

Sunday, December 2, 2018
14th Sunday of Luke
Habakkuk the Prophet
Myrope the Martyr of Chios

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: 2, 134, 221 (Found in red hymnal book)

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** Luke 24:13-35
 Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17
 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

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.** Frank Takis Zarakas
 Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. All Parish Council Members

MEMORIALS

9 days Despina (Josephine) Kappas 5 yrs. Georgia Gialourakos
9 days Zinovia Athanasiadou 23 yrs. Kostantinos Spanos
1 yr. Macaria Zoumis Kanne

“MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL”

SERVICE SCHEDULE: Thursday, December 6th – *Feast of St. Nicholas* –
Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

ΘΗΣΚΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ: Πέμπτη, 6 Δεκεμβρίου – *Αγίου Νικολάου* –
Θεία Λειτουργία: 9:00 π.μ. στο Παρεκκλήσιο.

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 (good standing means if you are married your marriage must have been blessed by the Church; if divorced you must have an ecclesiastical divorce as well from 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.

PARISH COUNCIL OPENING: Due to a recent resignation from the Parish Council there is an open seat available. Any parishioner, 18 years or older in good standing with the church (canonically & financially) is welcomed to submit their name, co-sponsored by two parishioners, to Fr. Ted at the church office. Deadline for applications is Sunday, December 16th.

THOUGHT: God often tries us with a little to see what we would do with a lot.

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.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY: Please take a few minutes to review your 2019 Stewardship Commitment in support of our Parish Ministries. We have taught the importance of including the entire family in your stewardship pledge. Including everyone underscores the importance of the Stewardship Program and everyone plays a significant role. Discussing the Program will teach everyone about stewardship and the importance of their participation.

Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves, and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Be prepared to make your Pledge for 2019 to help us reach our goal of raising \$550,000.

Also, as we are coming to a close for this year, please make sure your 2018 pledge is current or paid in full. To date there is still over \$46,899 in unpaid stewardship pledges for 2018. That means we have to collect on average of \$9,380 a week for the last five weeks of 2018 to have a zero (\$0) dollar balance. Your support and cooperation in this matter is deeply appreciated.

THE DEVIL'S BEST TOOL: It was once announced that the devil was going out of business and would offer all his tools for sale to whomever would pay his price. On the night of the sale, they were all attractively displayed, and a bad-looking lot they were. Malice, Hatred, Envy, Jealousy, Sensuality, and Deceit, and all the other implements of evil were spread out, each marked with its price. Apart from the rest lay a harmless looking, wedge-shaped tool, much worn and priced higher than any of them.

Someone asked the devil what it was. “That’s Discouragement,” was the reply. “Well, why do you price it so high?” “Because,” replied the devil, “it is more useful to me than any of the others. I can pry open and get inside whatever way suits me best. It is much worn because I use it with nearly everybody, as few people know it belongs to me.” It hardly need be added that the devil’s price for discouragement was so high it was never sold. He still owns it, and is still using it.

OLIVE OIL IS NEEDED: Our parish is in need of olive oil for the eternal vigil light of Christ and the votive candles on the Altar Table. Your assistance in this matter is deeply appreciated!

TO SUCCEED do the best you can, where you are, with what you have.

NEW MINISTRY: Today following worship a new Religious Education Ministry will begin. Fr. Ted will lead a church tour explaining what we see in our Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT UPDATE: Our Sunday School will be holding its first rehearsal following classes today. All children taking part in the program should be in attendance. We ask your support for our Sunday School students, through your attendance at the liturgy next Sunday, and to remain for and participate in the short program that they will offer.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: The **Annual Philoptochos Christmas Party** will be held tonight at 5:00 p.m. in the Great Hall.

Holiday Bake Sale: This event is open to the public and our church family. Stop by and pick up some of our delicious treats. Pre-orders can be picked up on Saturday, December 8th, 9:00am-1:00pm or Sunday, December 9th, 11:00am-12:00pm, in the Gold Room. Let the ladies of the Philoptochos do your holiday baking for you this year. Come and get your Greek sweets and other goodies for the holidays, as well as supporting Philoptochos' philanthropic endeavors.

Breakfast with Santa will be on Saturday, December 8th in the Great Hall from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, cost is \$5.00 per person. Bring your family, camera, and of course your appetite and enjoy the morning fun!

YOUTH MEETINGS: JOY/HOPE/Jr. GOYA & GOYA, Monday, December 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

CHION SOCIETY MEETING: Tuesday, December 4th, 6:30 p.m.

HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS: No dance practice until January.

GREEK SCHOOL: Classes will be held this Friday, December 7th, 5:30-8:00 p.m. PTO Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in classroom wing.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS: Our Senior Citizen members will gather at their Annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 13th, 12:00 p.m. sharp in the Great Hall. **For non-members wanting to attend the cost is \$15.00.** Please call the church office 219-769-2481 or Kalliope Dedelow at 219-588-1026 by Monday, December 10th to make your reservation.

JR. GOYA NATIVITY ICON RAFFLE will take place starting on Sunday, December 2nd. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each. Please stop by the table in the lobby after service and buy your ticket. Drawing will be on December 16th.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY WORKSHOP will be on Thursday, December 13th, in the Great Hall. Looking for singers and musicians to perform a Christmas Carol that evening! All ages are welcome! This is a beautiful evening for young families to come together and celebrate the season. Anyone interested in performing or helping that evening, call Susan Tsagris at 219-617-4483.

BOOKSTORE NEWS: New items are available in our Cathedral Bookstore. There are still several copies available of The Planner, an Ecclesiastical calendar for 2018-2019. This spiral-bound planner follows the Church year September through August and helps keep a daily focus on Christ with fast days, prayer, saints of the day and inspiration from the fathers. Come check it out and the other items at the Bookstore after worship. Remember to mark your calendar for the bookstore Christmas Bazaar on Sunday December 2nd & 9th, for your Christmas gifts.

THE POWER OF PRAYER: *Jesus stopped...and asked the blind man, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight, your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him..."* Jesus opened his eyes. He restored his sight. And the blind man saw. He saw not only the light of day. He saw also the light of life: Jesus. And *"he followed him,"* says the Gospel. When we come to Jesus He always restores to us our spiritual sight. He enables us to see things we never saw before. Such sight changes a man's life. He lives no longer for the passing things of this world, but for the things that endure, that last unto eternity. Such sight requires a man to walk away from prejudice into a life of love and brotherhood, away from sin to a new life in Christ Jesus. When the blind beggar received his sight *"he followed Jesus."* He had had enough of darkness. Now he would live in the presence of Him who was and is and will ever be "the light of the world."

When the blind beggar heard that *"Jesus of Nazareth is passing by,"* he seized life's greatest opportunity and he received his sight. Life's greatest opportunity for us, too, is that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by – today, now! He continually knocks on the door of our hearts. He reveals Himself to us in the Bible. He speaks to us through the Church. He offers Himself to us through the Sacraments. He is always just a prayer away from us.

Yet, are we, like the blind beggar, aware that Jesus is passing by? Do we profit by His presence or do we remain silent and inactive until He is gone? The blind beggar might have sat beside the road, listening and wondering, but doing nothing until his great opportunity had passed him by and he would have remained merely the blind beggar by the roadside. How many of us are doing just that? If we allow Jesus to pass by unheeded, we shall remain poor, blind beggars who failed to respond, to seize the opportunity that would have given us sight, light, happiness, joy and fulfillment beyond our highest expectations, leading on to life eternal as joint heirs of Jesus.

SAINT OF THE DAY – MARTYR MYROPE OF CHIOS: Myrope was born in the city of Ephesus in the third century. Her father died early, and her mother raised her in the Christian faith. She lived near the tomb of St. Hermione, the daughter of the Apostle Philip. Myrope took the myrrh that flowed from the relics of St. Hermione and healed the sick. During the persecution of Emperor Decius, Myrope and her mother went to the island of Chios. When St. Isidore was martyred, Myrope bravely took and buried the body of the saint. The soldiers who were ordered not to let anyone take the body were shackled with heavy chains and sentenced to death. Myrope had pity on them, so she confessed to the soldiers and the governor that she buried the martyr. At the trial, she confessed herself a Christian. She spoke boldly, telling the governor that she "scorned and spit on his depravity and godlessness." Filled with rage, he had her beaten mercilessly and dragged through the city by her hair. In prison at night, a heavenly light shown. St. Isidore and angels appeared, and they took up to heaven the soul of Myrope. A fragrance filled the prison. A pagan guard saw the vision and told a priest. He received baptism and was later martyred for his confession of Christ. St. Myrope was buried next to St. Isidore, and a church was built over her relics.

YOU CAN TELL how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him or her.

METROPOLIS OPEN HOUSE: On behalf of His Eminence, Metropolitan Nathanael, the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Board and the YAL of our Metropolis you are cordially invited to attend the Metropolis Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 16th at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

This year, His Eminence invites all to take part in a new tradition of bringing a gift for those in need to the Open House. See enclosed flyer for lists of gifts requested and where the will be donated.

THE HELPING HAND FUND was established to help families in our parish with financial hardships. It is a very comforting feeling knowing that you can go “home” and find help that is given freely and with love. We encourage our faithful, along with family members, friends and business associates to make a donation towards the Helping Hand Fund. The need is great and our funds are low. For more details, please contact Fr. Ted at the church office 769-2481.

OUR FOOD PANTRY is held on Fridays from 9:00am-12:00 noon. Each month hundreds of families come to us for assistance. With the holidays quickly approaching and the demand growing, our Food Pantry is in desperate need of help. Canned or dried food, personal hygiene items, as well as 250 turkeys and 250 hams are needed! Please support the Food Pantry.

KIDZ 4 KIDZ TOY DRIVE: For the next two weeks we will be collecting new toys for the disadvantaged children and teens of our local area. Once again we are requesting new, clean non-violent toys. Please NO stuffed animals. The toys may be brought on Sundays and placed in the bin, which will be located in the entrance of the Cathedral or dropped off at the church office during the week. If there are any questions, please call Eva Kostides at 662-8370.

LOVE & CARE DRIVE: Our Sunday Church School is collecting mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for the needy children of our area. Let us show others our love and care by bringing in something warm to wear. Donated items may be brought to the Sunday school office until Sunday, December 16th.

JR. GOYA PILLOW AND BLANKET DRIVE has begun. New pillows and blankets will be collected and distributed to local shelters for the needy. Please drop them off in the Narthex until December 16th. For details, see Susan Tsagris.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Bookstore Christmas Bazaar – December 2nd & 9th

Breakfast with Santa – December 8th

Philoptochos Bake Sale – December 8th & 9th

Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon December 13th

Family Christmas Night – December 13th

Sunday School Christmas Pageant – December 16th (rehearsals Dec. 2nd & 9th)

Christmas Worship – December 24th evening & 25th morning

New Year’s Day Worship – January 1, 2019

Eve of Epiphany – January 5, 2019

Theophany – January 6, 2019

Vasilopita Celebration, January 27, 2019

CHUCKLE: A Sunday school teacher was trying to explain the doctrine of the Holy Trinity to her class. Laboriously, she dragged out references to God the Father and God the Son, but was getting nowhere with the third person of the Trinity, until one student volunteered, a bit uncertainly: “God the Wife?”