

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, August 15, 2021 | 8th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 7 – The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos
and Ever-Virgin Mary

The Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos “Enlightener of Minds.”

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

Monday: August 16 – Image of Christ “Not-Made-by-Hands”

Friday: August 20 – Saint Alexander Hotovitzky

Saturday: August 21 – Great Vespers - **CANCELLED!!**

Sunday: August 22 – Afterfeast of the Dormition
Reading of Hours – 8:30am
Divine Liturgy – **9:00am [Summer Hours!!!]**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 7)

By Thy Cross Thou destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst chang weeping into joy. / And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou are risen, // granting 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.

Kontakion (Tone 7)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / “The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, thou faithful, into the Resurrection!”

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.

Prokeimenon (Tone 7)

The Lord shall give strength to His people! / The Lord shall bless His people with peace!
v. Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Prokeimenon (Tone 3 – Dormition)

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

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 7)

- v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning and Thy truth by night Alleluia(3x's)
- v. Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness! Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 8]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:14-22

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

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)

[Note: Today's readings for the Cross are as follows:

Epistle – Philippians 2:5-11 and Gospel – Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28]

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 TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO THE BACKPACK PROGRAM!

The Deadline has past for supply donations. The 48 backpacks have already been assembled and will be forward shortly to the educational group in a timely manner so that the school children receive the backpacks by the start of the school year. A Thank You to Matushka Janine McCartney and Mother Catherine for spearheading this annual project.

COVID Protocol – City of Philadelphia – MASK Policy for Indoors Facilities

The below information was sent to parishioners via email from Father Mark on Friday evening, August 13:

Beloved in Christ,

Many of you know about the recent changes in covid prevention by the city. I have read the city website and communicated with our dean, Fr. Victor and our Archbishop. The parish council and I have also discussed the following plan of action.

Our parish and Fr. Victor's parish are the only two regular Diocesan parishes in Philadelphia. The rest are in the suburbs or different jurisdictions. We have a need to modify our plan for our safety against the covid virus. As a worshipping community we have done well during this pandemic.

Here is our plan for starting this Sunday 15 August:

1. Request that parishioners wear masks from the entrance to the church to the pews and whenever walking around the church. This includes waiting in line for communion and the cross veneration. At the pews masks are optional.

By following the above listed plan and remembering to be safe, I believe we can continue to be well and take care of each other.

Our plan follows the same restrictions for small businesses in the city of Philadelphia

My God bless you and keep you and your families during this time. We pray for all of you at our Divine Liturgies.

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Mark

Archpriest Mark Kozak
Rector
Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Brianna Herbert offered by M/M Herbert
James and Sharon Orr offered by Emily Gerasimoff
Edward Gerasimoff offered by Emily Gerasimoff
M/M Ken Walker offered by David Pellack
Matthew Andrews offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Roger Currier offered by Melanie Albrecht

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Virginia Herbert and John Sidoriak offered by M/M Herbert
Michael and Anna Pellack offered by David Pellack
John Wanenchak offered by Treglia Family
Angie Fikaris offered by Melanie Albrecht

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 8/8/21:

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Please remember in your prayers:

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

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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of August 1)

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$10 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. By the action taken at the Spring General Parish Meeting held on Sunday, June 13, the parish body approved that all future special collections be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (this collection will begin on Sunday, June 20).

The funds collected from your donations will assist in underwriting the cost to repair/fix/replace the roofs of both houses.

Please take note; the above-approved action did **NOT** affect the current financial balances of the other Funds the parish collected for as of June 13, 2021 (i.e. Kitchen, Youth, Restoration, & Charity).

Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (July/August)

<u>Week of Sun Aug 1 to Sat Aug 7</u>	<u>July Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance: 33	45 (average)
Funds In: \$ 1,682.87	\$10,003.73
Funds Out: \$ 3,046.19	\$12,411.39
Net Surplus/(Deficit): (\$ 1,363.32)	(\$ 2,407.66)

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 (August 15)</u>	<u>Next Week (Aug 22)</u>
3 rd Hour :	Michael Wanenchak	Dr. David Albrecht
6 th Hour:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	John Spack
Epistle:	Reader Mark Klus and Anthony Colona	Michael Spack

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

Today (Aug 15): Saint Innocent
(Reader Mark Klus, Tish Berchtold, Dr, David Albrecht)

Next Week (Aug 22): Saint Agatha of Belo-Russia
(John Spack, Michael Spack, Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson)

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 August and September 2021.

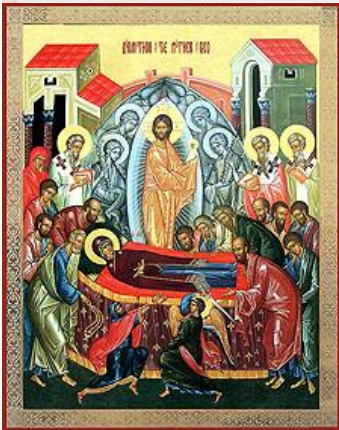
From Now until at least the end of September
Christmas Card Project has started (Putting cards together)

Sunday, August 29 – Beheading of Saint John the Baptist
Divine Liturgy begins at 9:00AM. It is a Strict Fast Day!!!

Either Tuesday, September 7 or Wednesday, September 8
Services for the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos
***** The Date and Time are still to be determined *****

Either Monday, September 13 or Tuesday, September 14
Services for the Exaltation of the Precious Cross [Strict Fast Day]
***** The Date and Time are still to be determined *****

Tuesday, September 14 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church basement and on the ZOOM media platform



The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary [August 15th]

The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary: After the Ascension of the Lord, the Mother of God remained in the care of the Apostle John the Theologian, and during his journeys She lived at the home of his parents, near the Mount of Olives. She was a source of consolation and edification both for the Apostles and for all the believers. Conversing with them, She told them about miraculous events: the Annunciation, the seedless and undefiled Conception of Christ born of Her, about His early childhood, and about His earthly life. Like the Apostles, She helped plant and strengthen the Christian Church by Her presence, Her discourse and Her prayers.

The reverence of the Apostles for the Most Holy Virgin was extraordinary. After the receiving of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the Apostles remained at Jerusalem for about ten years attending to the salvation of the Jews, and wanting moreover to see the Mother of God and hear Her holy discourse. Many of the newly-enlightened in the Faith even came from faraway lands to Jerusalem, to see and to hear the All-Pure Mother of God.

During the persecution initiated by King Herod against the young Church of Christ (Acts 12:1-3), the Most Holy Virgin and the Apostle John the Theologian withdrew to Ephesus in the year 43. The preaching of the Gospel there had fallen by lot to the Apostle John the Theologian. The Mother of God was on Cyprus with Saint Lazarus the Four-Days-Dead, where he was bishop. She was also on Holy Mount Athos. Saint Stephen of the Holy Mountain says that the Mother of God prophetically spoke of it: "Let this place be my lot, given to me by my Son and my God. I will be the Patroness of this place and intercede with God for it."

The respect of ancient Christians for the Mother of God was so great that they preserved what they could about Her life, what they could take note of concerning Her sayings and deeds, and they even passed down to us a description of Her outward appearance.

According to Tradition, based on the words of the Hieromartyrs Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3) and Ignatius the God-Bearer (December 20), Saint Ambrose of Milan (December 7) had occasion to write in his work "On Virgins" concerning the Mother of God: "She was a Virgin not only in body, but also in soul, humble of heart, circumspect in word, wise in mind, not overly given to speaking, a lover of reading and of work, and prudent in speech. Her rule of life was to offend no one, to intend good for everyone, to respect the aged, not envy others, avoid bragging, be healthy of mind, and to love virtue.

"When did She ever hurl the least insult in the face of Her parents? When was She at discord with Her kin? When did She ever puff up with pride before a modest person, or laugh at the weak, or shun the destitute? With Her there was nothing of glaring eyes, nothing of unseemly words, nor of improper conduct. She was modest in the movement of Her body, Her step was quiet, and Her voice straightforward; so that Her face was an expression of soul. She was the personification of purity.

Today flowers are blessed in church, and people keep them in their homes. During times of family strife or illness, the flower petals are placed in the censer with the incense, and the whole house is censured. See the Prayer at the Sanctification of any Fragrant Herbage.

For more information on today's feast day, please visit www.oca.org & go to "Feast and Saints"