

THE MESSENGER

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

Sunday, February 12th, 2017 - Κυριακή, 12η Φεβρουαρίου 2017

Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Κυριακή τοῦ Ἀσώτου

*Meletios of Antioch and Antonios of Constantinople the Hierarchs, Christos the New-Martyr
"By the intercessions of Your Holy Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen!"*

Today is Godparents Sunday!

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.

Today's Memorials

Found on Page 93 of Divine Liturgy Book

- 40 Day Memorial for Admiral George Besbekas
- 40 Day Memorial for Stella (Styliani) Vaughn
- 1 Year Memorial for Presbytera Kathryn Constantinides
- 1 Year Memorial for Chris Kliros
- 14 Year Memorial for Presbytera Eurydice Constantinides

Sunday School Class Presentations

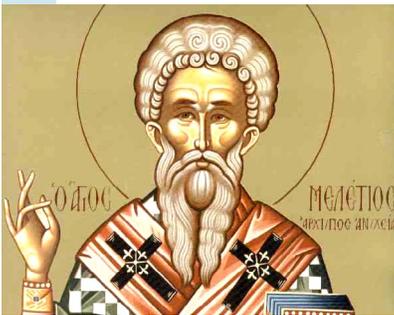
6th grade- "Living an Orthodox Life" **7th grade-** "Holy Mysteries"
8th grade - "Orthodox Saints and Feast Days"

40 Day Blessing

Baby of Panayotis & Andrea Koulouris

St. Meletios Archbishop of Antioch

This holy Father, who was from Melitene of Armenia. Consecrated Bishop of Sebastia in 357, he was later banished from his throne and departed for Beroea of Syria (this is the present-day Aleppo). After the Arian bishop of Antioch had been deposed, the Orthodox and the Arians each strove to have a man of like mind with themselves become the next Bishop of Antioch. Meletius was highly esteemed by all, and since the Arians believed him to share their own opinion, they had him raised to the throne of Antioch. As soon as he had taken the helm of the Church of Antioch, however, he began preaching the Son's consubstantiality with the Father. Shortly after, he was banished by the Arian Emperor Constantius. After the passage of time, he was recalled to his throne, but was banished again the third time by Valens. It was Saint Meletius who ordained Saint John Chrysostom reader and deacon in Antioch. He lived until the Second Ecumenical Council in 381, over which he presided, being held in great honor as a zealot of the Faith and a venerable elder hierarch.



While at the Council, Saint Meletius fell ill and reposed a short while after. Saint Gregory of Nyssa, among others, gave a moving oration at his funeral; bemoaning the loss of him whom all loved as a father, he said, "Where is that sweet serenity of his eyes? Where that bright smile upon his lips? Where that kind right hand, with fingers outstretched to accompany the benediction of the mouth?" (PG 46:8-6). And he lamented, "Our Elias has been caught up, and no Elisseus is left behind in his place." (ibid., 860). The holy relics of Saint Meletius were returned to Antioch and were buried beside Saint Babylas the Martyr (see Sept. 4), in the Church dedicated to the Martyr which Meletius, in his zeal for the Martyr's glory, had helped build with his own hands.

(From the Website of the Greek- Orthodox Archdiocese of America)

ORDER OF HYMNS FOLLOWING THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Απολυτίκια Ἀπολυτίκια

Ἀναστάσιμον Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἦχος α΄

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν σου Σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτὴρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν· διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι ζωοδότα· Δόξα τῇ Ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε φιλόανθρωπε.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ἀργιεπισκόπου Ἦχος δ΄

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, εγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιμνῇ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια, διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτήσω τὴ ταπεινώσει τὰ υψηλά, τὴ πτωχεία τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ Ἱεράρχα Μελέτιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Κοντάκιον τῶν Κεκοιμημένων Ἦχος πλ. δ΄

Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν δούλων σου καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμαρτον συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος καὶ τοῖς μεταστασι δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ Ἦχος 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 τοῦ Τριωδίου Ἦχος γ΄

Τῆς πατρῴας, δόξης σου, ἀποσκιρτήσας ἀφρόνως, ἐν κακοῖς ἐσκόρπισα, ὃν μοι παρέδωκας πλοῦτον· ὅθεν σοι τὴν τοῦ Ἀσώτου, φωνὴν κραυγάζω· Ἥμαρτον ἐνόπιόν σου Πάτερ οἰκτίρμον, δέξαι με μετανοοῦντα, καὶ ποιήσον με, ὡς ἓνα τῶν μισθίων σου.

Resurrectional Apolytikion Mode 1

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, * and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. * You rose on the third day, O Lord * and Savior, granting life unto the world. * For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: * Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; * glory to Your kingdom; * glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

Apolytikion for the Archbishop Mode 4

The truth of things has revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness and a teacher of temperance; for this cause, you have achieved the heights of humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Meletius, interceded with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Kontakion for the Departed Mode pl. 4

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

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 3

I revolted senselessly * out of Your fatherly glory; * I have squandered sinfully * all of the riches You gave me.* Hence to You, using the Prodigal's words, I cry out,* I have sinned before You, merciful loving Father.* O receive me in repentance, * I pray, and treat me * as one of Your hired hands.



DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 13 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Κυριακή τοῦ Τελώνου καί τοῦ Φαρισαίου

TODAY'S EPISTLE READING:
ST PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

EPISTLE READER: JACK MCCLURE

PROKEIMENON: *Let Your Mercy, O Lord, be upon us.*

VERSE: *Rejoice in the Lord, o ye righteous.*

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: LUKE 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

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

DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 27 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK





ACOLYTES GROUP ONE

Jerod Spetsaris
Nick Keenan
Robby Keenan
John Jackson
Eric Jackson
Pete Sirmans

Athanasios Grivakis
Lucas Karatassos
Pano Karatassos
Nicholas Kostopoulos
Niko Tiliakos

HANDMAIDENS GROUP ONE

Alexia Spetsaris
Laila Turner
Penelope Melissas
Katherine Spetsaris

Alexis Vallianatos
Deedee Kostopoulos
Elianna Vallianatos
Patricia Jackson

The following Parish Council members will be on duty today during the Divine Liturgy:

Costa Panos
Al Galloway

Ned Biehler
Michael Missailidis

Sandy Papadopoulos
Noula Zaharis

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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