

62 YEARS



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Message from FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS, PROTOPRESBYTER

OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

The Church welcomes the Great Lenten Period with a spirit of exultation. In a few weeks on Clean Monday February 27th, the Orthodox Church will be preparing once again for the “Feast of all Feasts” Pascha. Before we reach our journey to the Feast of all Feasts there is much preparation that is needed to reach our final destination. That’s why the church gives us many examples such as The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, The Prodigal Son, The Sunday of Judgment (Meatfare) and Cheesefare Sunday. After that, our journey takes us through the season of preparation. There is a purpose for this journey and that is to acquire the Kingdom of heaven within our hearts, so that we may rejoice in truly seeing the resurrected Lord, and have life in Him. By bringing the wholeness of dedication and thus the wholeness of His love back into our hearts dethroning those other passions, thoughts, worries and demands that have taken over, do we come to know the truth, that there is great joy and freedom in repentance and confession. As we journey on the road to repentance, He runs to embrace us, and make us whole. With confession, we are able to open the door which kept us in darkness for so long, and open ourselves to a new brighter world.

St. John Chrysostom says it the best when he writes; “The Sun may be shining in all its brightness, but each one of us is free to shut it out of our lives merely by closing our eyelids”. The Lord leaves every decision up to us to make, so that means that we must make the right decisions when it comes to our spiritual future. Let’s not forget the phrase-“You can lead a horse to water but you can’t make it drink”. Unfortunately people can shut the sun out of their lives and become accustomed to the darkness in which they live.

Great Lent is an incredible opportunity that only comes once a year. And it’s not only about our spiritual growth, but it is truly



about the transformation and sanctification of the entire world. These 40 days that the church gives us is certainly a period of time to test our ability and to get closer to God and to maintain a life of discipline. We have that time to look at ourselves and evaluate our spiritual future.

So during this Lenten period what will you decide to do this year for Great Lent? There are 2 choices that we can make. We can decide to do nothing and let Lent pass

by as it doesn’t exist. That to me is the easy way out, because nothing then is expected from us. But on the other hand if you put nothing into Lent- and that is exactly what you will get out of Lent “Nothing”. I would also like to add, if we put nothing into our lives, into our marriages, relationships, and friendships, we will get back a “O” nothing in return. But that’s not what we should be striving for, because we should want a deeper connection, a deeper relationship with Christ because come judgment day, who would have a better outcome and return.

Now let’s see what the second option is? Let’s say we want to decide to do something better with our spiritual lives, but what exactly are we called to do? The Lenten period gives us so many solutions. We can take the time to look deeper on our relationship with Christ. It gives us time to think of our mistakes and to correct them. It gives us time to “Repent” for our sins. It gives us the opportunity to pray and meditate and to give ourselves in helping other who are less fortunate in the form of almsgiving. It gives us the time to spiritually prepare ourselves for the Heavenly Kingdom of God. In another way it gives us also the opportunity to rediscover the true path that opens the windows of our hearts in order to let God’s light penetrate to inside of us. So let’s try and make an effort this year to be true to our fast. It’s worth the labor, and the time that we will put into our TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to bless you and strengthen you during this Lenten Period.

KOINONIA

HIGHLIGHTS

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Μήνυμα Από τον Πατέρα Μιχαήλ Α. Παστρικό

ΤΟ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΙΚΟ ΜΑΣ ΤΑΞΙΔΙ ΜΕΣΩ ΤΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ

Η Εκκλησία καλωσορίζει την περίοδο της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής με πνεύμα αγαλλίασης. Σε λίγες εβδομάδες, στις 27 Φεβρουαρίου, Καθαρά Δευτέρα, η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία θα προετοιμάζεται για άλλη μια φορά για την «Εορτή όλων των Εορτών» το Πάσχα. Πριν το ταξίδι μας φτάσει στη Εορτή όλων των Εορτών, απαιτείται πολλή προετοιμασία που πρέπει να γίνει για να φτάσουμε στον τελικό μας προορισμό. Γι' αυτό το λόγο η Εκκλησία μας δίνει πολλά παραδείγματα και δειδάγματα, όπως την Κυριακή του Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου, του Ασώτου Υιού, την Κυριακή της Κρίσεως (Απόκριω) και την Κυριακή της Τυρινής. Μετά από αυτά, το ταξίδι μας οδηγεί στη περιόδου της προετοιμασίας.

Υπάρχει κάποιος σκοπός για αυτό το ταξίδι που είναι να αποκτήσουμε τη Βασιλεία των Ουρανών μέσα στις καρδιές μας, έτσι ώστε να μπορούμε να χαρούμε πραγματικά τον Αναστάντα Κύριο, και να αφιερώσουμε τη ζωή μας σ' Αυτόν, με το να φέρουμε, την ολότητα της αφοσίωσης και τη πληρότητα της αγάπης Του πίσω στις καρδιές μας, και να εκθρονίσουμε τα πάθη, τις σκέψεις, τις ανησυχίες και τα αιτήματα που μας κατείχαν, να γνωρίσουμε την αλήθεια, ότι υπάρχει μεγάλη χαρά και ελευθερία στην μετάνοια και στην εξομολόγηση. Όπως ταξιδεύουμε στο δρόμο προς την μετάνοια, ο Κύριος αδυμωνεί να μας αγκαλιάσει και να μας ενώσει μαζί Του. Με την εξομολόγηση, είμαστε σε θέση να ανοίξουμε την πόρτα που μας κράτησε στο σκοτάδι για πολύ καιρό, και να ζήσουμε σε ένα νέο λαμπρότερο κόσμο.

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος το αναφέρει

με το καλύτερο τρόπο, όταν γράφει: “Ο ήλιος μπορεί να φωτίζει με όλη του τη λαμπρότητα, αλλά κάθε ένας από εμάς είναι ελεύθερος να τον κλείσει έξω από τη ζωή του, απλώς με το κλείσιμο των βλεφάρων του”. Ο Κύριος μας αφήνει ελεύθερους να πάρουμε οποιαδήποτε απόφαση, έτσι ώστε να πάρουμε τις σωστές αποφάσεις, όταν πρόκειται για το πνευματικό μέλλον μας. Ας μην ξεχνάμε την φράση «Μπορείτε να οδηγήσετε το άλογο στο νερό, αλλά δεν μπορείτε να το αναγκάσετε να πιει». Δυστυχώς, οι άνθρωποι μπορεί να κλείσουν τον ήλιο έξω από τη ζωή τους και να εξοικειωθούν με το σκοτάδι στο οποίο ζουν.

Η Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή είναι μια απίστευτη ευκαιρία που έρχεται μόνο μια φορά το χρόνο. Και δεν είναι μόνο για την πνευματική μας ανάπτυξη, αλλά είναι πραγματικά για την μεταμόρφωση και αφώσωση του σύμπαντος κόσμου. Αυτές οι 40 ημέρες που η εκκλησία μας δίνει είναι σίγουρα ένα χρονικό διάστημα για να δοκιμάσουμε την ικανότητά μας να έρθουμε πιο κοντά στο Θεό, και να διατηρήσουμε μια ζωή με πειθαρχία. Έχουμε αυτό το χρονικό διάστημα για να εξετάσουμε τους εαυτούς μας και να αξιολογήσουμε το πνευματικό μας μέλλον.

Τώρα, ας δούμε τι θα αποφασίσουμε να κάνουμε κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της Σαρακοστής. Υπάρχουν 2 επιλογές που μπορούμε να κάνουμε. Μπορούμε να αποφασίσουμε να μην κάνουμε τίποτα, να αφήσουμε τη Σαρακοστή να περάσει σαν να μην υπήρξε. Αυτό για μένα είναι η εύκολη διέξοδος, επειδή τότε τίποτα δεν προβλέπεται από εμάς. Αλλά από την άλλη πλευρά, αν δεν κάνετε τίποτα τη Σαρακοστή- αυτό ακριβώς είναι που θα λαβετε από την Σαρακοστή “Τίποτα”. Θα ήθελα επίσης να προσθέσω, αν συμμετέχουμε

με το τίποτα στη ζωή μας, στο γάμο μας, στις σχέσεις και φιλίες μας, θα ανταμειφθούμε, σαν ανταλλαγμα, με ένα τίποτα, “Ο”. Όμως, δεν θα πρέπει να αγωνιζόμαστε γι' αυτό, να επιθυμούμε μια βαθύτερη σύνδεση, μια βαθύτερη σχέση με τον Χριστό, διότι όταν έρθει η ημέρα της κρίσης, ποιος θα εισπράξει τα καλύτερα εις αντάλλαγμα;

Τώρα, ας δούμε ποια είναι η δεύτερη επιλογή. Ας πούμε ότι αποφασίζουμε να καλύτερεύσουμε την πνευματική μας ζωή. Τι ακριβώς είναι αυτό το καλύτερο που καλούμαστε να κάνουμε; Η περίοδος της Σαρακοστής μας δίνει τόσες πολλές λύσεις. Μπορούμε με την ησυχία μας να εξετάσουμε βαθύτερα την σχέση μας με τον Χριστό. Μας δίνει επίσης το χρόνο να σκεφθούμε τα λάθη μας και να τα διορθώσουμε. Μας δίνει χρόνο να “Μετανοήσουμε” για τις αμαρτίες μας. Μας δίνει την ευκαιρία να προσευχηθούμε, να μεσιτεύσουμε και να βοηθήσουμε συνανθρώπους μας που είναι λιγότερο τυχεροί, με την μορφή της ελεημοσύνης.

Μας δίνει το χρόνο να προετοιμαστούμε πνευματικά για την Ουράνια Βασιλεία του Θεού. Με άλλα λόγια, μας δίνει την ευκαιρία να ξαναβρούμε το αληθινό μονοπάτι που θα ανοίξει τα παράθυρα της καρδιάς μας, προκειμένου να αφήσει το φως του Θεού να διεισδύσει στον εσωτερικό μας κόσμο. Ας προσπαθήσουμε εφέτος να νηστέψουμε πραγματικά, αληθινά. Αξίζει το κόπο, και το χρόνο που θα διαθέσουμε αυτή τη περίοδο, προσφέροντας το χρόνο μας, το ταλέντο μας, και την οικονομική μας υποστήριξη. Σας εύχομαι όπως ο Κύριος, Σωτήρας, Ιησούς Χριστός να σας ευλογεί και να σας δίνει δύναμη να διέλθετε το ταξίδι της Σαρακοστής.

2017 STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE . . . CAN YOU DO IT?

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 17 for more information)

PLEASE BE SURE TO COMPLETE YOUR STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS FOR 2016!

Message from

DEMOS ANASTASIADES, PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT / ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟ

Dear Parishioners,

January was a very busy month for us at Saint Nicholas starting with our New Year's Eve Party. It was a great success and I wish to thank everyone who joined us that evening.

Our Philoptochos Society sponsored the annual Vasilopita cutting for the community where every organization received a piece of the bread. We are happy to report that the coin was found in the piece cut for our Mother of God who is the protectress of us all. The coin from the individual Vasilopites was found by Mr. Michael Kefalas. We wish him a very blessed year!

On January 22nd we were honored with a pastoral visit from our Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey. He was accompanied by his Deacon who celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the morning and then attended the commemoration of Greek Letter Day honoring the Three Hierarchs sponsored by our Greek School at the Greektown Square and Event Center. We wish to thank the Chairperson of the Greek School Committee, the Greek School teaching staff, the Greek School PTA, Parish Council members as well as the staff of the Greektown Square and Event Center for a wonderful program and reception.

Preparations for the Saint Nicholas Greek Folk Festival will be starting during the month of February, 2017 with Spiro Alafassos as the head chairperson. However, we are seeking additional co-chairpersons to assist Spiro Alafassos with the organization of the festival. Please contact Spiro Alafassos or myself about serving as a co-chairperson through the church office at 410-633-5020.

We will be honoring our Godparents on Sunday, February 26th. Please take the time to come to church and worship with our Godparents.

Also, don't forget to attend the General Assembly meeting scheduled for later this month on Sunday, February 26th, immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

Finally, I wish to thank the following members of the Parish Council who chose to no longer serve. They are Gus Karagiannopoulos, George G. Diacoloukas, and Sam Glava. We would also like to welcome the following new members to the Council. They are Stavros Katsas, Foula Mastrovasilis, and Philip Philippou. We are looking forward to a very productive year.

In Christ,
Demos Anastasiades
Parish Council President



Αγαπητοί Ενορίτες,

Ο Ιανουάριος ήταν ένας πολυάσχολος μήνας για όλους εμάς στον Άγιο Νικόλα, αρχής γενομένης με την χοροεσπερίδα της Παραμονής της Πρωτοχρονιάς. Είχε μεγάλη επιτυχία. Επ' ευκαιρία θάθελα να ευχαριστήσω όλους που διασκέδασαν αυτή τη βραδυά μαζί μας.

Η Φιλόπτοχος μας, ήταν και πάλι χορηγός της ετήσιας κοπής της πατροπαράδοτης Κοινοτικής βασιλόπιτας, όπου κάθε οργάνωση έλαβε το κομμάτι της. Βρίσκομαι στην ευχάριστη θέση να αναφέρω ότι το φλουρί βρέθηκε στο κομμάτι της Παναγίας μας, Μητέρας του Θεού, που είναι η προστάτιδα όλων μας. Το φλουρί από τα ατομικές βασιλόπιτες, που μοιράστηκαν στο κόσμο, έπεσε στο Μιχάλη Κεφάλια. Του ευχόμαστε να είναι τυχερός όλη τη χρονιά.

Στις 22 Ιανουαρίου είχαμε την τιμή στην ποιμαντική επίσκεψη του Μητροπολίτη μας, Ευαγγέλου, Νέας Ιερσέης. Συνοδευόμενος από τον Διάκονο του, χοροστάτησε στη Θεία Λειτουργία το πρωί και στη συνέχεια παρακολούθησε τον εορτασμό της επετείου των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων που τιμούν των Τριών Ιεραρχών, που χρηματοδοτήθηκε από το

Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο, στην Πλατεία μας, Greektown and Event Center. Θέλω να συγχαρώ και να ευχαριστήσω την υπεύθυνη της Επιτροπής του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, το Διδακτικό Προσωπικό του Ελληνικού Σχολείου. Τον Σύλλογο Γονέων και Δασκάλων, τα μέλη του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου της Κοινότητας, καθώς επίσης και το Προσωπικό της Πλατείας, για το θαυμάσιο Πρόγραμμα και την εν συνεχεία δεξίωση.

Οι προετοιμασίες για το Ελληνικό Λαϊκό μας Πανηγύρι θα ξεκινήσουν εντός του Φεβρουαρίου, 2017 με Υπεύθυνο τον Σπύρο Αλαφασσό. Ωστόσο, προσπαθούμε να βρούμε κι άλλα υπεύθυνα άτομα να βοηθήσουν τον Σπύρο Αλαφασσό στη διοργάνωση του Φεστιβάλ. Παρακαλούμε να ζητήσετε να επικοινωνήσετε με τον Σπύρο ή με εμένα για να αναλάβετε υπευθύνως κάποια εργασία, τηλεφωνώντας στο Κοινοτικό Γραφείο 410-633-5020.

Την Κυριακή, 26 Φεβρουαρίου θα τιμήσουμε τους Αναδόχους και τους Βαπτιστικούς των, στη Εκκλησία μας. Παρακαλείστε να εκκλησιασθείτε αυτή τη Κυριακή με τους Αναδόχους σας.

Επίσης μην ξεχάσετε να προσέλθετε στη Γενική Συνέλευση της Κοινότητας που έχει προγραμματιστεί για την Κυριακή 26 Φεβρουαρίου, αμέσως μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία.

Τέλος θάθελα να ευχαριστήσω τα ακόλουθα μέλη του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου που τελείωσαν τη θητεία τους και απεχώρησαν. Είναι: Κώστας Καραγιαννόπουλος, Γιώργος Διακολούκας και Σωκράτης Γκλάβας. Επίσης θέλω να καλωσορίσω τα νεοεκλεγέντα μέλη του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου. Είναι: Σταύρος Κάτσας, Φούλα Μαστροβασίλη και Φίλιππος Φιλίππου. Προσβλέπουμε σε μια εξαιρετικά παραγωγική χρονιά.

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.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PROTOPRESBYTER FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS, PASTOR Tel: 410-633-5020 • Fax: 410-633-4352 • Cell: 443-742-8314

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GENEVIEVE ZDZIERA, SERGEANT AT ARMS

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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: CHRISSE 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.*

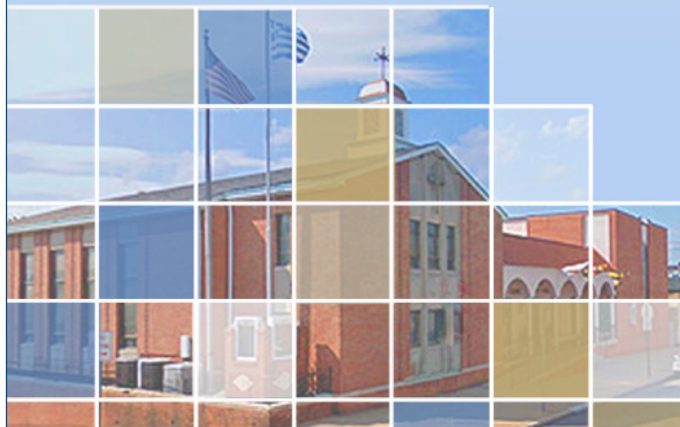
*Mary Serafis
Scholarship Chairperson*



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Sunday, February 26th

IMMEDIATELY AFTER
THE CONCLUSION
OF THE DIVINE LITURGY



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH-
BALTIMORE-MARYLAND

Notice of General Assembly Sunday, February 26, 2017

February, 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 ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ, 2017

Φεβρουάριος 2017

ΠΡΟΣΚΛΗΣΗ ΓΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΕΛΕΥΣΗΣ

Σύμφωνα με τους Ομοιομόρφους Κανονισμούς των Κοινοτήτων της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής, και τους Εσωτερικούς Κανονισμούς της Κοινότητάς 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 Κοινότητας 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 Κοινότητας 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 Κοινότητας.
6. Έκθεση από την Ταμία της Κοινότητας.
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 Κοινότητας προτρέπονται να να λάβουν μέρος στη Συνέλευση, διότι θα συζητηθούν θέματα σοβαρά. Επίσης σαν μέλη της Κοινότητας του Αγίου Νικολάου, είναι καθήκον μας να συμμετέχουμε στις Συνελεύσεις και να εκφράζουμε την υποστήριξή μας και τη γνώμη μας, για το καλό και την πρόοδο της Κοινότητας. ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΕΙΣΤΕ ΝΑ ΣΥΜΜΕΤΕΧΕΤΕ.

Από τον Ιερέα και το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: KOINONIA DEADLINE

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

ISSUE MONTH: MARCH 2017 - SUBMISSIONS DUE: FEBRUARY 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!

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE



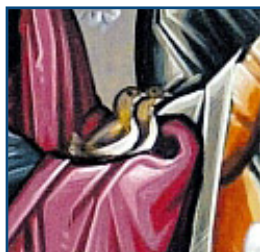
Icon of The Presentation of Christ written by the hand of Athanasios Clark and used with permission.
© Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

INTRODUCTION

This feast, celebrated on February 2, is known in the Orthodox Church as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Another name for the feast is The Meeting of our Lord. Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians call the feast, The Purification of the Holy Virgin. About 450 AD in Jerusalem, people began the custom of holding lighted candles during the Divine Liturgy of this feast day. Therefore, some churches in the West refer to this holy day as Candlemas. The Feast of the Presentation concludes the observances related to the Nativity of Christ, a period that opened on November 15 with the beginning of the Nativity fast.

BIBLICAL STORY

The story of the Presentation is told in Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple.



Joseph and Mary were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple.

The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. In addition, if the parents were wealthy, they were to bring a lamb and a young pigeon or a turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice at the Temple. The custom provided that if the parents were poor, they were to offer two pigeons or two turtle doves for the sacrifice.

When Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple. As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by a very old man named Simeon. He was a holy man and was noted as a very intelligent scholar. Simeon spent much time studying about the prophets of Israel. It was during his studies that he learned of the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah to come and deliver Israel from their conquerors. From that time on, Simeon spent his time praying for the Messiah to come. He spent many years in prayer.

Finally, while Simeon was praying he heard the voice of God. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said:

“Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel.”

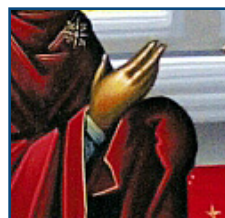
Also, in the Temple was Anna the Prophetess. She had been a widow for many years. Anna was about eighty-four years old and spent her time in the Temple worshiping, fasting, and praying. When she saw the Christ Child she praised God and spoke of him to all who were awaiting the Messiah.



Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God.

After Jesus was presented in the Temple, the family returned to Galilee to the town of Nazareth. The Bible tells us that Jesus grew and became strong, and was filled with wisdom.

ICON OF THE FEAST



The Theotokos is holding out her hands in a gesture of offering and humility.

The Holy Icon shows that the meeting takes place inside the Temple and in front of the altar. The altar has a book or a scroll on it and is covered by a canopy. The Theotokos stands to the left and is holding out her hands in a gesture of offering. The one hand of the Theotokos is covered by

her cloak or as it is known, the maphorion. She has just handed her Son to Simeon.

Christ is shown as a child, but He is not in swaddling clothes. He is clothed in a small dress and his legs are bare. Jesus appears to be giving a blessing. Simeon holds Jesus with both hands which are covered. This shows the reverence Simeon had for the Messiah. Simeon is bare headed and there is nothing to show that he is a priest. Some biblical scholars say that Simeon was probably a priest of the Temple or a Doctor of the Law.

Joseph is behind the Theotokos. He is carrying the two turtle doves for the sacrifice. Anna the Prophetess is also standing behind the Theotokos and is pointing to the Christ child.

The words Simeon spoke when he saw the Christ Child are known as “St. Simeon’s Prayer.” This prayer is sung daily at the evening Vespers services of the Orthodox Church.

In the Orthodox Church, both baby boys and baby girls are taken to the Church on the fortieth day after their birth. This is done in remembrance of the Theotokos and Joseph taking the infant Jesus to the Temple.

ORTHODOX CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

This Feast of our Lord is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, which is conducted on the day of the Feast and preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Scripture readings for the Feast are the following: at Great Vespers – extracts from Exodus 12:15-13:16; Leviticus 12 and Numbers 8; Isaiah 6:1-12, and 19:1,3-5,12,16,19-21; at Matins – Luke 2:25-32; at the Divine Liturgy – Hebrews 7:7-17 and Luke 2:22-40.



Joseph offers the sacrifice of a poor family while Anna the Prophetess praises God and “speaks about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.” Luke 2: 38



DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Angelou Sfakianoudis

Mrs. Mary Serafis
Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Theoharis
Mr. & Mrs. John Bouyoukas
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Bouloumbassis
Ms. Sevasti Cornias
Mr. & Mrs. John Pikounis
George & Maria Kornias
Mr. & Mrs. Irodotos Reppas
Mrs. Kiki Vavakas
Mr. Samuel R. Miller
Ms. Maria Salpeas
Mr. & Mrs. Aristides Polychronis
Mrs. Jeanne Tsakalos
Mrs. Helen Pikounis
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsamos
Mr. & Mrs. George Mary Ann Rigopoulos
Dora, Georgios Kolotos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael C. Cornias
Mr. Christ Angelopoulos
Judge & Mrs. John C. Themelis
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Hartofilis
Ms. Kalliope Marusiodis
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios A. Stakias
George & Theoni Cornias
Mrs. Despina Cornias
George & Vasiliki Pikounis
Mr. Costas T. Cornias
Mrs. Calliope T. Cornias
Mrs. Vasiliki Kapou
Bill & Cynthia Popomaronis

In memory of George Roros

Mrs. Rosa Cornias
George & Kiki Roros

Mr. & Mrs. Pantelis Hondrelis & Family
Ms. Maria Salpeas & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Stakias & Family
Eftihis, Maria & Nicoletta Filipidis
Mrs. Mary Serafis
Mr. Mahmoud Abbas
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsamos
George & Vasiliki Pikounis
Dimitrios & Politimi Roros
Mrs. Kiki Vavakas & Family
Irodotos & Paraskevi Reppas
Mr. Costas T. Cornias
Mrs. Calliope T. Cornias
Ioannis & Angeliki Sfakianoudis
Tom & Virginia Finney
Mrs. Anastasia Vasilakopoulos
Mrs. Vaso Batistas Klosteridis
Mrs. Despina Glykiadou
Mr. & Mrs. George Voxakis
Michael & Fotini Cornias
Mrs. Anastasia Sarioglou & Family

In memory of Carol Fotiou

George & Maria Kornias
Ioannis & Angeliki Sfakianoudis

In memory of Emmanuel Pikounis

George & Maria Kornias
George & Vasiliki Pikounis

In memory of John Georgitsos

Mrs. Stavroula Christakou
Mrs. Helen Bisbikis

In memory of Dr. Nicolas Papadimitriou

Mrs. Erma Papadimitriou
Dr. George Dimitri

In memory of Marshal Kaputos

Mrs. Fotini Baltatzis
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Agapios
Ernest & Lillian Eliou
Mr. Antonios Sazaklis
Mr. George Antonas
Ms. Stavroula Deros
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Onasis
Nickolas & Mary Antonas

In memory of Anna Farsadakis

Ms. Jane Weiss

In memory of Amalia Hatzikosmas

Mrs. Maritsa Souranis
Mrs. Antigoni Apepos
Deanna & Steve Moskos
The National Eye Institute

In memory of Maritsa Hatzikosmas

Mrs. Maritsa Souranis
Mrs. Antigoni Apepos

In memory of John Paterakis

Mrs. Helen Pikounis

In memory of John P. Johns

Mrs. Teresa Pappas



DIAMONDS NEWS

Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Luncheon will be provided at \$10.00 per person.

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

Η επομένη μας συνεδρίαση θα είναι την Τρίτη, 14 Φεβρουαρίου, στις 1:00 μ.μ., με Γεύμα προς \$ 10 το άτομο.

Το Σάββατο, 18 Νοεμβρίου, 2017, προγραμματίζουμε ταξίδι στην Πενσυλβάνια, στο Rainbow Dinner Theatre, να παρακολουθήσουμε τη ξεκαρδιστική κομωδία. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες επικοινωνήστε με Κ. Ρόζα Τσακάλου (410-282-2940). Κατά γενική αίτηση 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



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS - Οι Τρεις Ιεράρχες



Οι Τρεις Ιεράρχες

Ως Τρεις Ιεράρχες αναφέρονται τρεις άγιοι και θεολόγοι της ορθόδοξης χριστιανικής θρησκείας, προστάτες των γραμμάτων και των μαθητών, ο Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος, ο Βασίλειος ο Μέγας και ο Γρηγόριος ο Ναζιανζηνός ή Θεολόγος. Αναδείχθηκαν πατέρες της Εκκλησίας και άγιοι. Η σοφία και η δράση τους τους έδωσε τον τίτλο των μεγίστων φωστήρων, όπως ψέλνεται και στο τροπάριό τους:

Τούς τρεις μεγίστους φωστήρας τῆς Τρισηλίου θεότητος,
τούς τὴν οἰκουμένην ἀκτίσει δογμάτων θείων πυρσεύσαντας,
τούς μελιρῦτους ποταμούς τῆς σοφίας,
τούς τὴν κτίσιν πᾶσαν θεογνωσίας νάμασι καταρδεύσαντας,
Βασίλειον τόν μέγαν, καί τόν Θεολόγον Γρηγόριον,
σύν τῷ κλεινῷ Ἰωάννῃ, τῷ τὴν γλῶτταν χρυσορῆμονι,
πάντες οἱ τῶν λόγων αὐτῶν ἔρασταί, συνελθόντες ὕμνοις τιμῶμεν·
αὐτοὶ γάρ τῃ Τριάδι, ὑπὲρ ὕμῶν αἶε πρεσβεύουσιν.

Η γιορτή των Τριῶν Ιεραρχῶν καθιερώθηκε στα μέσα του 11ου αιώνα και στα χρόνια του Κωνσταντίνου Θ' Μονομάχου ή του Αλέξιου Α' Κομνηνού από τον μητροπολίτη Ευχαΐτων Ιωάννη Μαυρόποδα, ο οποίος συνέθεσε τμήμα τουλάχιστον της ακολουθίας για τους τρεις αγίους της Εκκλησίας. Η αυτονόμηση της γιορτῆς από το εκκλησιαστικό πλαίσιο και η θεομοθέτησή της ως σχολικής εκδήλωσης δεν αναφέρεται πριν από τον 19ο αιώνα. Οι διαδικασίες καθιέρωσης της γιορτῆς ως εκπαιδευτικής συνδέονται με το Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνῶν (9 Αυγούστου του 1841). Ο πρώτος εορτασμός-μνημόσυνο πραγματοποιήθηκε στις 30 Ιανουαρίου 1842. Η πραγματική

θεομοθέτηση της γιορτῆς όμως θα καθυστερήσει, θα πραγματοποιηθεί το 1911.

Την γιορτή αυτή φέτος είχε την τιμή να την διοργανώσει το σχολείο μας στις 22 Ιανουαρίου 2017, υπό την επίβλεψη του Σεβασμιότατου Μητροπολίτη Νέας Ιερσῆς κ.κ. Ευαγγελου. Την γιορτάσαμε στην Πλατεία όπου διοργανώνουμε όλες τις μεγάλες μας γιορτές. Παρεβρέθησαν το Ιερατείο της Βαλτιμόρης και γειτωνικών πόλεων, ο Σεβασμιότατος Μητροπολίτης μας και πήραν μέρος τα σχολεία με την σειρά που εμφανίσθηκαν:

Ελληνικό Σχολείο Ευαγγελισμού
Ελληνικό Σχολείο Αγ. Θεοδώρου
Ελληνικό Σχολείο Αγ. Αικατερίνης
Ελληνικό Σχολείο Αγ. Νικολάου
Hellenic School
Ελληνικό Σχολείο Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου και Αγ. Ελένης, Αννάπολης

Τα αγαπημένα μας παιδιά είπαν ποιήματα, υποδήθηκαν τέλεια τους ρόλους τους στο αφηγηματικό και τραγούδησαν δύο τραγούδια. Είμαστε πολύ υπερήφανοι για τα παιδιά του Ελληνικού Σχολείου του Αγίου Νικολάου διότι δούλεψαν πολύ σκληρά. Τα παιδιά μας έδωσαν εξετάσεις την ίδια εβδομάδα στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο και μετά από τόσο διάβασμα κατάφεραν να μας βγάλουν ασπροπρόσωπους με την καταπληκτική παρουσία και ερμηνίες τους. Θα πρέπει να συγχαρούμε τους γονείς και τις δασκάλες που εκτέλεσαν το έργο τους και επετέλεσαν στην ολική επιτυχία της εκδήλωσης.



We would like to thank Mrs. Despina Kostalas and her family for their donations of the Community Vasilopita and the individual ones that were given out after church. We wish them many years of Health, Happiness and Prosperity. The lucky recipient of this years cross was Mr Michael Kefalas.

The special tray on Sunday, January the 8th for Saint Basils Academy amount was \$300.00. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Our trip to The Ronald McDonald House was rewarding but very emotional. Thank you to Costa's Inn and the members of the Philoptochos Board for the donations of the meal that was served. We pray that God gives the families the strength to care for their loved ones and grant them their health!

On Tuesday, January 31st a "Night Out" at Michaels Steak and Lobster located on Eastern Avenue. Please join us for an evening of family fellowship! Donation \$35.00 (includes dinner) cash bar. For tickets or information please ask any Philoptochos Board Member or email me at norakefalas@gmail.com.

Saturday 25th "The Annual Apokreatiko Glendi" in the Church Social Hall. Music by Apollonia. Bring your family and friends for an evening of fun, food and dancing! Donation \$25.00 for Adults / Children 12 and under \$10.00 Cash Bar.

PHILOTOCHOS DONATIONS:

In memory of Amalia Hatzikosmas, Maritsa Hatzikosmas, Nicholas Souranis and Maria Saliaris - Mrs. Katina and Peggy Rossis

PHILOTOCHOS FEBRUARY SCHEDULE:

Monday, February 6, 2017: General meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 25, 2017: Apokreatiko Glenti

Monday, February 27, 2017: Kathara Deftera (Clean Monday)
Philoptochos Pot Luck Lenten
Dinner, after the Service

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, March 4
Philoptochos Lenten Retreat

Θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε την κα Δέσποινα Κωστάλα και την οικογένειά της που δώρισαν τις Βασιλόπιτες, την Κοινοτική Βασιλόπιτα και τα ατομικά, που μοιράστηκαν μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία. Τους ευχόμαστε Χρόνια Πολλά με Υγεία, ευτυχία και ευημερία. Ο τυχερός εφέτος, που πήρε το χρυσό σταυρό ήταν ο κ. Μιχάλης Κεφάλας.

Ο έκτακτος δίσκος της Κυριακής, 8 Ιανουαρίου, συνέλεξε το ποσό των \$ 300.00 προς υποστήριξη της Ακαδημίας του Αγίου Βασιλείου. Σας ευχαριστούμε όλους για τη γενναιοδωρία σας. Η επίσκεψή μας στο Ronald McDonald House ήταν ικανοποιητική, αλλά πολύ συναισθηματική. Επ' ευκαιρία θέλουμε να ευχαριστήσουμε το Εστιατόριο COSTA'S INN και τα μέλη του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου της Φιλοπτώχου για τις δωρεές του γεύματος που προσέφεραν. Προσευχόμαστε όπως ο Θεός τους δίνει τη δύναμη να φροντίζουν τους αγαπημένους τους και να τους χαρίζει την υγεία τους!

Στις 31 Ιανουαρίου, ημέρα Τρίτη, θα έχουμε την "Βραδυά Εξόδου" στο Εστιατόριο Michaels Steak and Lobster που βρίσκεται στο Eastern Avenue. Παρακαλείσθε να μας τιμήσετε και να περάσουμε μαζί μια βραδιά οικογενειακής και φιλικής συντροφιάς. Δωρεά \$ 35.00 (περιλαμβάνει μόνο το δείπνο) πληρώνετε το ποτό σας. Για εισιτήρια και πληροφορίες παρακαλούμε να επικοινωνήσετε με οποιοδήποτε μέλος του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου της Φιλοπτώχου ή στο email norakefalas@gmail.com.

Σάββατο 25 Φεβρουαρίου "Το Ετήσιο Αποκριάτικο Γλέντι μας" στην Κοινοτική Αίθουσα. Μουσική από την Ορχήστρα ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΙΑ. Φέρτε την οικογένεια και τους φίλους σας για μια βραδιά διασκέδασης, με φαγητό και χορό! Δωρεά \$ 25.00 για ενήλικες / παιδιά 12 και κάτω \$ 10.00, πληρώνετε το ποτό σας.

ΛΩΡΕΕΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΩΧΟ

Κα Κατίνα και Τσαμπίκα Ρόσση εις μνήμη των:
Αμαλίας Χατζηκοσμά, Μαρίτσας Χατζηκοσμά, Νικολάου Σουράνη και Μαρίας Σαλιάρη

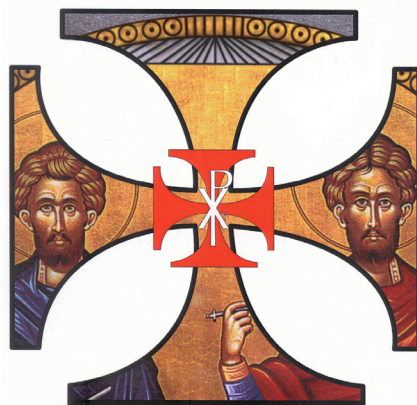
Πρόγραμμα εκδηλώσεων της Φιλοπτώχου:

Δευτέρα 6 Φεβρουαρίου, 2017 – Συνεδρίαση, 7:00 μ.μ.

Σάββατο 25 Φεβρουαρίου – Αποκριάτικο Γλέντι

Δευτέρα, 27 Φεβρουαρίου – Καθαρά Δευτέρα.
Νηστίσιμο δείπνο, μετά το Απόδειπνο

PHILOTOCHOS



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Σάββατο 4 Μαρτίου
Φιλόπτωχος, Πνευματική Περισυλλογή της
Τεσσαρακοστής

SATURDAY, THE DAY OF SOULS

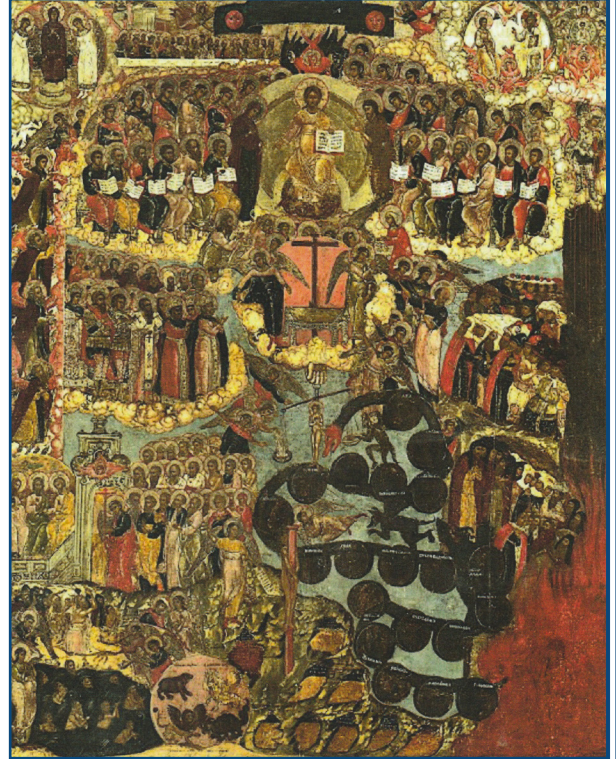
From the early times, our Church dedicated Saturday to the souls. It is primarily the day of those who have fallen asleep. And Christians always took care, with memorial services and charitable acts done especially on Saturdays, to stay close to their dead and ask God for their repose and salvation. Even today one will see more people in graves on Saturdays than on any other day.

But why is Saturday the day of the souls? There are many explanations. The most likely explanation why Saturday was set apart for the departed appears to be that the word "Saturday" - coming from the Hebrew word Sabbath - means rest. And on this day we are praying for the repose of the souls.

Starting from this point of view, it is worth our expressing a few thoughts so that we of today may remember again great truths concerning the Saturday of the Souls. Properly speaking, there are only two Saturdays of the Souls, the one on Saturday before Meat-fare Sunday and the other on Saturday before Pentecost. Yet Saturday generally as the day for those basic and saving truths:

1. That the world does not end in whatever we see and count, but also extends in the space of the spirit, which also exists, coexists together with us. In this place the souls of our departed beloved are encamped.
2. That the Church is a continuous intercommunion between those of its members that are still struggling on earth and those that have already slept in the Lord.
3. That amidst the fever of action and the struggle of daily life we must remember that the natural terminus of every effort, which is rest in the Lord, since there is nothing more certain than death and nothing more uncertain than the hour of death.

*By Archbishop Stylianos of Australia
from The Orthodox Messenger, Jan/Feb 1992*



PREPARING FOR GREAT LENT - The Triodion

Written by Father Thomas Hopko

The Triodion begins on Sunday, February 5th. This is the first Sunday which prepares us for the Great and Holy Lent which will begin this year on Monday, February 27. **The 1st Sunday of the Triodion is the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.** The focus here is on the two men who went to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee who was a very decent and righteous man of religion, the other a publican who was a truly sinful tax-collector who was cheating the people. The first, although genuinely righteous, boasted before God and was condemned, according to Christ. The second, although genuinely sinful, begged for mercy, received it, and was justified by God. The meditation here is that we have neither the religious piety of the Pharisee nor the repentance of the publican by which alone we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, and to beg for mercy.

The next Sunday in preparation for Great Lent is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son (February 12). Hearing the parable of Christ about God's loving forgiveness, we are called to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the movement of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that the Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong.

The next Sunday is called Meatfare Sunday (February 19) since it is officially the last day before Easter for eating meat. It commemorates Christ's parable of the Last Judgment. (Matthew 25:31-46) We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in every man and by serving Christ through them. Our salvation and final judgment will depend upon our deeds, not merely on our intentions or even on the mercies of God devoid of our own personal cooperation and obedience.

We are saved not merely by prayer and fasting, not by "religious exercises" alone. We are saved by serving Christ through his people, the goal toward which all piety and prayer is ultimately directed.

Finally, on the eve of Great Lent, the day called **Cheesefare Sunday and Forgiveness Sunday** (March 1), we sing of Adam's exile from paradise. We identify, ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us.



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:

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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.greestownsquare.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@greestownsquare.com and attach the picture.
- Review us on our Facebook page at www.greestownsquare.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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TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE



SAINT PAISIOS ON PROGRESS IN TODAY'S WORLD

The following quotes are from *Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain*

Even Hearts Have Turned Into Steel...

Because modern conveniences have exceeded all bounds, they have become inconveniences. Machines have multiplied and so have distractions; man has been turned into a machine. All kinds of machines and inventions now rule over man. This is why human hearts too are turning into steel. All of these modern comforts make the cultivation of conscience in people difficult. In the old days, people used to work with animals and were more compassionate. If you overloaded an animal and the poor thing kneeled down from the weight, you felt bad for it. If it was hungry and looked at you sniveling, it broke your heart. I remember, when a cow of ours fell ill, we suffered with it, because we considered it a member of the family. Today people own lots of devices made of steel, but, unfortunately, even their own heart have turned into steel.

Is the equipment broke? It is welded together. Is the car not running? It is taken to the repair shop. If it cannot be fixed, they throw it away; they have no feelings for it. After all, it's just a piece of iron. **The heart does not take part in these decisions, and this is how selfishness and pride find fertile ground and take root.**

Today, we have so little consideration for our fellow human beings. In the old days, if there was any leftover food, people would find someone that needed it and would give it away before it spoiled. A spiritually advanced person would even say, "Let the poor person eat first and I will eat later." Nowadays, people put the food in the refrigerator and don't even think of those in need. I remember, whenever we had a good yield of vegetables or fruit, we would always share it with our neighbors. What could we do with all that produce? It would spoil anyway. **Now that we have refrigerators people think to themselves, "Why, share it with others? We'll put it in the fridge and keep it for ourselves."** And I will not even mention the tons of produce we throw away or bury in landfills, while millions of people in other parts of the world are starving to death.

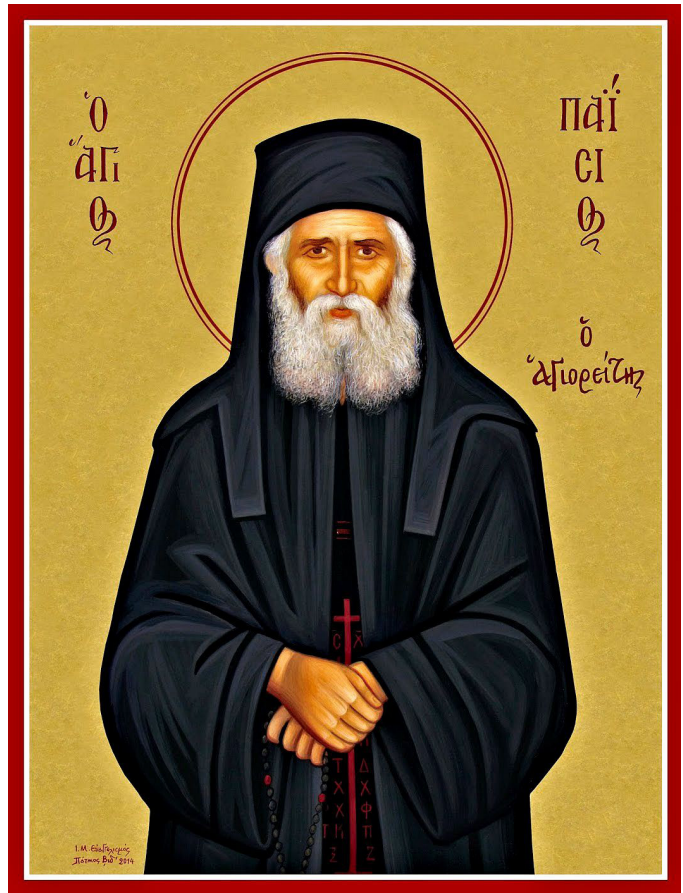
In secular life, excessive conveniences make life difficult for people. [...] We should not seek comforts. [...]

*In doing our chores, we sometimes may justify the use of machines or other conveniences to do our work faster and have more time for our spiritual life. As a result our life becomes stressful and full of concerns and anxieties, and we come to resemble lay people rather monks. When some young monks joined a Monastery, the first thing they did was to buy pressure cookers in order to gain time for their spiritual activities; they ended up sitting around and talking for hours. It's not that modern conveniences help us gain time and apply it to spiritual things. **These devices do save us time, but we don't seem to have enough time to dedicate to prayer.***

The most dreadful enemy created by post-industrial culture, the culture of information technology and the image, is cunning distraction. Swamped by millions of images and a host of different situations on television and in the media in general, people lose their peace of mind, their self-control, their powers of contemplation and reflection and turn outwards, becoming strangers to themselves, in a word mindless, impervious to the dictates of their intelligence.

In the industrial era, people became consumers and slaves to things produced. In post-industrial society, they are also becoming consumers and slaves to images and information, which fill their lives.

[...]
I have realized that the destruction of man lies in the abundance of material goods, because it prevents him from experiencing the presence of God and appreciating His benevolence. If you want to take someone away from God, give him plenty of material goods. He will instantly forget Him forever.



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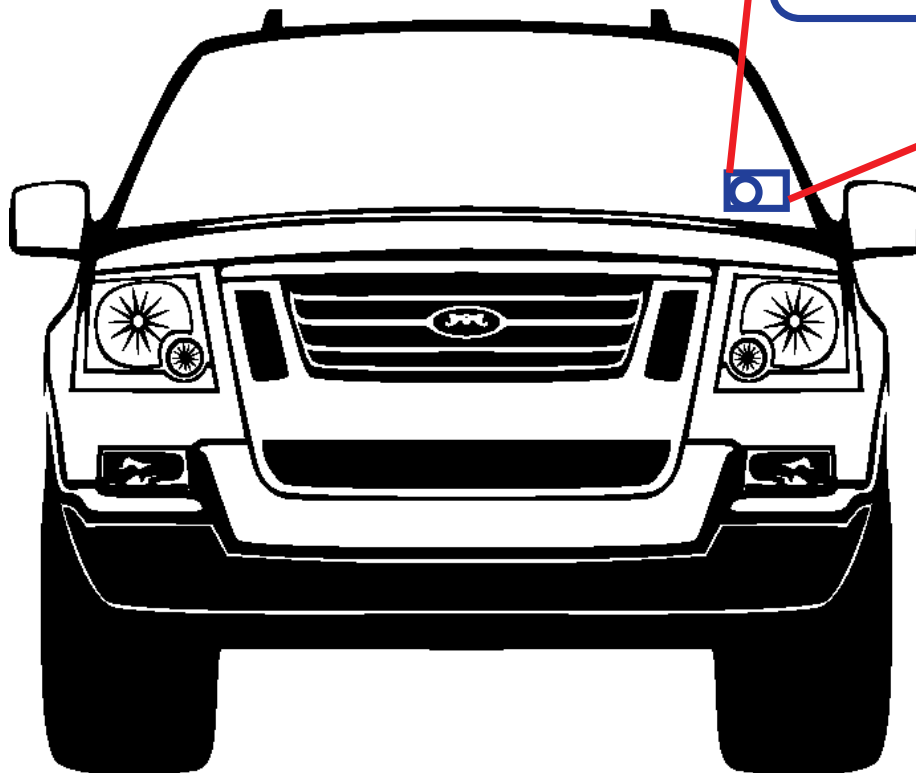
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*Be sure to
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email address
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stewardship
card!!*

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LITURGICAL PROGRAM

- Thursday, February 2: The Feast of the "Presentation of our Lord": Orthros 8:45 am - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
- Sunday, February 5: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Triodion Begins) - Fast Free Week
Orthros 8:45 am - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- Friday, February 10: St. Haralambos the Great Martyr: Orthros 8:45 am - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
- Sunday, February 12: Sunday of the Prodigal Son: Orthros 8:45 am - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- Saturday, February 18: First Saturday of the Souls: Orthros 8:45 am - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
A Memorial service will be chanted for the departed in Christ.
- Sunday, February 19: Meatfare Sunday (Judgment Sunday): Orthros 8:45 am - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- Saturday, February 25: Second Saturday of the Souls: Orthros 8:45 am - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Memorial service will follow for the departed in Christ
- Sunday, February 26: Cheesefare Sunday (Forgiveness Sunday): Orthros 8:45 am - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- Monday, February 27: GREAT LENT BEGINS: Compline Service 7:00 pm



February 27:
Procopius the Confessor of Decapolis

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 1st: Parish Life Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. for all Ministry Directors and Head Advisors
Saturday, Feb. 4th: GOYA Basket Bingo at the Greektown Square & Event Center starting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 6th: Hellenic Golden Coins registration begins this evening at 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 6th: The Ladies Philoptochos General monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 7th: Choir rehearsal in preparation of Holy Lent at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 8th: Bible Study with Father Michael at 6:00 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 10th: The Rhodian Society's Bull and Oyster Roast
Saturday, Feb. 11th: Kritiki Vradia Live Concert Sponsored by the Hellenic Golden Coins at Jimmy's Seafood. Doors open at 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 12th: GOYA Executive Board meeting immediate after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy
Monday, Feb. 13th: GOYA monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 14th: Diamonds monthly meeting at 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 15th: Parish Council monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 15th: Choir rehearsal in preparation of Holy Lent at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 18th: J.O.Y. Program from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 18th-Sunday, Feb. 19th: GOYA Away Basketball Tournament at Wilmington, DE
Monday, Feb. 20th: Greek School Closed for President's Day
Wednesday, Feb. 22nd: Bible Study with Father Michael at 6:00 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 24th: GOYA to visit Riverside Nursing Home
Saturday, Feb. 25th: Philoptochos Annual Apokreatiko Glendi with Apollonia in the Social Hall
Sunday, Feb. 26th: Godparents Sunday
Sunday, Feb. 26th: St. Nicholas General Assembly meeting immediately after the Divine Liturgy
Monday, Feb. 27th: Kathara Deftera – Annual Lenten Pot Luck Dinner immediately after the Great Compline service
Tuesday, Feb. 28th: Choir rehearsal in preparation of Holy Lent at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Saturday, March 4th: Philoptochos Lenten Retreat
Sunday, March 5th: Sunday of Orthodoxy
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.
Saturday, March 11th: GOYA Visitation to Homeless Shelter
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

