

Sunday, September 2, 2007

Mammas the Martyr

John the Abstainer, Patriarch of Constantinople

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: Hymnal numbers 5, 20, 134, 216

READINGS: Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-24, 2:1-4
Gospel: Matthew 22:2-14

THE NICENE CREED & LORD'S PRAYER is found on pages 39-41 and 57 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

COMMUNION PRAYERS: The first four will be read in Greek and the next three in English. Please recite them out loud as a congregation. The prayers are found on pages 62-65 in your blue service book.

COUNCIL DUTY: 8:00 a.m.: Dino Spiridis **Chapel:** Spiro Cappony

Group 2: George Domoras, George Dovellos, Gust Kyres, Sam Kyres, JoAnn Massow, John Petalas, Bill Poulos,

MEMORIALS

9 mon. Dionysios Gregoratos 52 yrs. Demetrios Bikos
30 yrs. John Vlahos 70 yrs. Panagoula Vlahos

For the Victims of the Fires Raging in Greece
“MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL”

SERVICE SCHEDULE: Saturday, September 8th – *Nativity of the Theotokos* –
Orthros: 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

ΘΗΣΣΕΥΤΙΚΟΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ : Σαββατο, 8 Σεπτεμβριου – *Η ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ*
Σ
ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ. Ορθρος στις 8:30 π.μ. και Θεια Λειτουργια στις 9:00 π.μ.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: Fr. Ev and Fr. Ted will be traveling to the Holy Land from October 9th –20th. As is the tradition, they will be reading names of the living and the departed at the most Holy Tomb of Christ in Jerusalem. If you would like to have your names commemorated, please submit them to the church office by Sunday, October 7th. Please, also enclose a generous contribution for the poor and needy Orthodox Christians that will be distributed throughout Fr. Ev and Fr. Ted's travels in the Holy Lands.

HELPING HAND APPEAL: For the first time since we began our Helping Hand ministry ten years ago we had to turn individuals and families in need away. We once again appeal to all our membership to please continue to support this ministry of our Cathedral. Donations for the flood victims of Northwest Indiana and the fire victims in Greece may be made to the Helping Hand Fund through the church office. For questions or further details, see Fr. Ted.

THOUGHT: Sympathy sees, and says, “I’m sorry.” Compassion feels, and whispers, “I will help.”

VOTIVE LIGHTS IN MEMORY OF:

ALTAR: -Dionysios Gregoratos from his family.

VIRGIN MARY: -grandfather Demetrios (J.B.) Bikos from Demetrius & Cynthia Damaskos. -for the health of David Vahorovich, Kathy Georgis, Feme Liapes.

CHRIST: -father Demetrios (J.R.) Bikos from Christine & James Damaskos.

MEMORIALS/VOTIVE CANDLES: To place a memorial in the Sunday Bulletin or to light a votive candle, **you must stop by the Church office with the memorial information or payment for the candle by 12:00 noon the Wednesday before.**

ΚΟΚΚΙΝΑ ΚΕΡΙΑ: Αν θελετε να αναψετε κοκκινο κερι εις μνημην η υπερ υγειας κ αι να το γραψουμε στο Κυριακατικο Δελτιο *πρεπει να το δηλωσετε αυτοπροσωπως* π ριντις 12:00 μ.μ την Τεταρτη.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION: Our Sunday School staff through their efforts for our Cathedral has developed a program for our youth's current and future religious education and spiritual growth. However, they cannot do it alone! Parents, we need your support. Please register and bring your children to our Sunday School program. Do not deprive your children of a magnificent opportunity to become better acquainted with the Orthodox Faith and Church, and to come closer to Christ.

Registration will take place Sundays: September 2nd & 9th following services or during regular office hours throughout the week in the church office. Children ages 4 to 18 may be registered. Registration fee per child is \$20 to cover the increase cost of Sunday School materials.

GREEK EDUCATION: If you haven't registered your child for Greek School, what are you waiting for? Registration forms are available in the church office. The tuition fee is \$225 for each child and \$175 for every additional child living in your household. The minimum pledge requirement of \$365 (a minimum of \$275 must be paid) and the tuition must be paid by the first day of school. Registration will take place on the following Sundays: September 2nd & 9th following worship services or during the week during regular business hours in the church office.

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS: With the coming of the new school year, many of our collage age students are making plans to return to school. As in the past, Fr. Ted asks for our college students' addresses to be submitted to the Church office by September 8th. Information may be done in person by filling out the form available in the church office or phoned in.

FOOD PANTRY NOTICE: The Food Pantry is in **dire need** of canned goods. The Pantry shelves are bare of canned goods and they are the basic items families need for their food. Please help by bringing cans of soups, vegetables, fruits, canned meats, tuna, and dried food items to church on Sundays or during the week to the church office. Monetary donations are also welcome. Your generous support of our Food Pantry is always appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are moving or have moved, gotten married or divorced, please make sure the church office has your name, new address and phone information. This will assist us in keeping printing and mailing costs down, as well as getting the proper material and information to you.

CHOIR NEWS: Choir rehearsals resume Tuesday, September 4th, 7:00 p.m.

We will begin our first rehearsal night with a pizza party kick-off at 6:00 p.m. in the Gold Room. Rehearsal will begin immediately following dinner. Regular rehearsals will continue at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral. All current choir members are encouraged to attend and all new members are most welcome and certainly needed.

ALTAR BOY MEETING: Over the years our Cathedral has been blessed to have an abundance of boys and young men willing to serve God and His Church by being acolytes (altar boys). With recent graduations of many of our senior boys from the later, our numbers have dropped and we need assistance. Any boys, ages 8 years-old and up, interested in being an acolyte (altar boy), as well as current altar boys, are asked to attend the meeting scheduled for next Saturday, September 8th immediately following worship services for the Nativity of the Theotokos which will be held in the Chapel. New robe and group assignments will be made, as well as a review of altar boy responsibilities and a social activity planned. For more details, see Fr. Ted or Fr. Christ.

YOUTH NEWS: We will be kicking off this year's youth programs with J.O.Y., Jr. G.O.Y.A. and G.O.Y.A. meetings on September 10th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please bring your children to this wonderful opportunity to learn more about the faith.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 15th, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. our GOYA is sponsoring its annual Car Wash in the church's south parking lot. Come out and support our youth practice Orthodox philanthropy and get your car washed too!

BASIL NEEDED: We ask all those who would like to please bring Basil (Vasiliko) to be blessed and distributed to the faithful at the conclusion of the services on September 14th and 16th.

CHURCH OFFICE NOTE: The church office will be closed tomorrow Monday, September 3rd, for the Labor Day Holiday.

MESSAGE DEADLINE: Any announcements, articles or news items that need to appear in the October issue of "*The Message*" need to be submitted to the church office by Tuesday, September 4th. For specific details, see Fr. Ted.

STEWARDSHIP: A woman was taken into court following a traffic accident. She said to the officer, who arrested her, "I always drive with the emergency brake on, so that when there is an emergency, I will be ready."

Sometimes it seems that when we present our offering to God, we give as if the emergency brake were on. We hold back. We refuse to let go and give God what He deserves.

As we have now completed eight months of the year, we remind all our pledging members to please be current with your 2007 Stewardship Pledge. At this time your pledge should be at least three quarters paid. We thank those stewards who have already met their commitment and encourage those who are behind to catch up.

FOR PONDERING: I don't doubt that the Holy Spirit guides your decisions from within when you make them with the intention of pleasing God. The error would be to

think that He speaks only within, whereas in reality He speaks also through Scripture, the Church, Christian friends, books, etc. –C.S. Lewis

AN EXISTENTIAL ENCOUNTER: Through the events of the liturgical year, which began yesterday, we actually relive with Christ the great events of His life. Unlike a movie or a play, however, which merely reenacts the events in the life of a great person, the liturgical year not only reenacts those events but also places us in each event. An existential encounter takes place between Christ and us in the events of His birth, crucifixion, resurrection, etc. These sacred events are mystically present in the Church here and now. We reenter each event in such a way that it becomes a unique and refreshing new act of salvation for us today. Thus, far from being a cold and lifeless representation of the events of the past, the liturgical year is a living and personal encounter with Jesus today. Today He comes to be born in the manger of my soul and yours to bring us new life. Today He offers me His precious Body and Blood for my salvation. Today He hangs on the cross for me. Today He is resurrected and I am resurrected with Him. Today He is transfigured and I am transfigured with Him. Today He ascends into heaven and I ascend with Him. So it is that the beautiful word "today" tears down the walls of the past and the future and makes Christ the eternally present One, Who is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Each year the liturgical calendar relives and makes present again the sacred events of our salvation so that we are there when they happen. The past reaches out and joins the present. The acts of God for His people are not buried in the past. They live in the present. History does not exhaust grace. God is present through the centuries. He never ceases accomplishing the work He has begun.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS: The story of the birth of the Theotokos is found in a second century manuscript called the Pro-Gospel of James. Both Joachim and Anna had been praying for years for a child. One day while Joachim prayed in the desert and Anna at home, an angel of the Lord appeared to both and announced the conception of a daughter who would have a great destiny. Overwhelmed with joy, Anna ultimately gave birth to Mary.

PRAYER: O my God, my God! Our sins have literally increased beyond the number of the hairs of our heads, above the number of the grains of sand of the sea, and yet we do not feel them, we are indifferent to them: even, we do not cease to love them. If thou, Lord wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it? May the Lord grant unto us all a contrite spirit and a humble heart, that we may offer to him true penitence. Amen. –St. John of Kronstadt

FIRES IN GREECE: A special encyclical was issued by the Eparchial Synod of the Holy Archdiocese, which requested all parishes to offer special prayers on behalf of all those who have been adversely affected by this disaster, and a special collection will take place in all churches for the *Greek Fire Relief Fund* of the Archdiocese. In addition, a major nationwide appeal will be made through the media for assistance from the general public, as well as a personal request from the Archbishop to prominent members of the Greek American community.

PROSPHORON NEEDED: Once again, our parish is in need of Prosporon for our Sunday and weekday services in the Cathedral and Chapel. If you can be of assistance, contact Mr. George Sgouroudis our Church Sexton or the church office.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: With the coming of September the St. Helen's Philoptochos Society will once again be hosting their monthly meetings. The first meeting of the New Ecclesiastical Year will be on Monday, September 10th, 6:00 p.m. in the Gold Room. All ladies of our community are invited to attend. A "Potluck Fellowship Meal" will be offered at this meeting. Call Mary Starkey (756-3583) and let her know what dish you will be bringing. Come and start out the New Church year on the right foot and become an active member of our Philoptochos.

The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Board will hold its annual Fall Luncheon at the Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemount, IL on Saturday, September 15th, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Join the camaraderie, great food and entertainment. For more information and to make reservations, see Frances Klimis.

The Philoptochos are still collecting the **Max Millionaire** money. The organization is hoping to collect enough money to be able to get one of the major prizes that could be either used for our church or sold and the money used for worthy causes. Drop off your Max Money at the church office or give it to Frances Klimis or Jan Georgion.

The Philoptochos Society will again participate in the **4th Annual Romp-N-Roll Walk & Fun Run**, sponsored by the Cancer Resource Centre, Sunday, October 7, 2007, 12:00 noon, at the Munster High School football field. We will be in the foyer of the Great Hall Sundays for people to sign up to walk or run. We will also be taking donations from anyone that cannot participate. For any questions, contact Maria Georgiadis at 663-1857.

FALL RUMMAGE and BAKE SALE on Wednesday, October 3rd, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. Again Philoptochos is asking for your support! Articles of new or used, clean and untornd clothing for babies, children, adults, shoes, blankets and sheets, towels, curtains, knick-knacks, costume jewelry, kitchen utensils, glassware or any large items that can be carried out. Please bring them to the Great Hall on Monday October 9th between 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If anyone has jewelry, we can take that at any time. Anyone needing help to bring items to the church, please call Frances Klimis at 696-4951 after 5:00 p.m. The Bake Sale will have Greek pastries and other delicious treats. We can also use donations for this. Anyone is welcome to come and help us set up on Tuesday between 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We thank you in advance for your help and support.

OATH OF OFFICE: The newly elected Philoptochos board will be given the Oath of Office on next Sunday, September 9th immediately following worship services in the Cathedral.

CHUCKLE: A young woman teacher with obvious liberal tendencies explains to her class of small children that she is an atheist. She asks her class if they are atheists too. Not really knowing what atheism is but wanting to be like their teacher, their hands explode into the air like fleshy fireworks. There is, however, one exception. A beautiful girl named Lucy has not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asks her why she has decided to be different. "Because, I'm not an atheist." Then, asks the teacher, "What are you?" "I'm a Christian." The teacher is a little perturbed now, her face slightly red. She asks Lucy why she is a Christian. "Well, I was brought up knowing and loving Jesus. My mom is a Christian and my dad is a Christian, so I am a

Christian." The teacher is now angry. "That's no reason," she says loudly. What if your mom was an idiot and your dad was an idiot. What would you be then?" Lucy paused, smiled and said, "Then, I'd be an atheist!"