

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

2nd Sunday of Pascha – Sunday of Thomas

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: 187, 189, 239 (Found in red hymnal book)

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** Matthew 28:16-20
Epistle: Acts 5:12-20
Gospel: John 20:19-31

THE NICENE CREED & LORD'S PRAYER are found on pages 52-54 and 71 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

PRE & POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS: The Pre-Communion prayers are found on pages 76-80 in your blue service book. The first four will be read in Greek and the next four in English. **Please recite them out loud as a congregation.** The Post-Communion prayers are found on pages 98-100 in Greek and pages 101-102 in English. These should be read by those who have received Holy Communion when they return to their seats.

COUNCIL DUTY: **Orthros: 8:00 a.m.** Tommy Papadopoulos
Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. All Parish Council Members

MEMORIAL UPDATE: Please note Memorial Prayers will not be offered today, April 15th (Sunday of Thomas.) Memorials may be offered again next Sunday, April 22nd (Sunday of Myrrh Bearers).

FOLLOWING THE RESURRECTION LITURGY and every service for 40 days until the Ascension of our Lord, the priest turns to the congregation and exclaims:

“Glory to His Third-Day Resurrection!”

Δοξα τη Αυτου τριμερω εγερσει!

And the congregation responds by saying:

“We bow down to His Third-Day Resurrection!”

Προσκυνουμεν Αυτου την τριμερον εγερσιν!

Let us all remember these life-giving words at the conclusion of the Liturgy. Let us say them with feeling and strength for the 40-day period of the Resurrection as is the practice of our Holy Orthodox Church.

REMAIN STANDING: Throughout the period of Easter (40 days) we will not kneel during the anaphora in the Liturgy (Kneeling during Se Imnoumen). Standing has always typified joy and gladness during the celebration of the Liturgy, while kneeling takes on a posture of penitence. Please remain in prayer while standing asking the Holy Spirit to descent upon us and upon the gifts presented.

BALLOON RELEASE: Has been rescheduled for next Sunday, April 22nd due to the weather. Come and help us celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ next Sunday, immediately following Sunday School. Children will be given a balloon in their classroom and then move to the back of the church for a Balloon Release symbolizing the Resurrection of Christ. All are welcome to attend!

TRUST IN THE LORD for every moment – for every moment comes from the Lord.

COOPERATION IS NEEDED! We remind our faithful that the Orthros Service begins at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday in the Cathedral and is followed immediately by the Divine Liturgy. **Please be prompt and on time!** Please turn off cell phones before entering church. No conversation should take place during worship. During the reading of the Gospel people in the narthex should not be purchasing or lighting candles, but stand reverently and listen to the reading. If possible avoid using the center aisle during high points of Divine Liturgy. Lipstick and lip-gloss should be removed before kissing icons, receiving Holy Communion and kissing the hand of the priest. Only Orthodox Christians in good standing with the Church may receive Holy Communion. Parents with children who cannot sit quietly during services should use the cry room. Please avoid using cell phones, I-Pads or other electronic devices to entertain or amuse children during worship. This delivers the wrong message of why we are in church and allows the child to pick up bad habits. When receiving antidoron, please, use both hands and do not allow the crumbs to fall.

OCMC MISSION APPEAL: At the end of February and the beginning of March our Sunday School students were given Mission Boxes to collect spare change or other funds for the OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center). Have you returned your Mission Boxes?

BEETREAT: On Saturday, April 21st the All Saints parish in Joliet, IL will be hosting a BEETREAT (from the YouTube program “*Be the Bee.*”) for youth (6th-12th grade), parents and youth workers, from 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. there will be a Young Adult (YAL) Orthodoxy on Tap session. Cost is \$15 per person or \$35 per family of 3 or more. To register go to Y2AM.org/BeeTreats.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER are now history for 2018. Warm words of appreciation are due to a myriad of volunteers who helped to make this period of the year such a meaningful experience in our lives. The altar boys, myrrh-bearers, choir, chanters, readers, ushers, Parish Council, Philoptochos, the people who decorated the Icons and Epitaphio, the contributors of the Easter eggs and those who dyed them, the donors of the chocolate crosses and flowers and many more shall occupy a special place in our hearts and prayers. Thank you all and God bless!

CHARITY UPDATE: During Great Lent and Holy Week our parish had various philanthropic appeals for various charitable causes. Listed below is what was collected and given.

IOCC – \$500

Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology - \$500

Palm Sunday/Helping Hand - \$2,471

SIRC Metropolis of Chicago - \$586

Holy Land Mission - \$350

OCMC/Mission Boxes - \$350

Youth Ministry Scholarships - \$520

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. May God continue to bless you and our parish so that we may always serve the Lord and do His work!

CHUCKLE: They say the average taxpayer works close to five months out of the year for the government, which is very disturbing. We're not sure that our elected officials who work for the government work five months out of every year for the government.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Classes today April 15th with worship at 9:00 a.m. and classes from 10:15-11:00 a.m.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: Meeting, Monday, April 16th, 6:00 p.m. in the Gold Room. Please note the time change.

Loukoumades Sale: Next Sunday following worship our Philoptochos will be offering loukoumades for sale for Godparent Sunday. The cost is \$7.00 per container of these mouthwatering delicacies. Make sure to join us in this annual tradition of our parish. Sharing loukoumades with your Godchild or Godparent, as well as other family and friends, is a great way of making lasting memories while assisting our Philoptochos with their Philanthropic endeavors.

YOUTH MEETINGS: HOPE/JOY/Jr. GOYA and GOYA meetings Monday, April 16th at 6:30 p.m. in school wing.

HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS: Practice will be Wednesday, April 18th with the Junior group from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and the Senior group from 7:30-8:30 p.m. For details or to check on schedule changes, contact Taki Zarakas or check the Hellenic Dancers Facebook page.

GREEK SCHOOL: Classes will be held this Friday, April 20th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Following our Greek School will offer their Greek Independence Day program in the Great Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS: Next meeting and lunch will be Thursday, April 26th in the Gold Room.

GREEK FEST MEETING: Thursday, April 26th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Gold Room.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Thursday, April 26th, 7:00 p.m.

GOYA would like to thank everyone who supported our Easter raffle, \$920 was raised to go towards scholarships. A special thank you to the Novak Foundation and AHEPA for donating the lambs, and to the GOYA parents, church families and Philoptochos for donating sweets for the basket. Congratulations to Mary Doroula and Popi Mamouzelos being the lamb winners and Elias Gerodimos for winning the sweets basket.

JR. OLYMPICS UPDATE: Youth ages 8-18 are encouraged to participate in an assortment of sporting events and activities at this year's Metropolis of Chicago Jr. Olympic Program on May 25th-27th in Palos Hills, IL. Coaches, advisors and chaperones are needed. So please offer your time and talent. Contact Pete Georgiadis at 219-308-4921 or email massow15@comcast.net to sign-up.

PHILOPTOCHOS 10TH ANNUAL BENEFIT SPAGHETTI DINNER: Mark your calendar to bring family, friends or neighbors to the Philoptochos Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the Ross Township Food Pantry on May 3rd, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. Lunch 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., carry outs only. Delivery for local businesses available with 6 or more orders. Carry outs also available during the dinner meal. Come and enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship, while making a difference for someone who is in need.

FROM GOD'S WORD: "Whoever is kind to the poor, lends to the poor and will be repaid in full" (Proverbs 19:17).

WELCOME VISITORS: We welcome you to worship with us today. Whether you are an Orthodox Christian or this is your first visit to the Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is offered only to the baptized and Chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, in good standing with the Church, all are invited to receive the antidoron (blessed bread) from the priest at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. The antidoron is not sacramental but is reminiscent of the agape feast that followed worship in the ancient Christian Church. After worship this morning, please join us in the church hall for fellowship, refreshments and visit with our Clergy, Parish Council and members.

"SEEING IS BELIEVING": Seeing is believing. We have all heard that old adage, haven't we? It is quite possible that this saying originated with the story of St. Thomas, who expressed a similar philosophy in today's Gospel when he skeptically proclaimed in regards to Christ's asserted Resurrection: "Unless I see in His Hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His Side, **I WILL NOT BELIEVE.**"

We know, of course, that Thomas got his wish, for Christ appeared to the Apostles eight days later when the doubting disciple was in the midst. He received sufficient proof to cry out with the others: "My Lord and My God!" Thomas **SAW... Thomas BELIEVED.**

In reality, however, "believing" has **ABSOLUTELY NOTHING** to do with "seeing." When we experience something visually, we are dealing within the realm of **FACT** and **KNOWLEDGE**. Faith does not enter into the picture at all if something is proven to us beyond a shadow of a doubt. This is precisely why the words of our Lord in response to Thomas are so significant to us: "**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN, AND YET STILL BELIEVED.**"

All of us fall into this category that Christ describes so beautifully. We have not been blessed with "first hand" knowledge of our Savior. His words never directly touched our ears. Our eyes never witnessed His miracles. We neither saw His Crucifixion, nor experienced His Resurrection.

Still we, and countless others like us, continue to believe! We have shown **FAITH** in the writings of those who had **KNOWLEDGE** of our Lord. And for this, we will be rewarded, for the Gospels were written "...that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **BELIEVING, YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME.**" If our belief in Christ remains unshaken, we will assuredly see the greatest "sight" of all: the Kingdom of Heaven.

EASTER OFFERING: Again we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, greeting you with the Paschal salutation: **Christ is Risen!** And again we hear your joyful response: **Truly He is Risen!**

During this festal season we turn to you once more, inviting you to offer a gift to your church through the Easter Offering. It is through your caring and support that we are able to continue to preach the message of Christ's resurrection. Please give generously! Easter Offering envelopes have been mailed to all our members. Extras may be found in the candle stands in the Narthex.

FOR PONDERING: Draw near to God and He will draw near to you (James 4:8). It is for us to begin. If we take one step toward the Lord, He will take ten toward us.

THOUGHT: There are more things in Life than just the things we see.

CATHEDRAL EARLY LEARNING CENTER: **Early registration:** Our preschool is accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. To enroll for the two day class (Tuesday & Thursday) the child must be 3 years old before August 1st. To enroll for the three day a week class the child must be 4 years old before August 1st. Applications are available in the church office. Registration fee is \$50 per child, and activity fee of \$75 per child. Tuition for two-day class is \$120 a month, and for the three-day class is \$150 a month. Children must be potty trained to be enrolled. Call Christine Chimitris at 219-769-2481 between 9:00-11:30 a.m. for details.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS For the GOYA, Cathedral, Novak Family Foundation, AHEPA 78 and the Panagiotis Proimos Memorial Scholarships are available in the church office. All high school seniors of our Cathedral are eligible. To be considered for one of the scholarships all you need to do is to pick up an application, fill it out and return it to the church office by the Tuesday, May 1st deadline. For more information, see Fr. Ted.

THE 5th ANNUAL 5K FAMILY WALK-RUN, will take place on Saturday, June 23rd, 8:00 a.m., starting and ending here at Ss. Constantine & Helen. New event of a 50 yard dash will be offered for our young runners. All proceeds will benefit the Cathedral Scholarship Program, The Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases and the Merrillville Police Department K9 Unit Program. Registration forms are available in the church office or visit the website at www.sconstantineandhelen.org. Any questions contact Joe Massow at 776-2682.

THE KANARIS-AGIA MARKELLA SOCIETY is awarding its annual scholarship to high school graduates who are of Chion descent and whose parents are in good standing. Scholarship requests must include the most current official transcript of the student. Request and transcript must be submitted May 1st to the church office or mail to:

Benevolent Society of Chios Kanaris
P.O. Box 14313
Merrillville, Indiana 46411-4313

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Greek Independence Day Program – April 20th

Loukoumades Sale – April 22nd

Ss. Constantine and Helen Feast Day Celebration – May 20th & 21st

Memorial Day Grave Blessings – May 28th (Ridge Lawn & Calumet Park Cemeteries)

AHEPA Sunday – June 3rd

Graduate Sunday – Sunday, June 10th

Vacation Bible School – June 18th - 21st

5K Family Walk/Run – June 23rd

Greek Festival – July 13th-15th

MOTHER/DAUGHTER RETREAT: The Saint Iakovos Retreat Center is hosting a retreat for Mothers & Daughters on May 4th-6th. Ages for daughters are 6 & up. Speaker is Mother Macrina from Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction, MI. The purpose of this retreat is to bring mothers and daughters together, to meet other Orthodox families, and to participate in various activities together through Faith, fun and fellowship. For specific details, contact Fabiola Sweis at fsweis@gosirc.org.