Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, March 30, 2025
Tone 7 – Fourth Sunday of Great Lent | Saint Joun Climacus
Saint Sophróny, Bishop of Irkutsk (1771)
Prophet Joad (1 Kings 13:11 – 10th c. B.C.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector
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Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich *Choir Director – Nina Patterson*
Reader – Mark Klus *Reader – David Pellack*
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

Today: Mission Service at 4:00PM at Saint Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church located at 1406 Philadelphia Pike in Wilmington, DE 19809.
Website: https://www.sspeterandpauluoc.org

The fifth week Lenten schedule at the parish is on page 7 of this Bulletin

~~Saturday: April 5 – A Final Cleaning of the church for our Mission Service a nd for Pascha is scheduled for around **10:00AM**~~ **Not Needed!**

Saturday: April 5 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**

Sunday: April 6 – Fifth Sunday of Great Lent | St Mary of Egypt
Reading of Hours – 9:00am
Divine Liturgy – **9:30am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: April 6 – Mission Service at 4:00PM – **Here at our Parish!**

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 – Saint John Climacus)
O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

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 4 – St John Climacus)
The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, / to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, // O our father and teacher John.

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!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – St John Climacus)
Let the Saints be exalted in glory / let them sing for joy on their couches.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20
For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.
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. They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 4]

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:17-31

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not. He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

Instead of "It is truly meet…," we sing the following

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: / the assembly of Angels and the race of men. / O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, / the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: / our God before the ages. / He made thy body into a throne, / and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. / All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. // Glory to thee!

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia (3x's)

[***Note:*** *Todays readings for Saint John Climacus are as follows:*
Epistle – Ephesians 5:9-19 and Gospel – Matthew 4:25-5:12]

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

2025 House Blessing
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 Monday, 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. **Final House Blessing date is Monday, March 31!!**

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Charity Committee - Parish Great Lenten Charity Project (UPDATED)

The Charity Committee's Charity Project for this Great Lenten season is still continuing to accept donated clothing, new cotton socks, TRAVEL-size toiletries, towels, wash cloths, laundry detergents pods, and other cleaning items to Project Home. Please drop them off in the appropriate labeled boxes in the church basement.

Also, for more items you can donate, please refer to the flyers posted in the basement.

In Addition…A New Charity that the Reader David is heading is the Peyton Heart Project. Their mission is to raise global awareness about suicide, bullying, and to help end the stigma surrounding mental health issues. Please contact Reader David for more information and how you can assist in this endeavor. Or please visit their website at https://www.thepeytonheartproject.org

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Attendance during Lenten Services (4th Week of Lent)
Wednesday, March 26 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts = 12 (13 Last Year)
Friday, March 28 – Akathist to the Blessed Mother Olga = 8 (15 Last Year)
Saturday, March 29 – Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy = 14 (10 Last Year)

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Sunday, April 6 – Our parish is hosting the Lenten Mission Service!!

There will be two parish cleanings to prepare for both the Mission Service and Pascha:
* Saturday, March 29 after the Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy (between 11:30AM to 3:30PM) to clean and organize the church basement, and if time allots, begin cleaning the church itself, and
~~* Saturday, April 5 to clean the church and if time allots, clean around the outside of the church. We will begin cleaning around 10:00am for the April 5th cleaning.~~
No Need for Cleaning on Sat Apr 5th…all cleaning done on Sat Mar 29. Thank You!

Please bring all cleaning supplies needed to perform whatever task you wish to do. Parish has limited cleaning supplies stored in the church.

Also, there is a sign-up sheet for those who are bringing food & beverages for the mission service posted in the church basement. Please sign up to help out for this event

Announcements (cont.)

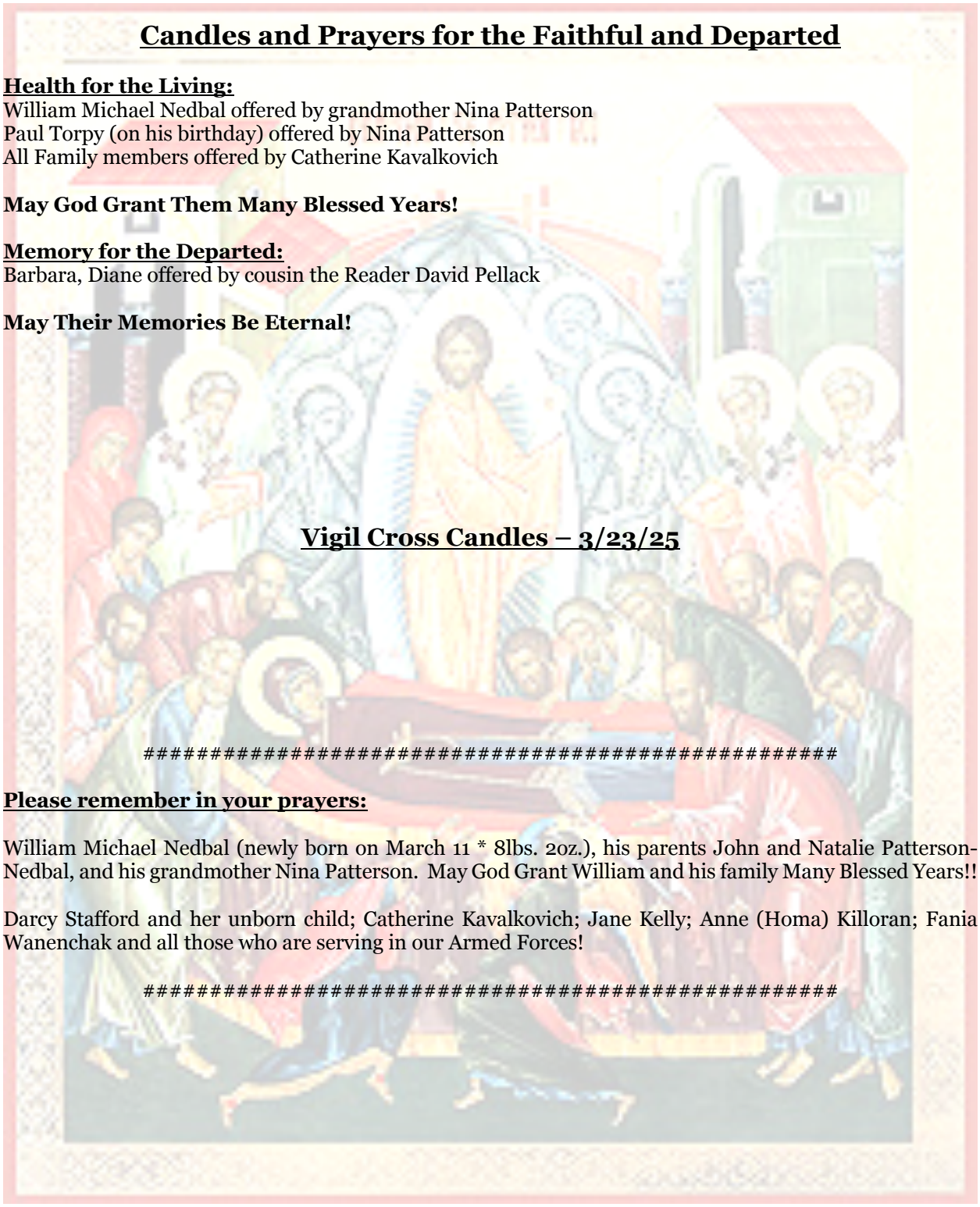
Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:
William Michael Nedbal offered by grandmother Nina Patterson
Paul Torpy (on his birthday) offered by Nina Patterson
All Family members offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:
Barbara, Diane offered by cousin the Reader David Pellack

May Their Memories Be Eternal!



Vigil Cross Candles – 3/23/25

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Please remember in your prayers:

William Michael Nedbal (newly born on March 11 * 8lbs. 2oz.), his parents John and Natalie Patterson-Nedbal, and his grandmother Nina Patterson. May God Grant William and his family Many Blessed Years!!

Darcy Stafford and her unborn child; Catherine Kavalkovich; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Fania Wanenchak and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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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 Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, October 10, 2021, the parish body approved that the special collection for the first three Sundays of the month be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (now known as the Row House Fund).
The fourth Sunday (and fifth, when it occurs) the special collection will be earmarked towards Charity.

This new collection schedule began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021.
Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (March)

Week of Sun Mar 16 to Sat Mar 22		March Month to Date
Attendance:	36	31 (average)
Funds In:	$ 2,049.00	$ 4,795.25
Funds Out:	$ 581.97	$ 7,789.29
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	$ 1,467.03	($ 2,994.04)

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 either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card will helps support the parish's Charity projects at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Calendar of Events

2025 Monthly/Quarterly Schedule

1st Sunday of each month – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
4th Thursday of each month – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
5th Sunday of each quarter – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	Today (Mar 30)	Next Week (Apr 6)
3rd Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6th Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Epistle:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:
If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which Team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside of the office room.

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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 April 2025

Choir Rehearsal schedule for Lent and Pascha
Please keep in contact with Choir Director Nina Patterson as to the schedule for choir rehearsals over the next three weeks. She will inform you when and where rehearsals will take place.

Fifth Week of Lent - Lenten Services here at the Parish!
Wednesday, April 2 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 6:00PM
Thursday, April 3 – Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete at 6:00PM
Friday, April 4 – Akathist (to the determined) at 6:00PM

Sunday, April 6 – Vesper Mission Service – 4:00PM – Here at Our Parish

PLEASE NOTE: Depending on Father Mark's schedule and how well he is feeling, there may be updates and adjustments to the Lenten Schedule. It is the Parishioners responsibilities to check their emails, text messages, parish website, and Facebook page to any changes made to the schedule before attending one of the services. Thank You!

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent
Saint John Climacus (of the Ladder)
[March 30th]

Saint John Climacus (or Saint John of the Ladder) was a monk of Mt. Sinai who lived and wrote in the seventh century. He is venerated in the Orthodox Church on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent because of his spiritual struggles and his authorship of the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, a book that describes the spiritual struggle to climb closer to God through acquiring ascetic virtues.

There are among 30 steps on the ladder that correspond to the 30 years of Christ's life, with the entire volume divided into three main sections: 1) general virtues; 2) instructions on overcoming vices and building up the corresponding virtues; and 3) higher virtues that lead to the goals at which ascetic life aims, including prayer, stillness, dispassion, and finally love (agape).

The Ladder was originally written at the request of the abbot of a neighboring monastery, but now its use is widespread in the Church and even in the broader Christian community. Orthodox Christians are called upon to read this book during Lent, and monasteries in particular often read the entire text in the refectory during the Lenten season.

This book calls all to purification through a series of cleansing steps, including denial of self and caring for others. We are invited to examine ourselves in order to learn our faults and purify. Caring for others is a way of cleansing through decreasing our focus on the self. Ultimately, if one is able to follow Saint John's steps, the final goal – the love of others – is accomplished. Saint John's message is one of repentance, of changing around one's life. Saint John wrote, "Do not be surprised that you fall everyday; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience. He who really keeps account of his actions considers as lost every day in which he does not mourn, whatever good he may have done in it."

[Source: Gayle E. Woloschak, PhD from *Weekly Spiritual Reflections for Great Lent – Journey to Pascha* booklet by the **IOCC** (2016)]