

62 YEARS



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Message from FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS, PROTOPRESBYTER

GREAT LENT

Great Lent is a time of fasting and prayer and our responsibility to focus on our spiritual awareness of Jesus Christ and our commitment to Him. During Lent the church always reminds us of the depth of Love that Jesus has for us. And during Holy Week, we always relive the Passions of Christ and everything that Jesus endured for us. So what we really need to do during Lent, is to apply a little extra spiritual discipline in our lives such as (more prayer, Bible reading, Church attendance, fasting, Confession, receiving the Sacraments, and charity to others). If we follow this recipe, we will begin to see a beautiful transformation in our lives. All Orthodox Christians are called to make a special spiritual effort to rediscover their relationship with Christ and get back to the narrow path that leads to salvation. A special word must be said about fasting during Lent. Let's not forget that (fasting) is an essential element of the Christian life. Christ fasted and taught men how to fast. So why do we try to dilute the words and actions of Christ and His practice of fasting. Why do we try to give ample excuses to justify ourselves from our personal responsibilities on the subject of fasting. Let's not try to justify our sinful life if we are not following His Commandments. If the Church says we need to fast, then we need to fast. There is no getting around it. A question may arise where someone will ask, What if someone has a medical problem, and their doctor tells them not to fast; what should that person do? If you have a medical problem that would keep anyone from fasting then you do what your doctor tells you. But if you're healthy we should all learn to fast, and pray, just like the ascetic fathers did through their spiritual journey to Christ. Within this article I basically wrote about fasting from foods, but that's not the only thing we fast from in the Orthodox Church. There is nothing wrong in teaching ourselves and our children the proper way to fast. We have to be careful also what comes out of our mouths



and not just concentrating on what goes into our mouths. This is very important to know. "Let us fast with a fast pleasing to the Lord. This is the true fast? The casting off of evil, the bridling of the tongue, the cutting off the anger, the cessation of lusts, evil talking, lies, and cursing. We need not to boast or show pride from our fasting. We need not to judge others if they fast or don't fast. Fasting and abstinence, teach self discipline, and important

aspect of our lives as Orthodox Christians. This process makes us more aware of ourselves that we can control our senses, our emotions, and our hunger for many things. As you fast take account of your life and see where you need to repent. If you want to know the true way of repentance then we all have to rediscover and learn what the Sacrament of Confession is all about. This Sacrament is the true road to salvation. It is time to wash away the sins of the past and create for yourself a new avenue towards Christ. If you cannot remember when you had your last confession, it's been too long! Let's take that extra mile during this Lenten journey to participate in the Lenten services. Worshiping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ should be an intricate part of our spiritual life. The more you trust in God and love Him, the more we can enjoy a beautiful relationship with Him. A good and clean relationship always brings out a positive reaction and a good friendship. Your attendance in Church during this Lenten journey should be a family experience, and we as parents should encourage our children to participate. Remember what Jesus said in Luke 18:16 "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these". We have received the greatest blessing from God, and that is our children. We as parents are doing the greatest injustice by not bringing our children to attend church services. Yes, we take them everywhere, to school, to their games, to the movies, but we forget to bring them to the most important place "The Church".

KOINONIA

HIGHLIGHTS

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Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικό

ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΚΟΣΤΗΣ

Η Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή είναι περίοδος νηστείας και προσευχής και ευθύνη όλων μας είναι να επικεντρωθούμε στην πνευματική μας αφύπνιση προς τον Ιησού Χριστό και τη δέσμευσή μας σ' Αυτόν. Κατά τη διάρκεια της Σαρακοστής η εκκλησία μας θυμίζει πάντα το μέγεθος της βαθείας αγάπης που τρέφει ο Ιησούς για μας. Και κατά τη διάρκεια της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας, πάντα ξαναζούμε τα Πάθη του Χριστού και όλα όσα ο Ιησούς υπέφερε για μας. Έτσι, αυτό που πραγματικά πρέπει να κάνουμε κατά τη διάρκεια της Σαρακοστής, είναι να εφαρμόσουμε μια ελάχιστη επιπλέον πνευματική πειθαρχία στη ζωή μας, όπως περισσότερη προσευχή, μελέτη της Αγίας Γραφής, εκκλησιασμός, νηστεία, εξομολόγηση, Μετάληψη των Αγρώντων Μυστηρίων, και αγάπη προς τον πλησίον μας. Αν ακολουθήσουμε αυτή τη συνταγή, θα αρχίσουμε να βλέπουμε μια ωραία μεταμόρφωση στη ζωή μας. Όλοι οι Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί καλούνται να κάνουν εκ νέου μια ιδιαίτερη πνευματική προσπάθεια για να ανακαλύψουν τη σχέση τους με τον Χριστό και να ξανακερδίσουν το στενό μονοπάτι που οδηγεί στη σωτηρία. Μια ειδική λέξη πρέπει να ειπωθεί για τη νηστεία της Σαρακοστής. Ας μην ξεχνάμε ότι η νηστεία αποτελεί βασικό στοιχείο της χριστιανικής ζωής. Ο Χριστός ενήστευσε και δίδαξε τους ανθρώπους πώς να νηστεύουν. Γιατί λοιπόν προσπαθούμε να δαλύσουμε τα λόγια και τις πράξεις του Χριστού και της πρακτικής Του της νηστείας. Γιατί προσπαθούμε να αναφέρουμε τόσες αιτίες για να δικαιολογήσουμε τους εαυτούς μας και τις προσωπικές μας ευθύνες για το θέμα της νηστείας. Ας μην προσπαθούμε να δικαιολογήσουμε την αμαρτωλή ζωή μας, αν δεν ακολουθούμε τις εντολές Του. Αν η

Εκκλησία λέει ότι πρέπει να νηστεύουμε, τότε θα πρέπει να νηστεύουμε. Δεν αμφισβητείται. Ένα ερώτημα που μπορεί να προκύψει είναι: 'Τι γίνεται αν κάποιος έχει ιατρικό πρόβλημα, και ο γιατρός του του απαγορεύει τη νηστεία; τι πρέπει αυτό το άτομο να κάνει; 'Εάν υπάρχει ιατρικό πρόβλημα που του απαγορεύει να νηστεύει, τότε θα κάνει ό, τι του λέει ο γιατρός του. Αλλά αν είναι υγιής θα πρέπει να μάθει να νηστεύει, και να προσεύχεται, όπως ακριβώς και οι ασκητές πατέρες έκαναν μέσω του πνευματικού ταξιδιού τους προς το Χριστό. 'Με το άρθρο αυτό που έγραψα βασικά αναφέρομαι στη νηστεία από τα τρόφιμα. Όμως δεν είναι το μόνο πράγμα που θα πρέπει να νηστεύουμε σύμφωνα πάντα με την Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία. Δεν είναι τίποτα λάθος να αυτοδιδασκτούμε και να διδάξουμε στα παιδιά μας το σωστό τρόπο νηστείας. Πρέπει να είμαστε προσεκτικοί, επίσης, γι αυτά που βγαίνουν από το στόμα μας και όχι μόνο να εστιάζουμε σ αυτά που εισέρχονται στο στόμα μας. Κάτι που είναι πολύ σημαντικό να γνωρίζουμε: "Να νηστεύουμε με τη νηστεία που ευχαριστεί τον Κύριο. Αυτή είναι η πραγματική νηστεία, ήτοι, Η απομάκρυνση από το σατανά, η χαλιναγωγή της γλώσσας, η αποφυγή του θυμού, η κατάπαυση των παθών, η βλαστήμια, τα ψέματα, και οι κατάρες. Δεν χρειάζεται να κομποριμονούμε ή να καμαρώνουμε για τη νηστεία μας. Δεν χρειάζεται να κρίνουμε τους άλλους αν νηστεύουν ή δεν νηστεύουν. Η νηστεία και η αποχή, διδάσκουν αυτοπειθαρχία, και μια σημαντική πτυχή της ζωής μας ως Ορθοδόξων Χριστιανών. Αυτή η διαδικασία μας κάνει γνώστες του εαυτού μας, ότι δηλαδή μπορούμε να ελέγχουμε τις αισθήσεις μας, τα συναισθήματα μας, και τη πείνα μας για πολλά πράγματα. Καθώς νηστεύουμε κάνουμε

αυτοκριτική στη ζωή μας και λαμβάνουμε υπόψη μας πού θα πρέπει να μετανοήσουμε. Αν θέλετε να μάθετε τον πραγματικό τρόπο της μετανοίας τότε όλοι πρέπει να ξαναβρείτε και να μάθετε ποιο είναι το όφελος από το μυστήριο της εξομολόγησης. Το μυστήριο αυτό είναι ο αληθινός δρόμος προς την σωτηρία. Είναι καιρός να ξεπλύνετε τις αμαρτίες του παρελθόντος και να δημιουργήσετε για τον εαυτό σας ένα νέο δρόμο προς τον Χριστό. Εάν δεν μπορείτε να θυμηθείτε τότε εξομολογηθήκατε τελευταία, σημαίνει ότι έγινε πριν πάρα πολύ καιρό! Ας κάνουμε εκείνο το πρόσθετο μίλι κατά τη διάρκεια αυτού του ταξιδιού της Σαρακοστής, με τη συμμετοχή μας στις Ακολουθίες της Σαρακοστής. Η Λατρεία του Κυρίου μας και Σωτήρα Ιησού Χριστού θα πρέπει να είναι ένα σύνθετο μέρος της πνευματικής μας ζωής. Όσο περισσότερα εμπιστευόμαστε στο Θεό και την αγάπη Του, τόσο περισσότερο μπορούμε να απολαύσουμε μια όμορφη σχέση μαζί Του. Μια καλή και καθαρή σχέση φέρνει πάντα μια θετική ανταπόκριση και μια καλή φίλια. Ο εκκλησιασμός σας κατά τη διάρκεια της Σαρακοστής θα πρέπει να γίνει μια οικογενειακή εμπειρία, και εμείς ως γονείς θα πρέπει να ενθαρρύνουμε τα παιδιά μας να συμμετάσχουν. Θυμηθείτε τι είπε ο Ιησούς στο κατά Λουκά 18:16 " ἄφετε τὰ παιδιά ἔρχεσθαι πρὸς με καὶ μὴ κωλύετε αὐτὰ· τῶν γὰρ τοιούτων ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ. ". Έχουμε λάβει τη μεγαλύτερη ευλογία από τον Θεό, που είναι τα παιδιά μας. Εμείς, ως γονείς κάνουμε τη μεγαλύτερη αδικία με το να μην τα φέρνουμε να παρακολουθήσουν τις Ακολουθίες της Εκκλησίας. Ναι, μπορούμε να τα πηγάινουμε παντού, στο σχολείο, στα παιχνίδια τους, να βλέπουν ταινίες, αλλά ξεχνάμε να τα φέρνουμε στην πιο σημαντική θέση «Στην Εκκλησία».

2017 STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE . . . HAVE YOU STARTED YET?

ONE YEAR - ONE PERCENT

Not 10%... Not 5%... Only 1% of your annual income.

Complete your stewardship card today and receive your **2017 Parking Permit** for the church parking lot (see page 20 for more information)

Message from

DEMOS ANASTASIADES, PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT / ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟ

Dear Parishioners,

As we welcome March and the coming of Spring, our hearts and minds turn to the beautiful lenten season of our Church. We hope that you will attend the ancient services and invite you to check the Church calendar in the Koinonia or Sunday bulletin for the dates and times. We also have prepared a list of flowers and other items that are available for those wishing to donate toward the beautification of the Church. Please contact Maria in the Church Office during working hours.

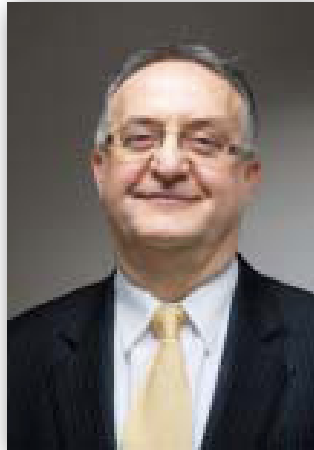
The Spring General Assembly will be held on Sunday, March 5th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Social Hall. The Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Ladies Philoptochos Society in memory of their departed members. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

Preparations have begun for the annual St. Nicholas Greek Folk Festival. Spiro Alafassos has graciously accepted the chairmanship for this year, along with Frank Mitsos. Our Festival is renowned as one of the largest and finest Greek Church festivals. In order to continue this outstanding tradition we need the help of the entire community. Don't wait to be asked, volunteer! We need a volunteer to manage the paper inventory, accountants to help in the cash room, volunteers as cashiers with prior cashier experience, and a volunteer coordinator and someone to greet the dance groups on Saturday and Sunday, to name a few.

One final note--We are looking for qualified teachers for the Learning Center. We hope you've noticed the sign at the Center which states that applications are being accepted. Once we receive the final sign-off, the Center will be fully operable!

Wishing you and your family a blessed Great Lent period.
Καλή Σαρακοστή.

In Christ,
Demos Anastasiades
Parish Council President



Αγαπητοί Ενορίτες,

Καλωσορίζοντας τον Μάρτιο και τον ερχομό της Άνοιξης, η καρδιά και το μυαλό μας γυρίζει στην όμορφη εποχή της Εκκλησίας μας, τη Τεσσαρακοστή. Ελπίζουμε ότι θα παρακολουθήσετε τις Ακολουθίες, γι' αυτό σας προτρέπουμε να συμβουλευτείτε το ημερολόγιο των Ακοκουθιών της Εκκλησίας στη Κοινωνία ή στο Δελτάριο της Κυριακής, για τις ημερομηνίες και ώρες. Έχουμε, επίσης, ετοιμάσει μια λίστα με τα λουλούδια και τα άλλα πράγματα που είναι διαθέσιμα για την διακόσμηση της Εκκλησίας για όσους επιθυμούν να λάβουν μέρος και να δωρήσουν κάτι για τη διακόσμηση της Εκκλησίας κατά τη Σαρακοστή και τη Μεγάλη Εβδομάδα. Παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με τη Μαρία στο Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας τις εργάσιμες ημέρες και ώρες.

Η της Άνοιξεως Γενική Συνέλευση θα πραγματοποιηθεί την Κυριακή 5 Μαρτίου, αμέσως μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία στην Κοινωνική αίθουσα. Ο καφές θα φιλοξενηθεί από τις κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου εις μνήμη των απεθάνοντων μελών

τους και από την οικογένεια του κ. Γεωργίου Σκαντάλη, εις μνήμη τη σύζυγου του Λίντας Σκαντάλη. Παρακαλείστε να καταβάλετε κάθε δυνατή προσπάθεια να συμμετέχετε σαντή την σημαντική Συνέλευση.

Οι προετοιμασίες έχουν ξεκινήσει για το ετήσιο Ελληνικό Λαϊκό Πανηγύρι του Αγίου Νικολάου. Ο κ. Σπύρος Αλαφασσός έχει ευγενικά αποδεχθεί την προεδρία του για το τρέχον έτος, μαζί με την βοήθεια του Φώτη Μητσού. Το Φεστιβάλ μας είναι γνωστό ως ένα από τα μεγαλύτερα και ωραιότερα Φεστιβάλ των Ελληνικών εκκλησιών. Για να συνεχιστεί αυτή η εξαιρετική παράδοση χρειαζόμαστε τη βοήθεια της ευρύτερης Κοινότητάς μας. Μην περιμένετε να σας γίνει πρόσκληση δώστε εθελοντικά ένα χέρι βοήθειας. Χρειαζόμαστε κάποιον εθελοντή να κάνει απογραφή χάρτινων ειδών, λογιστές για να βοηθήσουν στην αίθουσα ταμείου, εθελοντές και ταμίες με προηγούμενη εμπειρία, ένα συντονιστή εθελοντών και κάποιον για να αναγγέλλει και καλωσορίζει τους χορευτικούς ομίλους το Σάββατο και την Κυριακή, έτσι για να αναφέρουμε μερικά.

Μια τελευταία υπενθύμιση - Χρειαζόμαστε δασκάλους για το Κέντρο Μάθησης. Θα έχετε παρατηρήσει την πινακίδα στο Κέντρο που αναφέρει ότι αιτήσεις γίνονται δεκτές. Μόλις λάβουμε την τελική υπογραφή, το Κέντρο θα είναι πλήρως έτοιμο να λειτουργήσει!

Εύχομαι σε εσάς και τις οικογένειές σας εσάς Καλή Σαρακοστή.

Με θερμές ευχές εν Χριστώ,
Δήμος Αναστασιάδης,
Πρόεδρος Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου

The Church would like to start interviewing parishioners who either volunteer their time or work at below market wages for our beloved St. Nicholas Church. The interviews will be shown on the large video screen in the Atrium after Church services and at various times when people are at the Church. Interview scripts have already been prepared and a list of people to be interviewed is being developed.

*To get this started, the Church is **seeking someone who would be interested in contacting the volunteers on our list and to conduct the interviews.** It should actually be a lot of fun. The interviews will start with Father Michael, then Demos and followed by our Board members. Next, the interviews will include everyone else who supports the Plateia and our many Church and Church-affiliated organizations.*

This is what you will need to do:

1. Contact the individuals on our interview list,
2. Set-up interview dates,
3. Coordinate with our videographer who will professionally record the interviews, and
4. Conduct the interviews...

If you are interested in being the interviewer, please notify the Church office or tell someone on the Parish Council.

Dear St. Nicholas Parishioners,

On behalf of Father Michael Pastrikos and the St. Nicholas Parish Council, I wish all of you Kali Sarakosti. I pray that this Lenten season will serve as yet another opportunity for you and your families to come closer to our Lord Jesus Christ through prayer, fasting, reflection & worship.

As we all know, the Lenten period consists of numerous services both during the week as well as the weekend. As a result, we will be seeing more parishioners than usual coming to church to worship.

In an effort to accommodate everyone, the Parish Council has taken some measures to ensure adequate and sufficient parking. Many of you are already aware of the signs posted in the parking lot which clearly indicate the rules of parking. They are as follows:

PRIVATE PARKING

**Parking lot is owned by St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
& Greektown Square & Event Center**

NO OVERNIGHT PARKING PERMITTED

**from the hours of
2 am to 7 am**

SUNDAYS

7 am to 2 pm

Church Parishioner Parking Only

All violators will be towed at vehicle owner's expense

NO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES PERMITTED

Parishioners must have a St. Nicholas parking permit sticker placed on their car's windshield. You can obtain a parking permit from the church office by paying your 2017 stewardship. However, please note that even with a parking permit, if you park your car overnight in the lot, it will be towed. NO EXCEPTIONS. Neither the church secretary nor Father Michael have the authority to exempt anyone from adhering to the parking lot rules.

In order to help the Parish Council maintain order and safety during the busy Lenten season, I kindly ask everyone's cooperation in following the parking lot rules.

On behalf of Father Michael and the St. Nicholas Parish Council, I wish all of you a most holy and blessed Lenten season.

With Love In Christ,

Demos Anastasiades, St. Nicholas Parish Council President

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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AMALIA SYROPOULOS-KOSTRIVAS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

NURSERY AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN:
LIA KARAGIANOPOULOS, ROSE KOSTAKIS
KINDERGARTEN: YANA KARABELAS, AIDE-NIKI CANNING
1ST GRADE: PENNY GERAPETRITIS, AIDE-LEMONIA
2ND GRADE: NIKOL AKALESTOS, JENNA STAKIAS
3RD GRADE: KRISTINA ANASTASIADES, 3RD GRADE
4TH GRADE: GEORGE KARAGIANOPULOS,
AIDE-ELENI PIKOUNIS
5TH GRADE: STAVROULA SAKELAKIS,

SUNDAY SCHOOL continued

AIDE-MARKELLA CORNIAS
6TH GRADE: MARIA FILIPPOU,
AIDE-FLORA GIAKOUMAKIS
7TH GRADE: CHRISSEY COSSIS,
8TH GRADE: FOULA PARAGIOS
9TH GRADE: PHAEDRA AVGERINOS
10TH GRADE: VASILI PHILIPPOU

AFTERNOON GREEK SCHOOL

CHAIRMAN OF THE GREEK SCHOOL COMMITTEE &
DIRECTOR OF THE GREEK SCHOOL:
STAMATIA IEROMONAHOS
TEACHERS:

CHARA RONTOULI-BACHER
DESPINA CHATZAKOU-LARENTZOS
KALLIOPI PEROS-VASILIADES
STELLA TZINI-MOSHONISIOTIS
EIRINI ANASTASIOU-TSIATSOLI
ASIMINA BLETSA-FILIPPAKIS
ELENI MASTORAS
DANCE TEACHER: ZENOVIA (JENNA) D. STAKIAS

GREEK SCHOOL P.T.A.

VASSILIKI KOUMOUDIS, PTA PRESIDENT
ASMINA BITSANIS-PERIVOLA, VICE-PRESIDENT
VASILIKI KARANIKOLAS, RECORDING SECRETARY
MARISTA ANGELOU, CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY
PANAYIOTA ALAFASSOS, TREASURER
DEMITRA STEFANONI, ASSISTANT TREASURER
RENA KOUTSANTONIS, BOARD MEMBER
TRICIA O'DRUDY, BOARD MEMBER
NITSA ZDZIERA, BOARD MEMBER

*~ The Koutsonouris and
The Andreas & Paraskevi Kaikis
Memorial Scholarship Programs ~*

The Koutsonouris Memorial Scholarship application is now available to be picked up at the church office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This year we are also having another scholarship to be awarded for One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) which is the Andreas and Paraskevi Kaiki s Memorial Scholarship.

Deadline for both applications is April 23, 2017. Scholarships will be awarded Sunday, May 21, 2017.

Applications may be returned to the church office or given to Parish Council Member Mary Serafis.

*Mary Serafis
Scholarship Chairperson*



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

NEW DATE!!

Sunday, March 5th

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER
THE CONCLUSION
OF THE DIVINE LITURGY**



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH-
BALTIMORE-MARYLAND

Notice of General Assembly Sunday, March 5, 2017

March, 2017

Pursuant to the regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the By-laws of the Greek Orthodox Community of Saint Nicholas, Baltimore, Maryland, the date of the General Assembly meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, February 26, 2017 after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and the coffee hour .

According to Church By-Laws, those persons wishing to participate and vote must pay their Stewardship up to the date of the Assembly. A regular member of the Parish who is already enrolled in the Parish register but has neglected to pay his/her stewardship may pay the same day and before the beginning of the Assembly in order to participate and vote.

AGENDA

1. Invocation by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos
2. Call to order by the Parish Council President Mr. Demos Anastasiades
3. Election of Chairman and Secretary for the Assembly
4. Reading and ratification of the minutes of the previous General Assembly meeting
5. Parish Council President report
6. Treasurer's financial report
7. Budget 2016 verse Actual Figures.
8. Plateia Financial Report
9. Priest's report.
10. Auditing Committee Report
11. Festival Chairman Report for upcoming Festival, 2017
12. Old business
13. New Business
14. Benediction

All members of the Community are urged to attend this Parish Assembly meeting, because it is important. It is also our duty as members of the Community of Saint Nicholas to come and offer our support for the progress of the community. Your presence is mandatory to establish a quorum. PLEASE ATTEND.

From the Priest and Parish Council of Saint Nicholas Church

ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΕΛΕΥΣΗ ΜΕΛΩΝ, ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ, 26 March, 2017

March 2017

ΠΡΟΣΚΛΗΣΗ ΓΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΕΛΕΥΣΗΣ

Σύμφωνα με τους Ομοιομόρφους Κανονισμούς των Κοινοτήτων της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής, και τους Εσωτερικούς Κανονισμούς της Κοινοτήτάς μας, καλούμε Γενική Συνέλευση των μελών, την Κυριακή, 16 Φεβρουαρίου, 2017, μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία, και μετά τον καφέ.

Σύμφωνα με τους Εσωτερικούς Κανονισμούς της Κοινότητας, όσοι επιθυμούν να συμμετέχουν και να ψηφίσουν στην Συνέλευση, οφείλουν να έχουν εκπληρώσει τις προς την Κοινότητα οικονομικές τους υποχρεώσεις, Εθελοντική Προσφορά, μέχρι και την ημέρα της Συνέλευσης. Κανονικό μέλος της Κοινοτήτας που ήδη έχει εγγραφεί στο Κατάλογο των μελών αλλά δεν έχει εκπληρώσει τις οικονομικές του υποχρεώσεις μπορεί να πληρώσει την ίδια ημέρα και πριν την έναρξή της για να συμμετέχει και να ψηφίσει.

ΗΜΕΡΗΣΙΑ ΔΙΑΤΑΞΗ

1. Προσευχή από τον Ιερέα, Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικό.
2. Έναρξη της Συνέλευσης από τον Πρόεδρο της Κοινοτήτας κ Δήμο Αναστασιάδη.
3. Εκλογή Προέδρου και Γραμματέα της παρούσας Γενικής Συνέλευσης.
4. Ανάγνωση και επικύρωση των πρακτικών της προηγούμενης Γενικής Συνέλευσης.
5. Έκθεση από τον Πρόεδρο της Κοινοτήτας.
6. Έκθεση από την Ταμία της Κοινοτήτας.
7. Προϋπολογισμός 2016 έναντι πραγματικών στοιχείων.
8. Οικονομική έκθεση της Επιτροπής της ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑΣ.
9. Έκθεση από τον Ιερέα
10. Έκθεση Εξελεγκτικής Επιτροπής
11. Έκθεση από τον υπεύθυνο του ΦΕΣΤΙΒΑΛ 2017.
12. Παλαιές Υποθέσεις.
13. Νέες Υποθέσεις
14. Λήξη της Συνέλευσης και προσευχή.

Όλα τα μέλη της Κοινοτήτας προτρέπονται να να λάβουν μέρος στη Συνέλευση, διότι θα συζητηθούν θέματα σοβαρά. Επίσης σαν μέλη της Κοινοτήτας του Αγίου Νικολάου, είναι καθήκον μας να συμμετέχουμε στις Συνελεύσεις και να εκφράσουμε την υποστήριξή μας και τη γνώμη μας, για το καλό και την πρόοδο της Κοινοτήτας. ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΕΙΣΤΕ ΝΑ ΣΥΜΜΕΤΕΧΕΤΕ.

Από τον Ιερέα και το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο.

PAN-HELLENIC DANCE GROUP

The lessons for the Saint Nicholas Pan-Hellenic Dance Group are continuing. The meeting and practice day is every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Social Hall. We accept new members, come and join us every Wednesday. We urge and encourage all those who love to dance to join the Pan-Hellenic Dance Group. Our Dance instructor is Mrs. Efi Karabelas. For registration or more information please contact and talk to Mrs. Anastasia (Stasa) Hatziefthimiou Loukaki, phone 443-845-8903.



ΧΟΡΕΥΤΙΚΟΣ ΟΜΙΛΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ "ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ"

Τα μαθήματα χορού του Χορευτικού Ομίλου του Αγίου Νικολάου ΠΑΝ-ΧΕΛΛΕΝΙΚ, συνεχίζονται. Οι πρόβες γίνονται κάθε Τετάρτη βράδυ στις 7:00 μ.μ. στη Κοινοτική Αίθουσα. Δεχόμαστε νέες εγγραφές μελών κάθε Τετάρτη. Προτρέπουμε και ενθαρρύνουμε όσες και όσους αγαπούν το χορό να ενταχθούν στο γκρουπ του Παν-Χελλένικ. Δασκάλα του Παν-Χελλένικ είναι η κ. Έφη Καράμπελα. Για εγγραφές ή περισσότερες πληροφορίες τηλεφωνείστε και μιλήστε στο τηλ. 443-845-8903 με την κ. Αναστασία (Στάσα) Χατζιευθυμίου Λουκάκη.



Catechetical Homily on the Occasion of Holy and Great Lent (2017)
Prot. No. 118

CATECHETICAL ENCYCLICAL
ON THE OPENING OF GREAT LENT
+ B A R T H O L O M E W

By God's Mercy

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
To the Plenitude of the Church

May the Grace and Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Together with our Prayer, Blessing and Forgiveness be with you

* * *

Beloved brothers and children in the Lord,

With the grace and loving kindness of God, tomorrow we enter the arena of Holy and Great Lent, the most suitable period for the soul—our own soul—to turn toward the Lord.

This period is one of constant contrition before the mystery of God that daily unfolds before us, the mystery of our salvation. This is why the opportunity granted to us with the Sacred Fast has a special characteristic: the renewal and vigilance of the soul that is called for during this time filled with divine exhortation and sanctity to become aware of the ephemeral and material, while gradually being transferred to the eternal and spiritual.

Symbolically and summarily, the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete addresses its author as well as every soul troubled and distressed by the temptations and distractions of this life. Conscious of the burden carried by a soul wounded by sin, St. Andrew cries out with anguish: "My soul, my soul, arise; why do you sleep?" This cry leads to the realization of vanity and the inexpressible fear of death: "The end is near and [my soul] will be troubled." Before the unexpected end of life that comes "like a thief in the night," the illumined Cretan poet invites himself and every soul suffering and consumed by the fear of insecurity to "awaken in order that Christ our God, who is ever present and fills all things, may take care of us."

The Orthodox patristic teaching calls each of us, during this period of struggle, to recognize "who we are, where we are, and where we are headed." We are called to realize the vanity of this temporary life and repent for all that we have hitherto done "in knowledge or in ignorance, in word or deed, in action and in all our senses" contrary to the Gospel of Christ and the law of grace. Only then shall we find mercy and grace; and only then will the Lord, who knows hearts and minds as well as the innermost secrets and thoughts of human beings, take care of us and forgive our unjust thoughts that lead us to vain and useless deeds.

The struggle that lies before us culminates in vigilance, renewal and repentance. Through repentance, namely by coming to know our condition, and through confession, our life is crowned with "forgiveness of sins, communion of the Holy Spirit, and fullness of the heavenly kingdom." This renewal is identified with the conscience of the repentant soul (see 2 Cor. 1.12 and Rom. 2.15) and is a gift of God.

Brothers and children in the Lord,

We Orthodox Christians are called to live the period of Holy and Great Lent as a time of conscientious renewal and vigilance, as an eternal moment of our Orthodox identity. That is to say, we are called to live and experience Christ Himself, to love and experience ecclesiastically and spiritually. For it is only through our life in Christ that we have the possibility to renew our conscience and ascend to the level of true freedom and the infallible criteria for our consolation and salvation.

At the opening of this blessed period, the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Great Church of Christ spiritually visit every Orthodox Christian soul that labors without consolation and is laden by the values and pleasures of the flesh and this world; we travel with and pray to "the King of kings and Lord of lords, who comes to be slaughtered and given as food to the faithful": O Lord, deem worthy all Orthodox faithful in peace and contrition of heart, that they may journey through this sacred period and the arena that opens up before us, "granting grace and strength to all, that they may reach their goal and courageously walk the way to the festive day of Your Resurrection in order that they may be crowned with joy and ceaselessly give praise." (Poem of Theodore, Triodion)

We bless all of you paternally, beloved and faithful children of the Mother Church. And united with you in prayer and intercession, we invoke upon all the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, through the intercessions of our Lady Theotokos, the holy angels and all the saints, so that all of us may be worthy of our calling to live as Orthodox Christians and thus enjoy the delight and glory of our Lord's Resurrection. To Him belong the might, thanksgiving, honor, power and glory, to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy and Great Lent 2017
+ Bartholomew of Constantinople
Your fervent supplicant before God



Ἀόγος Κατηχητήριος ἐπὶ τῇ ἐνάρξει τῆς Ἁγίας καὶ Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς (2017).
Ἀριθμ. Πρωτ. 118

ΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΤΗΡΙΟΣ
ΕΠΙ Τῆς ΕΝΑΡΞΕΙ
ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ
+ Β Α Ρ Θ Ο Λ Ο Μ Α Ι Ο Σ
ΕΛΕΩΙ ΘΕΟΥ
ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ - ΝΕΑΣ ΡΩΜΗΣ
ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ
ΠΑΝΤΙ Τῶι ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΙ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ,
ΧΑΡΙΣ ΕΙΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΡΗΝΗ
ΠΑΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ,
ΠΑΡ' ΗΜΩΝ ΔΕ ΕΥΧΗ, ΕΥΛΟΓΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΣΥΓΧΩΡΗΣΙΣ

Ἀδελφοὶ καὶ τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ εὐλογημένα,

Διὰ τῆς χάριτος καὶ τῆς φιλανθρωπίας τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰσερχόμεθα ἀπὸ τῆς αὔριον εἰς τὸ στάδιον τῆς Ἁγίας καὶ Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς, τῆς καταλληλοτέρας περιόδου διὰ τὴν στροφὴν τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης ψυχῆς, τῆς ἰδικῆς μας ψυχῆς, πρὸς τὸν Κύριον.

Ἡ περίοδος αὕτη εἶναι μία διαρκῆς κατάνυξις ἐνώπιον τοῦ ἐκτυλισσομένου καθ' ἡμέραν μυστηρίου τοῦ Θεοῦ, τοῦ μυστηρίου τῆς σωτηρίας τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Διὰ τοῦτο ἡ παρεχόμενη εἰς ἡμᾶς εὐκαιρία τῶν Ἱερῶν Νηστειῶν ἔχει ἐν ἰδιαίτερον χαρακτηριστικόν: τὴν ἀνάηψιν καὶ τὴν νῆψιν τῆς ψυχῆς, ἡ ὁποία καλεῖται ἰδιαίτερος κατὰ τὴν γέμουσαν θεῶν προτροπῶν καὶ ἀγιότητος περίοδον αὐτὴν νὰ συνειδητοποιήσῃ τὰ παροδικὰ καὶ τὰ ὀρώμενα καὶ νὰ μεταβῇ σταδιακῶς πρὸς τὰ μείζονα καὶ τὰ κρείττονα, πρὸς τὰ ἀόρατα.

Ἀναγλύφως καὶ ἐπιγραμματικῶς Ἀνδρέας ὁ Κρήτης διὰ τοῦ Μεγάλου Κανόνος τοῦ ὁμιλεῖ πρὸς ἑαυτὸν καὶ πρὸς πᾶσαν ψυχὴν θλιβομένην καὶ καταπονουμένην ὑπὸ τῶν πειρασμῶν καὶ τῶν περισπασμῶν τῆς παρουσίας ζωῆς. Συναισθανόμενος ὁ Ἅγιος τὸ βάρος τῆς πονεμένης ἀπὸ τὴν ἁμαρτίαν ἀνθρωπίνης ψυχῆς, ἐν ἀγωνίᾳ κραυγάζει: «Ψυχὴ μου, ψυχὴ μου, ἀνάστα τί καθεύδεις;». Ἡ κραυγὴ αὕτη ὀδηγεῖ εἰς τὴν συνειδητοποίησιν τῆς ματαιότητος καὶ εἰς τὸν ἀνεκφραστον φόβον τοῦ τέλους τῆς ἐπιγείου ζωῆς: «τὸ τέλος ἐγγίζει καὶ μέλλεις (ψυχὴ μου) θορυβεῖσθαι». Ἐνώπιον τοῦ ἀπροσδοκίτου τέλους τῆς ζωῆς ποῦ ἔρχεται «ὡς κλέπτης ἐν νυκτί», καλεῖ ἑαυτὸν ὁ τῆς Κρήτης Φωστὴρ καὶ κάθε πονεμένην καὶ ὑπὸ τοῦ φόβου τῆς ἀνασφαλίας διακατεχομένην ψυχὴν: «Ἀνάηψον», λοιπὸν, «ἵνα φείσῃται σου Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, ὁ πανταχοῦ παρῶν καὶ τὰ πάντα πληρῶν».

Ἡ Ὁρθόδοξος Πατερικὴ διδασκαλία καὶ φωνὴ μᾶς καλεῖ, κατὰ τὸ ἐνώπιόν μας στάδιον, νὰ συναισθανθῶμεν ὁ καθεὶς «ποῖοι εἴμεθα, ποῦ εὐρισκόμεθα καὶ ποῦ ὑπάγομεν», ποῦ κατευθυνόμεθα δηλαδὴ. Νὰ αισθανθῶμεν τὸ μάταιον τοῦ προσκαίρου βίου καὶ νὰ μετανοήσωμεν δι' ὅσα «ἐν γνώσει ἢ ἐν ἀγνοίᾳ, ἐν λόγοις ἢ ἐν ἔργοις, ἐν ἐπιτηδεύμασι καὶ πάσαις (ἡμῶν) ταῖς αἰσθήσεσιν» εἰργάσθημεν μέχρι τοῦδε ὅχι κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιον καὶ τὸν νόμον τῆς Χάριτος τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ νὰ ἀνανήψωμεν. Μόνον τότε θὰ εὐρῶμεν ἔλεος καὶ χάριν καὶ θὰ μᾶς φεισθῇ ὁ ἐτάζων καρδίας καὶ νεφροῦς καὶ τὰ κρύφια πάντα τῶν ἀνθρώπων καὶ τοὺς λογισμοὺς γινώσκων Κύριος καὶ δὲν θὰ μᾶς καταλογίσῃ τοὺς ἀδίκους λογισμοὺς, οἱ ὅποιοι ὀδηγοῦν εἰς μάταια καὶ ἀνώφελα ἔργα.

Ὁ ἐνώπιόν μας ἀγὼν συμποσοῦται εἰς τὴν νῆψιν καὶ εἰς τὴν ἀνάηψιν μας, εἰς τὴν μετάνοιαν. Διὰ τῆς μετάνοιας, διὰ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τῆς καταστάσεώς μας δηλαδὴ, καὶ διὰ τῆς ἐξομολογήσεως, ἡ ζωὴ μας στεφανώνεται διὰ «τῆς ἀφέσεως τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν, διὰ τῆς κοινωνίας τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, διὰ τοῦ πληρώματος τῆς βασιλείας τῶν οὐρανῶν». Ἡ ἀνάηψις ταυτίζεται πρὸς τὴν συνειδησιν τοῦ μετανοούντος ἀνθρώπου (Πρβλ. Β' Κορ. α', 12 καὶ Ρωμ. β', 15). Ἡ συνειδησις εἶναι δῶρον τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ἀδελφοὶ καὶ τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ,

Καλούμεθα οἱ Ὁρθόδοξοι Χριστιανοὶ νὰ βιώσωμεν τὴν περίοδον τῆς Ἁγίας καὶ Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς ὡς χρόνον συνειδησιακῆς νήψεως καὶ ἀνανήψεως, ὡς στιγμὴν αἰωνιότητος τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου ταυτότητός μας. Δηλαδὴ, καλούμεθα νὰ ζήσωμεν καὶ νὰ συμβιώσωμεν μὲ τὸν Χριστόν. Νὰ ζήσωμεν ἐκκλησιαστικῶς καὶ πνευματικῶς. Διότι μόνον εἰς τὴν ἐν Χριστῷ ζωὴν ὑπάρχει ἡ δυνατότης νὰ ἀνανήψῃ ἡ συνειδησίς μας καὶ νὰ ἀνέλθωμεν εἰς τὸν χώρον τῆς πραγματικῆς ἐλευθερίας καὶ τῶν ἀλανθάστων κριτηρίων πρὸς ἀνάπαυσιν καὶ λύτρωσιν μας.

Κατὰ τὴν ἐναρξιν τῆς εὐλογημένης ταύτης περιόδου, ὁ Οἰκουμἐνικὸς Πατριάρχης καὶ ἡ Μήτηρ Ἁγία τοῦ Χριστοῦ Μεγάλῃ Ἐκκλησίᾳ ἐπισκέπτονται πᾶσαν Ὁρθόδοξον Χριστιανὴν ψυχὴν κοπιῶσαν καὶ πεφορτισμένην καὶ ἀπαραμύθητον ὑπὸ τῶν ἀξιών καὶ ἡδονῶν καὶ ἀπολαύσεων τῆς σαρκὸς καὶ τοῦ κόσμου τούτου, συμπορεύονται καὶ συμπροσεύχονται πρὸς τὸν «προσερχόμενον σφαιγιασθῆναι καὶ δοθῆναι εἰς βρῶσιν τοῖς πιστοῖς Βασιλέα τῶν βασιλευόντων καὶ Κύριον τῶν κυριευόντων»: Ἄξιωσον, Κύριε, πάντας τοὺς Ὁρθόδοξους πιστοὺς ἐν εἰρήνῃ καὶ συντριβῇ καρδίας νὰ διαπορευθοῦν τὴν ἱερὰν περίοδον καὶ τὸ ἀνοιγόμενον στάδιον, «χαριτῶν καὶ δυναμῶν ὅπως προφθάσωμεν, ἐκτελέσαντες τὸν δρόμον ἀνδρικῶς, τὴν κυρίαν ἡμέραν τῆς Ἀναστάσεώς Σου, καὶ ἐν χαρᾷ στεφανηφοροῦντες αὐτὴν ἀκαταπαύστως αἰνέσωμεν» (πρβλ. ποίημα κυρίου Θεοδώρου, Τριῶδιον).

Εὐλογοῦντες πατρικῶς ἡμᾶς, τέκνα ἀγαπητὰ καὶ πιστὰ τῆς Μητρὸς Ἐκκλησίας, καὶ ἠνωμένοι μαζὶ σας ἐν προσευχαῖς καὶ δεήσεσιν, ἐπικαλούμεθα ἐπὶ πάντας τὴν δύναμιν τοῦ Τιμίου καὶ ζωοποιοῦ Σταυροῦ καὶ τὰς πρεσβείας τῆς Κυρίας Θεοτόκου, τῶν ἁγίων Ἀγγέλων καὶ πάντων τῶν Ἁγίων, ὥστε ἅπαντες ἀξίως τῆς κλήσεως ἡμῶν ὡς Ὁρθόδοξων νὰ πολιτευθῶμεν, καὶ νὰ ἀπολαύσωμεν τοιοῦτοτρόπως τῆς τρυφῆς καὶ τῆς δόξης τῆς Ἀναστάσεως τοῦ Κυρίου, εἰς ὅν τὸ κράτος καὶ ἡ εὐχαριστία καὶ ἡ τιμὴ καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων. Ἀμήν.

Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλῃ Τεσσαρακοστῇ ,βιζ'
† Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως
διάπυρος πρὸς Θεὸν εὐχέτης πάντων ὑμῶν

THE SEVEN SUNDAYS OF THE GREAT LENT

An excerpt from The Great Lent-A Week-By-Week Meaning, written by Rev. Fr. George Mastrantonis lent.goarch.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY (JOHN 1:43-52)

This Sunday commemorates the return of the Icons into the churches, according to the decision of the Seventh Ecumenical Synod (787). The Church determined that this celebration would take place each year on the first Sunday of Lent, as the Sunday of Orthodoxy, starting March 11, 843. On this Sunday every year the triumph of the faith of Orthodoxy is celebrated with ceremony. The Icon of Christ, according to St. John Damascus, is a distinct affirmation and a reminder of the fact of His Incarnation, which has a vital significance for the salvation of the faithful, an affirmation which prevails to this day in the Orthodox Church. The celebration of the day includes the procession with the Icon of Christ around the inside of the church with pomp and reverence. The Sunday of Orthodoxy calls upon the people to rededicate themselves to the deep meaning of their faith and to declare in unison, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all".

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - ST. GREGORY PALAMAS (MARK 2:1-12)

This Sunday commemorates the life of St. Gregory Palamas (14th century). The Church dedicates this Sunday to St. Gregory for his orthodox faith, theological knowledge, virtuous life, miracles and his efforts to clarify the orthodox teaching on the subject of Hesychasm (from the Greek, meaning quiet.) Hesychasm was a system of mysticism propagated on Mt. Athos by 14th century monks who believed that man was able, through an elaborate system of ascetic practices based upon perfect quiet of body and mind, to arrive at the vision of the divine light, with the real distinction between the essence and the operations of God. Gregory became noted for his efforts to explain the difference between the correct teaching and this theory. Gregory was dedicated to an ascetic life of prayer and fasting, which are practices of Lent.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - ADORATION OF THE CROSS (MARK 8:34-38; 9:1)

This Sunday commemorates the venerable Cross and the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Cross as such takes on meaning and adoration because of the Crucifixion of Christ upon it. Therefore, whether it be in hymns or prayers, it is understood that the Cross without Christ has no meaning or place in Christianity. The adoration of the Cross in the middle of Great Lent is to remind the faithful in advance of the Crucifixion of Christ. Therefore, the Passages from the Bible and the hymnology refer to the Passions, the sufferings, of Jesus Christ: The passages read this day repeat the calling of the Christian by Christ to dedicate his life, for "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me (Christ)" (v. 34-35). This verse clearly indicates the kind of dedication which is needed by the Christian in three steps:

To renounce his arrogance and disobedience to God's Plan,
To lift up his personal cross (the difficulties of life) with patience, faith and the full acceptance of the

Will of God without complaint that the burden is too heavy; having denied himself and lifted up his cross leads him to the,
Decision to follow Christ.

These three voluntary steps are three links which cannot be separated from each other, because the main power to accomplish them is the Grace of God, which man always invokes. The Adoration of the Cross is expressed by the faithful through prayer, fasting, almsgiving and the forgiveness of the trespasses of others. On this Sunday the Adoration of the Cross is commemorated with a special service following the Divine Liturgy in which the significance of the Cross is that it leads to the Resurrection of Christ.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - ST. JOHN OF THE CLIMAX (MARK 9:17-31)

This Sunday commemorates St. John of the Climax (6th century) who is the writer of the book called The Ladder (climax) of Paradise. This book contains 30 chapters, with each chapter as a step leading up to a faithful and pious life as the climax of a Christian life. The spirit of repentance and devotion to Christ dominates the essence of this book, along with the monastic virtues and vices. He was an ascetic and writer on the spiritual life as a monk-abbot of Sinai Monastery. These steps of the ladder as set forth by St. John are to be practiced by the Christian especially during this period of the Great Lent. Each step leading to the top step of the ladder, is the climactic essence of the true meaning of a Christian life.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - ST. MARY OF EGYPT (MARK 10:32-45)

This Sunday commemorates the life of St. Mary of Egypt, who is a shining example of repentance from sin through prayer and fasting. She lived a sinful life for many years, but was converted to a Christian life. She went into the wilderness to live an ascetic life for many years, praying and fasting in repentance of her previous sinful life, and dying there. St. Mary's life exemplifies her conviction about Christ, which motivated the changing of her life from sin to holiness through repentance. Her understanding of repentance involved not a mere change from small things in her life, but an extreme change of her entire attitude and thoughts. The Church commemorates St. Mary for her recognition of her own sins as an example of how one can free oneself from the slavery and burden of wrongdoings. This recognition of sin is imperative during Lent for the faithful as a means of self-examination and preparation for a more virtuous life in anticipation of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ.

PALM SUNDAY (JOHN 12:12-18)

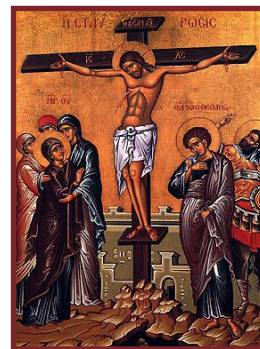
This Sunday commemorates the triumphant entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. The people of Jerusalem received Christ as a king, and, therefore, took branches of palms and went out to meet Him, laying down the palms in His path. The people cried out the prophecy of Zechariah: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel" (v. 13; of Zechariah 9:9). The celebration of the Jewish Passover brought crowds of Jews and converted Jews to Jerusalem. They had heard of the works and words of Christ, especially about the resurrection of Lazarus. All the events related to Christ

had a Messianic meaning for the Jews at the time. This vexed the high priests and pharisees. As usual, Christ went to the Temple to pray and teach. That evening Christ departed for Bethany. The tradition of the Church of distributing palms on this Sunday comes from the act of the people in placing the branches of palms in front of Christ, and henceforth symbolizes for the Christian the victory of Christ over evil forces and death.

HOLY WEEK

The period of Great Lent includes the days of Holy Week. This is the time when Christians who went through the whole period of Lent in prayer and fasting approach the Feast of Feasts to celebrate the Passions of Christ and His Resurrection. During the entire Lent the faithful try to practice and live the ideals and standards of this period in the light of Easter. This is why the Hymnology of the entire period of Lent, especially during Holy Week, refers to the Resurrection of Christ as the center of the Christian Faith. Each day of Holy Week is dedicated to the Events and teachings of Christ during His last week on earth. The faithful who participate in the services of this week are more conscious of their duties to themselves and to their neighbors through fasting, praying, giving alms, forgiving the trespasses of others; in other words, participating, day by day, in the spirit of the Gospel of Christ.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GREAT LENT



Great Lent before Easter is when the Christian participates fully in preparing himself to praise and glorify his God as Lord and Savior. Great Lent is like a "workshop" where the character of the faithful is spiritually uplifted and strengthened; where his life is rededicated to the principles and ideals of the Gospel; where the faith culminates in deep conviction of life; where apathy and disinterest turn into vigorous activities of faith and good works. Lent is not for the sake of Lent itself, as fasting is not for the sake of fasting. But they are means by which and for which the individual believer prepares himself to reach for, accept and attain the calling of his Savior. Therefore, the significance of Great Lent is highly appraised, not only by the monks who gradually increased the length of time of the Lent, but also by the lay people themselves, although they do not observe the full length of time. As such, Great Lent is the sacred Institute of the Church to serve the individual believer in participating as a member of the Mystical Body of Christ, and, from time to time, to improve the standards of faith and morals in his Christian life. The deep intent of the believer during the Great Lent is "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus", Philippians 3:13-14.

DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Maria Orfanos

Mrs. Anastasia Vasilakopoulos
Ioannis & Angeliki Sfakianoudis
Gus & Angela Sfakianoudis
Mr. Nicholas Mavronis
The Orfanos Family
Mrs. Anthie Orfanos & Family (From Chios)
Mr. Chris Angelopoulos

In memory of Eleni Derempeidou

Mrs. Sofia Kaliakoudas
Ms. Maria Salpeas
Steve & Olga Zavakos

In memory of George W. Roros

Mr. Chris Angelopoulos
Dimitrios, Georgia and Joanne Trikoulis
Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Koukoulas
Mrs. Dora Kolotos
Mrs. Clara A. Cornias
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Demetrios & Angeliki Dimidits
Mrs. Aspasia Johns
Mike & Helen Klosteridis
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Koutrelakos

In memory of Marshall Kaputsos

Ms. Belinda Marchake/Co-workers
of Peter Kaputsos
Mrs. Eirini Kaputsos & entire family
Iris Merryman & Teresina Giuto
Richard & Dorothy Huppert

In memory of Angelou Sfakianoudis

Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Akalestos
Mrs. Clara A. Cornias
Steve and Dina Tsakalos
Mrs. Popi Philippou
Gus & Angela Sfakianoudis
Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Kontoudis
Mr. & Mrs. Stefanos Siskos
Angelo & Stamatia Kokkinakos
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Skordalos
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Avgerinos
Ms. Christine Micklos
Mrs. Ann S. Matthews

In memory of Helen Proakis

Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Avgerinos
Mrs. Koula Proakis

In memory of Mary Eleftheriou

Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Avgerinos
Mrs. Maria Salpeas
Mrs. Aspasia Johns

In memory of George Monioidis

Mrs. Kalliope A. Cornias
Mr. & Mrs. George & Maria Kornias
Mrs. Eleni Pikounis & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Avgerinos
Mrs. Vasiliki Vastista Klosterides
Dr. & Mrs. Bob Padousis
Mrs. Ann S. Matthews
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Koutrelakos

In memory of Helen Frangos

George & Sylvia Voxakis

In memory of Anna Marangou

Mrs. Foula Filipakis

In memory of George C. Cornias

Mrs. Aspasia Johns

In memory of Eftihia Sazaklis

Mr. & Mrs. George John Basil

In memory of Maritsa Hatzikosmas

Mrs. Popi Philippou

In memory of Amalia Hatzikosmas

Mrs. Popi Philippou
Dr. & Mrs. Bob Padousis

In memory of Dr. Nicolas Papadimitriou

Mrs. Erma Papadimitriou
Dr. George Dimitri

In memory of Florence Mavronis

Stefanos & Greta Mavronis

In memory of Stephen Apesos

Mrs. Antigoni Apesos & Family

In memory of Anastasios Douskas

Nicolas & Dimitra Douskas

In memory of Michael Nicolarakis

Mrs. Eirini Kaputsos & Family

ΣΤΗ ΜΝΗΜΗ ΤΗ ΜΗΤΕΡΑΣ ΜΟΥ ΑΝΝΑΣ ΜΑΡΑΓΚΟΥ ΦΑΡΣΑΔΑΚΗ

Άκου απόψε πως χτυπά λυπητέρα η καμπάνα
Να πει του κόσμου έφυγε του Μαραγκού η Άννα
Πως να την κάνω την αρχή, και πως να τελειώσω
Πρώτη φορά μαννούλα μου ένοιωσα τέτοιο πόνο.
Πως να αρχίσω μάννα μου να σε μοιρολογήσω
Που έχω τόσα να σου πω να σε ευχαριστήσω
Σ' ευχαριστώ μαννούλα μου για όσα μου 'χεις κάνει
Νάναι ελαφρύ σαν πούπουλο το στρώμα σου στον Άδη.
Τρεις μήνες επεράσανε κι ακόμα δεν πιστεύω,
Πως έφυγες παντοτινά κι όλο σε περιμένω,
Ήθελα και να γύριζε ο χρόνος λίγο πίσω,
Να ξαναδώ τη μάννα μου να τη γλυκοφιλήσω.
Τρεις μήνες επεράσανε κι ακόμα περιμένω,
Και σαν ακουω βήματα στην πόρτα αναμένω.
Μάννα μου μου εστάθηκες πάντοτε στο πλευρό μου,
Και τις καλές σου συμβουλές θα έχω οδηγό μου.
Μάννα σου ήσουν στοργική με ηθικές αξίες,
Όλο τον κόσμο αγάπαγες, φίλους και συγγενείς.
Ο φάρος ήσουν μάννα μου της οικογένειάς μας
Και έφυγες και πλήγωσες για πάντα την καρδιά μας.

Κέρδισες την εκτίμηση από όσους σε γνώρισαν,
Κι ένα λουλούδι δροσερό στο τάφο σου αφήσαν.
Μάννα μου που πέρασες βάσανα και πολέμους,
Εσύ όμως πάντα έλεγες Δόξα να έχεις Θεέ μου.
Στον ύπνο σου φτερούγησε και έφυγε η ψυχή σου,
Σαν περιστέρι άκακο μάννα μου πάντα ήσουν.
Ήρεμος, θάταν μάννα μου, φαίνεται ο άγγελός σου,
Κι όσοι σ' αποχαιρέτησαν τόδαν στο πρόσωπό σου.
Μάννα μου υπερήφανη και αποφανεμένη,
Στου Παραδείσου τα σκαλιά η Παναγιά αναμένει.
Οι ουρανοί ανοίξαν να σε υποδεχθούμε,
Κι εμείς που μείναμε εδώ πολλά θα στερηθούμε.
Για την καλή σου τη καρδιά και ποιος δε θα σε κλάψει,
Ποιός δε θανάψει ένα κερι και δε θα αναστενάξει.
Ωσπου να ζω θε να θρηνώ το όνομα το δικό σου
Στου Παραδείσου τα σκαλιά δε νάναι ο άγγελός σου
Στου Παραδείσου την αυλή να κάνεις κατοικία,
Κι η μνήμη σου μαννούλα μου θα είναι αιωνία

- Δημήτρης Φαρσαδάκης



DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

FLOWER DONATIONS LENT, 2017

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR TABLE – VASES

1. 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 5th
2. 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 12th
3. 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 19th
4. 4th SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 26th
5. 5th SUNDAY OF LENT – APRIL 2nd
6. PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 9th
7. HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 15th

FLOWERS FOR THE SALUTATIONS OF THE VIRGIN MARY

1. 1st SALUTATIONS HYMN ICON – MARCH 3rd
2. PROSKINITARI - PHILOPTOCHOS
3. WALL ICON
4. 2nd SALUTATIONS HYMN ICON – MARCH 10th
5. PROSKINITARI
6. WALL ICON
7. 3rd SALUTATIONS HYMN ICON – MARCH 17th
8. PROSKINITARI
9. WALL ICON
10. 4th SALUTATIONS HYMN ICON – MARCH 24th
11. PROSKINITARI
12. WALL ICON
13. AKATHISTOS HYMN ICON – MARCH 31ST
14. PROSKINITARI
15. WALL ICON

WREATHS & OTHER ITEMS FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2017

1. PALMS
2. PALM SUNDAY ICON – APRIL 9th
3. PALM SUNDAY PROSKINITARI APRIL 9th –
(color YELLOW)
4. NYMPHIOS ICON – APRIL 9th (evening) –
(color PURPLE)

5. HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 13th – CROSS FOR
THE CROWN
6. HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 13th – WREATH FOR
THE BASE OF THE CROSS
7. CRUCIFIXION (PROSKINITARI) APRIL 14,
GOOD FRIDAY
8. RESURRECTION HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 15th
– LAVARO
9. RESURRECTION ICON HOLY SATURDAY,
WHITE ROSES
- INCENSE FOR LENT AND FOR HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEDNESDAY UNCTION SUPPLIES

GOOD FRIDAY – Sheet - Rose petals

HOLY SATURDAY LAUREL & BAY LEAVES

DECORATION OF THE ICONOSTASIO

EASTER EGGS

CANDLES DONATIONS

11' YELLOW

11' WHITE

YELLOW LAMBADES FOR GOOD FRIDAY WITH
WHITE CUPS

WHITE LAMBADES FOR HOLY SATURDAY
WITH RED CUPS

5 DAY VOTIVE LIGHTS

50 CASES RED

50 CASES PURPLE

Thank you for your support!

**CLIP
HERE**

GOOD FRIDAY—LAMENTATIONS SERVICE PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

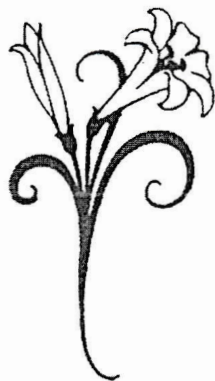
Την Μεγάλη Παρασκευή, κατά την διάρκεια της Ακολουθίας του Επιταφίου Θρήνου, και το Μεγάλο Σάββατο το πρωί, προσευχόμαστε στο Θεό για τις ψυχές των απελθόντων προσφιλών συγγενών και φίλων. Όσοι επιθυμούν να μνημονεύσουν τα αγαπημένα τους πρόσωπα τις ημέρες αυτές, παρακαλούνται να συμπληρώσουν το κάτωθι έντυπο και να το φέρουν στην Εκκλησία πριν την Μεγάλη Παρασκευή.

During the Lamentations Service of Good Friday evening, and on Holy Saturday morning, we offer prayers to God for the souls of our departed beloved family members and friends. For those who wish to have their departed brethren remembered on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, you are asked to complete the below form and submit the names before Good Friday.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**CLIP
COUPON**

EASTER LILIES FOR THE CHURCH ΔΩΡΕΕΣ ΑΝΘΕΩΝ (ΚΡΙΝΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ)



Please donate Easter Lilies to decorate our church for Easter. The cost is \$25.00. Fill out this form and send or bring it to Saint Nicholas Church.

Αν επιθυμείτε να κάνετε τη δωρεά σας \$25.00, συμπληρώσετε το έντυπο αυτό και στείλετε την δωρεά σας εγκαίρως στον Άγιο Νικόλαο.

NAME

ADDRESS

AMOUNT \$25.00

OTHER AMOUNT

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Our Sunday school is preparing to host the Parish Oratorical Festival Saturday, March 25th, 2017. The topics have been distributed to the students in order to give them plenty of time to select and prepare their papers. We look forward to having all of our students participate in this program. Scholarship money at our local parish level will be awarded to the top 2 students in the Junior and Senior Divisions who advance and participate at the district level.

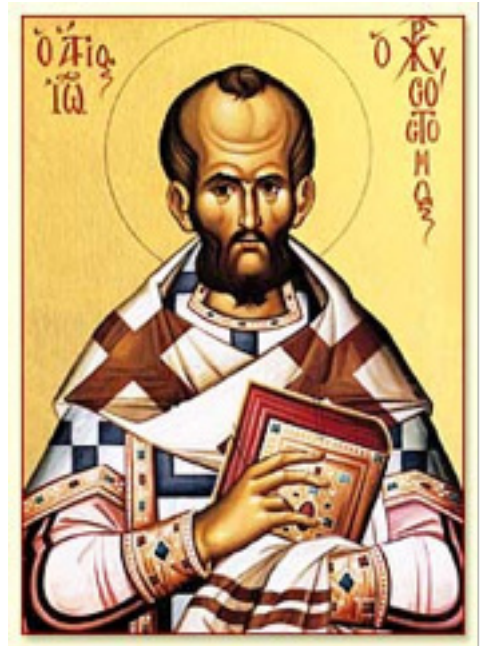
What is the Oratorical Festival about? Introduced in 1983, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides Greek Orthodox teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The Oratorical Festival Program begins at the parish level and is divided into three divisions:

- Elementary Division (local festival only) for students in grades 4–6
- Junior Division for students in grades 7–9
- Senior Division for student in grades 10–12.

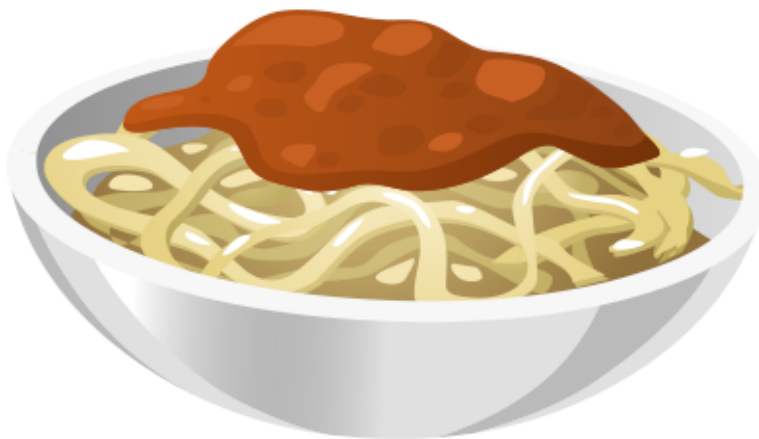
The top speakers in the Junior and Senior Divisions advance to the district level. Two finalists in each district division represent the district at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The top speaker in each metropolis division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted by a different metropolis each year.

If any of our own students advance and become one of the eighteen finalists at the Archdiocese Finals, they will participate in a weekend of activities, the highlight of which is the delivery of their speeches on Saturday morning. **The Oratorical Festival Scholarship Foundation provides college scholarships in the amount of \$2,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000 to the top three speakers in each division. In addition, those finalists who receive a rank of Honorable Mention are awarded a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond.**

We encourage not only our Sunday school students but also our Goyans who are still in high school to participate in this event. For copies of the topics and additional information, please stop by the Sunday school office.



**THE ST. NICHOLAS
SUNDAY SCHOOL
INVITES YOU
TO THEIR ANNUAL
SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON**



ON

Sunday, March 19, 2017

IN THE LARGE HALL
AFTER CHURCH SERVICES

Donation for Luncheon
Adults - \$15
Children 12 and under - \$10

A QUESTION ABOUT LENTEN FASTING...

Lenten Fasting

Courtesy of the Orthodox Church in America

oca.org

Question:

Why do we fast, and from what do we fast, before Pascha?

Answer:

We fast before the Feast of Feasts, the Resurrection of Christ, to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Our Lord's eternal victory over sin, corruption, and death, and in anticipation of our own resurrection. Hence, Great Lent is a time of preparation, during which we focus on and anticipate the resurrection of Our Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

When we fast, we “shift our focus” from ourselves to God and others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we indeed can gain control over those things that we too often allow to control us—and for many people, food is a controlling factor. [We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!] While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Further, just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner—if we “ruin our appetite” we will



hardly enjoy our dinner—so too we fast before Holy Pascha in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Feast itself.

During the Great Fast—and all lenten seasons—we are called upon to refrain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil. At the same time, we are challenged, within this framework, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently. If we must modify the extent to which we fast within this framework, it is of course possible, but in every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as an option, but as a “must.” **In the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Our Lord says, “WHEN you fast, do not be like the hypocrites,” not “IF you fast” or “IF YOU CHOOSE to fast.”**

Thank you to everyone for your support and donations for the Apokreatiko Glendi. The profits help support Philoptochos Missions and the Philoxenia House operation. As in the past, on the evening of Kathari Devtera after church we sponsored a Lenten Dinner which gave us the opportunity to share in fellowship.

By now everyone should have received our Easter Mailing along with the information on our Lenten Retreat which will take place on Saturday, March 4th. If you have not received it, please contact any Philoptochos Board Member. Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 5th the memorial service to remember those before us. May their memory be eternal. Thank you to Rose Tsakalos for the preparation and donation of the Koliva. God grant her many years of Health.

Please note because of church services on Monday, our next general meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7th.

The Tsourekia Bake Sale on Palm Sunday, April 9th. If you would like to place an order in advanced please call Evagelia Saliaris at 410-592-8345 or email norakefalas@gmail.com.

PHILOTOCHOS DONATIONS:

In memory of Maritsa Kosmas - Mrs. Thorina Trintis

PHILOXENIA HOUSE DONATIONS:

*In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Costas Triantafilos,
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Zervos and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kefalas*
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Block

Dr. And Mrs. Paul Apostolo

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, March 4 Philoptochos Lenten Retreat

Σας ευχαριστώ όλους για την υποστήριξη και τις δωρεές σας στο Αποκριάτικο Γλέντι μας. Όλα τα έσοδα θα διατεθούν να βοηθήσουν τις Αποστολές της Φιλοπτώχου και τη καλή λειτουργία του Σπιτιού της Φιλοξενίας. Όπως και κατά το παρελθόν, το βράδυ της Καθαρής Δευτέρας, μετά την Ακολουθία του Αποδείπνου, έχουμε το νηστίσιμο δείπνο που μας δίνει την ευκαιρία να μοιραστούμε τη παρέα σας.

Μέχρι τώρα όλοι θα πρέπει να έχετε λάβει την Πασχαλινή αλληλογραφία μας, μαζί με τις πληροφορίες σχετικά με την της Σαρακοστής Πνευματικής Περισυλλογής μας, που θα λάβει χώρα το Σάββατο, 4 Μαρτίου. Αν δεν την έχετε λάβει, παρακαλούμε να επικοινωνήσετε με οποιοδήποτε μέλος του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου της Φιλοπτώχου. Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας, 5 Μαρτίου, θα τελέσουμε το ετήσιο μνημόσυνο για να θυμηθούμε αυτούς που έφυγαν από κοντά μας. Αιωνία τους η μνήμη. Ευχαριστούμε την κ. Ρόζα Τσακάλου για την προετοιμασία και τη δωρεά του Δίσκου/ Κόλυβα. Ο Θεός της χαρίσει πολλά χρόνια με υγεία.

Παρακαλείστε να σημειώσετε ότι λόγω των απογευματινών Ακολουθιών της Εκκλησίας τη Δευτέρα, η επόμενη γενική συνέλευσή μας θα πραγματοποιηθεί την Τρίτη, 7 Μαρτίου.

Η πώληση τσουρεκιών θα είναι την Κυριακή των Βαΐων, Κυριακή 9 Απριλίου. Αν θέλετε να δώσετε την παραγγελία σας εκ των προτέρων καλέστε την κ. Ευαγγελία Σαλιάρη στο 410-592-8345 ή στο email norakefalas@gmail.com.

ΔΩΡΕΕΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΩΧΟ

Εις μνήμη της Μαρτίσας Κοσμά - Κα Θορίνα Τριντή

ΔΩΡΕΕΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟ ΣΠΙΤΙ ΤΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑΣ

Δρ. και Κυρία Paul Apostolo, και

Προς τιμή των :

Κου και Κας Κώστα Τριαντάφυλλου, Κου και Κας Δημητρίου Ζερβού

και Κυ και Κας Μιχαήλ Κεφάλου –

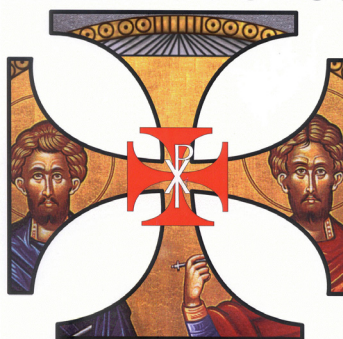
Ο Κύριος και Κυρία Richard Block

Σημειώστε την ημερομηνία:

Σάββατο 4 Μαρτίου

Φιλόπτωχος, Πνευματική Περισυλλογή της Τεσσαρακοστής

PHILOTOCHOS



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION (AHEPA)



LORD BALTIMORE CHAPTER #364

**2017 COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

is now available

Please contact the St. Nicholas
church office for an application - 410-633-5020

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2017.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:**

Michael Mavronis - mav1416@aol.com

DIAMONDS NEWS

Our next regular meeting will be on Date March 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Luncheon : everybody brings their own Lenten pot luck. KALI SARAKKOSTI.

On Saturday, November 18, 2017, we plan to go to the Rainbow Dinner Theatre, in Paradise PA, to see a comedy show. For information please contact Rose Tsakalos at 410-282-2940. It is a Saturday morning. Price per person \$ 85.00. includes, transportation, Luncheon and the ticket for the Theatre. If you wish to attend , you need to give a deposit of \$ 20.00 at the meeting on February, 14, 2017. More information to be announced at the meeting.

Thank you,
Rose Tsakalos - President
410-282-2940

Our next regular meeting will be on Date March 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Luncheon: everybody brings their own Lenten pot luck. KALI SARAKKOSTI.

Το Σάββατο, 18 Νοεμβρίου, 2017, προγραμματίζουμε ταξίδι στην Πενσυλβάνια, στο Rainbow Dinner Theatre, να παρακολουθήσουμε τη ξεκαρδιστική κωμωδία. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες επικοινωνήστε με Κ. Ρόζα Τσακάλου (410-282-2940). Κατά γενική απαίτηση τούτο το ταξίδι θα γίνει Σάββατο πρωί για να μπορέσουν να έλθουν και οι εργαζόμενοι. Στοιχίζει \$ 85.00 το άτομο. Συμπεριλαμβάνει το Λεωφορείο, το γεύμα, και το εισιτήριο του Θεάτρου. Αν επιθυμείτε να συμμετέχετε σας παρακαλούμε να δώσετε μια μικρή προκαταβολή \$ 20.00 για να κλείσετε τη θέση σας, περισσότερες λεπτομέρειες στη συνεδρίαση.

Σας ευχαριστώ,
Ρόζα Τσακάλου Πρόεδρος
410-282-2940



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ELEFTHERIA SCHOLARSHIP 2017

Awards held at the **26th Hermes Expo Awards Dinner**
on **Wednesday, April 26, 2017** at the **Concordville Inn, PA**

APPLICATION DUE DATE: **APRIL 15, 2017**

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For more Information

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HELLENIC NEWS OF AMERICA HERMES EXPO & MAGAF

Present for a 3rd Year the: **“ELEFThERIA Scholarship Awards”**

Eligibility: High School Seniors and College students.

Application Due Date: April 15, 2017

Rules: Submit an essay on the following topic:

“The principles of our contemporary Western civilization are based on the principles of Hellenic and Roman civilization, and Christianity. What principles of Western civilization are due exclusively to Greek civilization, what exclusively to the Roman civilization and/or both?”

“Οι αρχές του συγχρόνου Δυτικού Πολιτισμού μας βασίζονται στις αρχές του Ελληνικού και Ρωμαϊκού Πολιτισμού και στον Χριστιανισμό. Ποιες αρχές του Δυτικού Πολιτισμού οφείλονται αποκλειστικά στον Ελληνικό Πολιτισμό, ποιες αποκλειστικά στον Ρωμαϊκό Πολιτισμό ή και στους δύο;”

Presentation: Awards held at the Hermes Expo Awards Dinner at the Concordville Inn, Concordville, PA on **Wednesday, April 26, 2017 @4-8 PM**

Application found here: hermesexpo.com/scholarship – fill out where going to school and what grades are etc.

E-mail application and letter to Aphrodite@hellenicnews.com

Committee: Professor Christos Evangeliou, Dr. Dimitris Faller, Dr. Costas Fountzoulas, Dimitris Hios, Professor Michael Kirifidis, Professor John Lambris, Dr. Dean C. Lomis, Chris Mavris-Morgan, Professor Aristotelis Michopoulos, Honorable Aris Melissaratos, Professor Dimitri Monos, Dr. Maria Papageorgiou, Dr. Konstadinos Plestis, Alex Karas, George Karas, Aphrodite Kotrotsios, Paul Kotrotsios, Vasilis Mataragas.

You may want to establish a scholarship endowment and help participate in the organization that allocates 100% of the proceeds to the **“ELEFThERIA Scholarship Awards” via MAGAF**. Last year we raised and distributed \$22,500. Interested to establish an endowment fund for you and your family, join in and help in any way you can, please contact Aphrodite@hellenicnews.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

GREEKTOWN SQUARE & EVENT CENTER

WEDDING RECEPTIONS • ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS • BIRTHDAY PARTIES
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News and Events

The Greektown Square & Event Center (Plateia) is excited to report that we now have a website!
Please visit us at greektownsquare.com and let us know what you think.
Email us at info@greektownsquare.com

The Plateia Committee continues to make great strides. Improvements continue to be made. Event bookings are increasing within as well as outside of our community. To keep up with this momentum, our Marketing Committee needs your help in developing our grass roots outreach program. Please consider volunteering your services. We thank you for your continued faith and support.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

THE GREEKTOWN SQUARE & EVENT CENTER (PLATEIA) is establishing a list of Business Partners that it can refer clients to for weddings and other event services. If you, your family members or friends are in these lines of business and would like to have clients referred to you, let us know. We will include your business name on our website, include you on Facebook features and provide clients with your business name and contact information during bookings of the facility. In exchange, we ask that you do the same to help us market the Plateia and to offer our clients promo pricing or other benefits you deem appropriate. The list of businesses includes the following:

ENTERTAINMENT

MAGICIANS
DISC JOCKEYS
BANDS
SOLOISTS
JUGGLERS
BALLOON ARTISTS
FACE PAINTERS
PHOTOBOOTH OPERATORS

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES
OFFICIANTS
PHOTOGRAPHERS
VIDEOGRAPHERS
WEDDING PLANNERS
VALET PARKING

FOOD AND DÉCOR SUPPORT

RENTAL FURNITURE/DECOR
FLORISTS
DECORATORS
BAKERIES
LIMO COMPANIES

MARKETING SUPPORT:

Now that the Plateia is being marketed to the greater Baltimore area, we are receiving many internet inquiries. Therefore, all parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas who have either sponsored or attended events at the Plateia could help us tremendously if reviews were posted on the following internet sites:

- Our website at www.greerownsquare.com - Send us Testimonials – (use the “Contact Us” tab). If you want to include your picture with the testimonial as others have, then send us your testimonial using the Plateia’s email address at info@greerownsquare.com and attach the picture.
- Review us on our Facebook page at www.greerownsquare.com
- Review us on www.Weddingwire.com
- Review us on www.theknot.com

Also, please “Like” us on Facebook and ask your family, your Facebook friends and others to do the same. This will help us expand our client base and keep everyone informed of our news releases as well as past and future events.





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NEW! 2017 CHURCH PARKING PERMITS

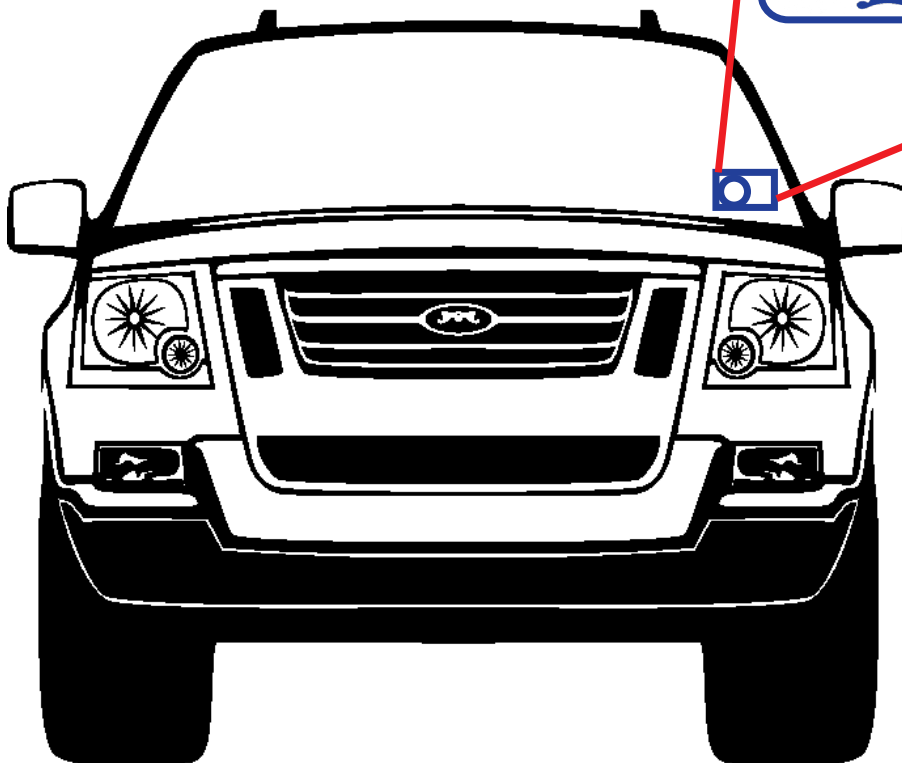
How do I obtain a parking permit?

- Submit your 2017 stewardship card and receive one permit for each of your vehicles

Where do I place my new parking permit?

- Lower left corner of driver's side windshield

If you do not have a parking permit sticker displayed on your car's windshield, your vehicle may be towed according to the parking lot signs.



NO
COMMERCIAL
VEHICLES

LITURGICAL PROGRAM - MARCH & APRIL

May the Lord our God give everyone the courage and strength to begin the Great Fasting period of the Church with a humble heart, a clear conscience, and the knowledge of why we are going through this spiritual challenge. From this day on the Holy Fasting period becomes more conservative. No Meat or Dairy products are consumed until the day of Pascha. We wish everyone a Lenten journey filled with spiritual endeavors.

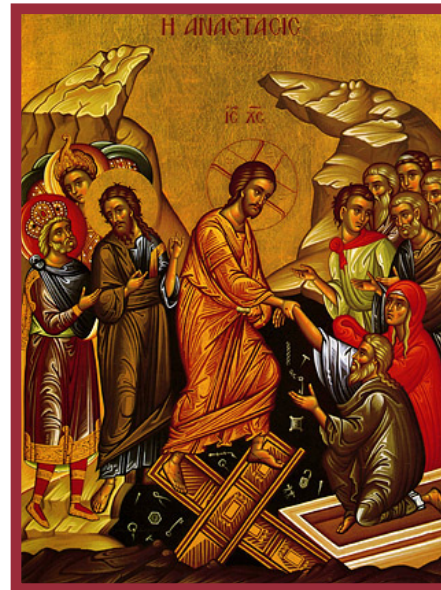
Wednesday, March 1	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy: 7:00 pm.
Friday, March 3	First Salutations to the Theotokos: 7:00 pm.
Saturday, March 4	Third Saturday of the Souls: Orthros: 8:45 am D. Liturgy: 9:30 am
Sunday, March 5	Sunday of Orthodoxy (First Sunday of Lent): Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am. The Procession of Holy Icons by the Teachers and Students of Sunday School will take place at the end of the Liturgy
Sunday Evening, March 5	Sunday of Orthodox Vesper Service: TBA
Monday, Evening, March 6	Compline Service: 7:00 pm.
Wednesday, March 8	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy: 7:00 pm.
Friday, March 10	Second Salutations to the Theotokos: 7:00 pm.
Sunday, March 12	Second Sunday of Lent: Orthros: 8:45 am D.Lit. 10:00
Monday, March 13	Compline Service: 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 15	Presanctified Liturgy: 7:00 pm
Friday, March 17	Third Salutation to the Virgin Mary: 7:00 pm
Sunday, March 19	Veneration of the Holy Cross: Orthros 8:45 am D.Lit. 10:00 No Memorials are permitted
Monday, March 20	Compline Service: 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 22	Presanctified Liturgy: 7:00 pm
Friday, March 24	Fourth Salutations to the Virgin Mary: 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 25	Great Feast of the Annunciation/Greek Independence Day /OXI DAY Orthros: 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Sunday, March 26	Fourth Sunday of Lent: Orthros 8:45 am D.Liturgy 10:00 am
Monday, March 27	Compline Service: 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 29	Presanctified Liturgy: 7:00 pm
Friday, March 31	Akathist Hymn: 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 2	Fifth Sunday of Lent: Orthros 8:45 am D. Lit. 10:00
Monday, April 3	Compline Service : 7:00 pm
Wednesday, April 5	Presanctified Liturgy: 8:45 am
Saturday, April 8	Saturday of Lazarus: Orthros: 8:45 am.D.Lit: 9:45 am.
Sunday, April 9	Palm Sunday: Orthros: 8:45 am. D. Liturgy: 10:00am.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday Evening: April 9	The Bridegroom Service: 7:00 pm.
Holy Monday Evening: April 10	The Bridegroom Service: 7:00 pm.
Holy Tuesday Evening: April 11	The Bridegroom Service (Kassiani Troparion): 7:00pm

LITURGICAL PROGRAM - MARCH & APRIL CONT.

Holy Wednesday Morning April 12	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy: 9:00 am.
Holy Wednesday Evening: April 12	Holy Unction Service: 6:00 pm.
Holy Thursday Morning: April 13	Divine Liturgy commemorating the Last Supper* The Service will begin at 6:00 am.(Working People)
Holy Thursday Evening: April 13	The Reading of the Twelve Gospels: 7:00 pm.
Holy Friday Morning: April 14	The Royal Hours: 9:00 am.
Holy Friday Afternoon: April 14	Apokathelosis Service: 2:00 pm.
Holy Friday Evening: April 14	The Lamentations Service: 7:00 pm.
Holy Saturday Morning: April 15	Vesper Liturgy of St. Basil (First Resurrection) Services will begin at 7:30 am.
Holy Saturday Evening: April 15	Resurrection Service: 11:00 pm. Pascha Vigil 12:00 Midnight: Outside service: 1:00 am. Orthros & Divine Liturgy
Sunday of Holy Pascha: April 16	The Agape Vespers: Holy Pascha 11:00 am. (NO MEMORIALS)
Tuesday, April 18	Bright Tuesday: Sts. Rafael, Nicholas and Irene: Orthros- 8:45 am D.Lit. 9:30 am
Friday, April 21	Bright Friday: Theotokos of the Life Giving Fountain: Orthros- 8:45 am D.Lit. 9:30 am
Sunday, April 23	Sunday of St. Thomas: Orthros 8:45 am D.Lit. 10:00 am (NO MEMORIALS)
Sunday, April 30	Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women: Orthros 8:45 am D. Lit. 10:00 am



IMPORTANT NOTICE: KOINONIA DEADLINE

Please submit your article(s) to the Koinonia staff by the deadline stated below:

ISSUE MONTH: APRIL 2017 - SUBMISSIONS DUE: MARCH 20th

*Please email your article(s) to: msalpeas@stnicholasmd.org
Articles are due no later than the 20th of each month. If they are received after the
deadline they will be published in the following month's issue.*

All articles must be proofread and color corrected prior to submission.

Thank you for your consideration!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 4th: Philoptochos Lenten Retreat

Sunday, March 5th: Sunday of Orthodoxy

Sunday, March 5th: General Assembly Meeting immediately after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Tuesday, March 7th: Ladies Philoptochos Monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8th: Greek School PTA Monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 12th: GOYA Executive Board Meeting immediately after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Monday, March 13th: GOYA Monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 14th: Bible Study with Father Michael at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, March 17th: GOYA Lock-In

Sunday, March 19th: Sunday School Spaghetti Luncheon immediately after the Divine Liturgy

Saturday, March 25th: Sunday School St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival starting at 10:00 a.m. All youth to participate.

Sunday, March 26th: Greek School Program-25th of March, Greek Independence Day Celebration

Tuesday, March 28th: Bible Study with Father Michael at 6:00 p.m.



UPCOMING CALENDAR

Sunday, April 2nd: Maryland Independence Day Parade Celebration starting at 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 2nd: GOYA Executive Board Meeting immediately after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Monday, April 3rd: GOYA Monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4th: Choir Rehearsal at 7p.m.

Thursday, April 6th: GOYA and Community Member Palm Making

Saturday, April 8th: Lazarus Saturday and Community Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 9th: Palm Sunday and Philoptochos Tsourekia Bake Sale

Monday, April 10th-Friday, April 14th: Greek School Closed and All Youth Activities Cancelled in Observation of Holy Week.

Monday, April 17th: Greek School Closed for Renewal Monday

Saturday, April 22nd: GOYA Away Basketball Tournament Sponsored by St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, Va. TENTATIVE

Saturday, April 29th: GOYA Away Basketball Tournament Sponsored by St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

Saturday, April 29th: The Annual Pan Chian Society Tea.