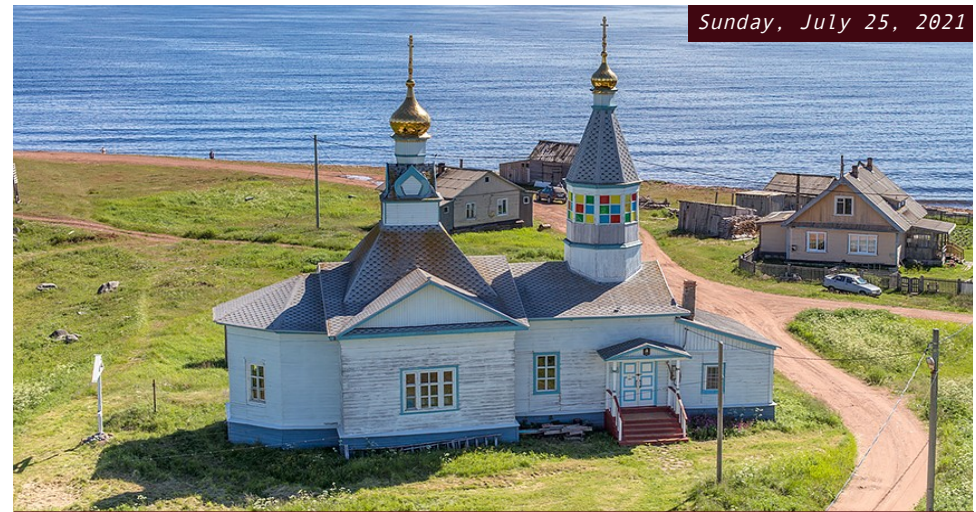


- **Service Streaming:** To view livestreams of our services, please visit [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGp9uDgdYDw\\_sqUBWP\\_8zeQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGp9uDgdYDw_sqUBWP_8zeQ).
- **Agape Meal:** We will have a potluck following Liturgy.
- **Lecture Series on Orthodoxy:** A series of talks is being held on Saturdays at 3 PM and will run through the end of July. Fr. Christopher and Tom B. will continue to discuss various aspects of Orthodox teachings and practice. While these classes are directed especially toward catechumens and inquirers, all are welcome to attend.
- **Holy Ascension Burgers and Beer Night:** Join us at Righteous Tap House on Saturday (July 31) at 6:30 PM for our next monthly fellowship get-together! For more details and to RSVP, see the email announcement.
- **Vacation Church School Next Month:** VCS will run from August 16-20, with dinner at 5:30 PM followed by programming for both kids and adults.
- **WIRE Groups:** Two WIRE texting groups have been created to help facilitate convenient and easy communication: one for our Philadelphia ministry and another for the general needs of the church. To download the WIRE app and sign up for an account, visit <https://wire.com/en/download/>. You can then ask to be added to either "Holy Ascension – Feed the Needy" or "Holy Ascension."
- **PLC 2021:** Videos from this year's virtual Parish Life Conference may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvqwNLgY15PQZ0eVpe0qJvg>.
- **Health Guidelines:** Out of consideration and love for your neighbor, please wear your mask if you have any respiratory symptoms.



Sunday, July 25, 2021

# HOLY ASCENSION

Orthodox Christian Church

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of  
Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic**

**Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch  
and All the East**

**Primate**

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan Joseph  
(Al-Zehlaoui)

**Diocesan Hierarch**

His Grace, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)

**Pastor**

Rev. Fr. Christopher Eid

**Subdeacon**

Vladimir Moses

**Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM**

**Sunday Orthros - 8:25 AM**

**Sunday Liturgy - 9:30 AM**

**Confessions - Saturday evenings,  
following most divine services,  
and by appointment**

*For an updated service and event  
schedule, visit our online calendar:*

**HolyAscension.net/calendar**

## Divine Liturgy Variables

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone Four

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation – and proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

### Apolytikion for the Dormition of St. Anna in Tone Four

O Godly-minded Anna, thou didst give birth unto God's pure Mother who conceived Him Who is our Life – wherefore thou hast now passed with joy to thy heavenly rest, wherein is the abode of them that rejoice in glory, and thou askest forgiveness of sins for them that honor thee with love, O ever-blessed one.

### Apolytikion of Holy Ascension in Tone Four

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit – and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

### Kontakion of the Dormition of St. Anna in Tone Two

We celebrate now the memory of Christ's ancestors, while asking their help with faith, that we may all be saved from all manner of tribulation as we fervently cry aloud: Be Thou with us, O Lord our God, Whose pleasure it was to glorify them both.

## Prayer Requests

### LIVING:

Catechumen John R.; Catechumen Dan S.; Vicki M. (health); Della (Jeanne K.'s friend); David K. (Vicki M.'s nephew); Carol (Vicki M.'s sister, health); Maggie (Fran H.'s sister-in-law, health); Thomas (Fran H.'s husband, health); Jean (Lisa K.'s friend, cancer); Sophia (infant granddaughter of Lisa K.'s coworker, leukemia); Marlan A.; Mitri, Tina, and family; Courtney M. (health); Maggie W. (health); Ariel (Barbara H.'s daughter-in-law) and baby; Barbara H. (shoulder); Bp. Alexander (health); Met. Hilarion (cancer); Jeanne K. (health); Dorothy (Fran's mother); Elizabeth G. (heart); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war, illness, and disasters

### DEPARTED:

Those lost to illness or natural disasters  
Orthodox Christians and others recently murdered and killed during the fighting in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world

Dormition of Righteous Anna, Mother of the Theotokos

## Today's Scripture Readings

### THE EPISTLE

*The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (4:22-27)*

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by the handmaid, and one by the freewoman. But the one from the handmaid is born according to the flesh; whereas the one from the freewoman is through the promise. These things are an allegory, for these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for bondage, which is Hagar. For Sinai, which corresponds to Hagar, is a mountain in Arabia, and resembles the present Jerusalem, for she is in bondage with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is the mother of us all. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail: For many are the children of the desolate, much more than of her who has a husband."

### THE GOSPEL

*The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (8:28-9:1)*

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

## Words from the Saints

### St. Nikon of Optina

Victory over the passions is accomplished through God's power. Our feeble powers are not enough for this. We need to be humbly aware of this and with humility attract God's mercy and help to ourselves.

