

THE MESSENGER

Weekly Worship Guide of The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation, Atlanta Georgia

Sunday, February 11, 2018 - Κυριακή, 11 Φεβρουαρίου, 2018

Meatfare Sunday - Κυριακή τῶν Ἀπόκρεω

Blasios the Hieromartyr of Sebastia, The two children and the seven women who martyred with St. Blasios, The finding of the Relics of the Prophet Zacharias, father of St. John the Forerunner, Theodora, the Empress who restored Orthodoxy, St. George the Serbian, the New-Martyr.

Today is Godparents Sunday!

We welcome all of our Godparents who are visiting today!

Following the Prayer of Thanksgiving, our Sunday School students leave for classes. You are invited to join them in class, or meet them in Carlos Hall during coffee hour.

Sunday School Class Presentations

6th Grade: Getting to Know Christ

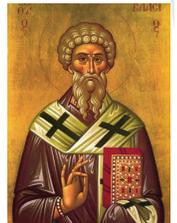
7th Grade: Stump the Parish!

8th Grade : Learning from Mysterious Icons

*The Artoklasia is offered today by our Cathedral Philoptochos
"Ypapanti" Chapter in honor of their recent Feast Day*

St. Blasios the Hieromartyr of Sebastia

Saint Blasios was Bishop of Sebastia. Divine grace, through which he healed the diseases of men and beasts, and especially of infants, made his name famous. He contested for the Faith under Licinius in the year 316.



St. Theodora the Empress



As for the renowned Empress Theodora, she was from Paphlagonia and was the daughter of a certain Marinus, the commander of a military regiment. While being the wife of the Emperor Theophilus, the last of the Iconoclasts, she adorned the royal diadem with her virtue and piety; as long as her husband Theophilus lived, she privately venerated icons, despite his displeasure. After his death, she restored the holy icons to public veneration; this is commemorated on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, the First Sunday of the Great Fast. She governed the Empire wisely for fifteen years, since her son Michael was not yet of age. But in 857 she forsook her royal power and entered a certain convent in Constantinople called Gastria, where she finished the course of her life in holiness and reposed in the Lord. Her sacred incorrupt remains are found in Corfu, in the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos of the Cave, in the capital city of the island (see also Dec. 12).

(From the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America)

ORDER OF HYMNS FOLLOWING THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Απολυτικίον Απολυτίκια

Ἀναστάσιμον Απολυτίκιον. ᾠδὸς γ'

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιášθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ᾄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ἁγίου. ᾠδὸς πλ. δ'

Καὶ τρόπων μέτοχος, καὶ θρόνων διάδοχος, τῶν Ἀποστόλων γενόμενος, τὴν πρᾶξιν εὗρες θεόπνευστε, εἰς θεωρίας ἐπίβασιν· διὰ τοῦτο τὸν λόγον τῆς ἀληθείας ὀρθοτομῶν, καὶ τῇ πίστει ἐνήθλησας μέχρι αἵματος, Ἱερομάρτυς Βλάσιε. Πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ. ᾠδὸς δ'

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ Κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις, ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Κοντάκιον ᾠδὸς α'

Ὅταν ἔλθῃς ὁ Θεός, ἐπὶ γῆς μετὰ δόξης, καὶ τρέμωσι τὰ σύμπαντα, ποταμὸς δὲ τοῦ πυρὸς πρὸ τοῦ Βήματος ἔλκη, καὶ βίβλοι ἀνοίγωνται, καὶ τὰ κρυπτὰ δημοσιεύωνται, τότε ῥῦσαί με, ἐκ τοῦ πυρὸς τοῦ ἀσβέστου, καὶ ἀξίωσον, ἐκ δεξιῶν σου μὲ στήναι, Κριτὰ δικαιοσύνη.

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode 3

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

Apolytikion of the Saint. Mode pl. 4

As a sharer of the ways and a successor to the throne of the Apostles, O inspired of God, you found discipline to be a means of ascent to divine vision. Wherefore, having rightly divided the word of truth, you did also contest for the Faith even unto blood, O Hieromartyr Blaise. Intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Apolytikion of the Church. Mode 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the mystery which was hidden from eternity. The Son of God becomes the Virgin's Son, and Gabriel announces the grace of this Good News. Let us also join with him, calling to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Woman full of grace; the Lord is with you.

Kontakion. Mode 1

When You come down to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all things will cower tremulous, and a river of fire will draw before Your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened up, and public knowledge will things hidden be. Rescue me, then, I pray, from unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O You, the most righteous Judge.



DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 13 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK

MEATFARE SUNDAY ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΟΚΡΕΩ

THE READING IS FROM

ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 8:8-13; 9:1-2

TODAY'S EPISTLE READER: PETER KESSLER

PROKEIMENON: *Great is our Lord, and great is His power.*

VERSE: *Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.*

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

“Take up and read, take up and read.” St. Augustine, *Confessions XII*

DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 29 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK





ACOLYTES GROUP TWO

Charlie Nelms
Demetre Lignos
Nick Pappas
Niko Reynolds
Peter Kessler
Spears Vavalides

Christopher Harakas
Konstantine Vlahos
Michael Michaels
Nikolaos Constantinides
Pete Constantinides
Platon Constantinides

HANDMAIDENS GROUP FOUR

Bella Reynolds
Gabriella Pappas
Laila Turner
Paulina Katsoudas
Zoe Nelms

Christina Nastopoulos
Isabella Pappas
Marcella Vlahos
Sophia Karampelas

The following Parish Council members are on duty for services this week:

Group: St. John Chrysostom

Chris Adams
Constance Nagle

Tom McBride III
George Karolis

Stacie Nefos
Dimitri Shreckengost

GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered in the Orthodox Church only to those individuals baptized and chrismated (confirmed) in the Orthodox Faith. To participate in Holy Communion one must be in good standing with the Church spiritually (for example, married people must have had their marriage blessed in the Church; and, all must be without grave sin on their hearts). For all Orthodox Christians, the proper preparation for Holy Communion must be observed: that is, examination of conscience, confession, reading the prayers for Holy Communion, and the proper fasting. If you have any further questions about this, please speak with the clergy. Women should remove all lipstick when approaching for Holy Communion. Please let parents with their babies and the elderly approach first. Thank you.

"How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God." Psalm 83 (84): 1-2



Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis, *Dean*
Rev. Fr. Christos P. Mars, *Presbyter*
Elias Lampropoulos, *Pastoral Assistant*

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