
Rigid plastic	Shredded paper	Styrofoam (All Types)
Sugar Packets	Tissue paper	Vases (Glass or Plastic)
Waxed paper	Wrapping paper	Yogurt/Food cups

All plastic and metal lids/caps - They are to be tossed into the trashcan.

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### **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:**

Sheba Patton offered by Nina Patterson  
Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson  
Edward Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

John Perozzi offered by David Pellack

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

**Vigil Cross Candles – 6/6/21:**

One Small Vigil Cross – Memory of Andrew Gerasimoff offered by Emily Gerasimoff

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Infant child Scarlett Andrews (born May 22) and her parents Christopher & Allison and big brother Lucas. May God Grant Scarlett & her family Many Blessed Years!

Allison (David) Andrews and her unborn child; Christina (Matthew) Andrews and her unborn child; Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich (recovery); Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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**Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of June 6)**

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$7 from the Candy Sale

## 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 this 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 (May/June)

<u>Week of Sun May 30 to Sat Jun 5</u>	<u>May Month (Unaudited)</u>	
Attendance:	42	50 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,312.56	\$17,553.73
Funds Out:	\$ 3,407.35	\$ 8,311.71
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,094.79)	\$ 9,242.02

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

**Readers Schedule:**

	<u>Today (June 13)</u>	<u>Next Week (Jun 20)</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour :	Michael Spack	Simon Herbert
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	Mark Klus	David Pellack
Epistle:	Matthew Andrews	Anthony Colona

**Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:**

**UPDATE (Updated Again) !**

As many of you know by now, on Tuesday, May 11 the City of Philadelphia officials notified the public that the Covid restrictions in place since November 20, 2020 will be lifted within the city limits beginning on Friday, June 11.

[**Update:** On Friday, May 28, City of Philadelphia officials revised the lifting of Covid restrictions date to now begin a week earlier on Friday, June 4 (two days ago) ]

This action by city officials will allow the parish to relax the number of parishioners attending services and will allow the parish to resume its regular coffee hour event held after Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Beginning Sunday, July 18 (not June 13 - see page four of this bulletin for details), the coffee hour will resume and the parish plans on having a new coffee hour schedule with new team parishioners in the rotation as per the action taken during the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, November 1, 2020.

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**Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services & events in June & July 2021.**

**Sunday, June 20 - Pentecost**

**Sunday, June 20 – Father’s Day**

**Thursday, June 24 - Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (Service TBD)**

**Sunday, June 27 - Parish Pentecost Dinner**

**Monday, June 28 – Saints Peter and Paul Fast (1 Day)**

**Tuesday, June 29 - Saints Peter & Paul Feast Day (Service TBD)**

**Sunday, July 4 – Independence Day**

**Sunday, July 11 – Breakfast Luncheon hosted by Kavalkovichs & Pellacks**



## Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council [June 13<sup>th</sup>]

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, “I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior’s words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor’s sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ’s Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), St Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius (who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18)). He is called “the Great,” for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today’s Feast, he is referred to as “the thirteenth Apostle.”

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, “God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous.”

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan’s knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. St Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word “consubstantial,” which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ’s divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).