

Sunday February 3, 2019
16th Sunday of Luke (Parable of the Talents)
Symeon the God-Receiver
Anna the Prophetess

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: 3, 110, 134, 228 (Found in red hymnal book)

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** Mark 16:9-20
 Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
 Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

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.** Roberta Korfias
 Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. Group 1

MEMORIALS

3 mons. Isadore Spavrinoudis 2 yrs. Angerou Levidis
3 mons. Nomikos Karakatsanis 6 yrs. Antonios Yiatras
9 mons. Parashos Levidis

“MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL”

FELLOWSHIP HOUR: In memory of Parashos & Angerou Levidis in the Great Hall. All are welcome.

PHILOPTOCHOS would like to thank all the organizations, church members, and all who donated to the Vasilopita celebration and attended the luncheon. We also would like to thank the father and son team of Manny & John Christos for donating the chicken and to the Philoptochos members for everything else. Also, a big thank you to Pete Karamanis for preparing the food. It was truly a great effort by all. We will be able to send a minimum of \$5600 to St. Basil's Academy. God bless you all.

DONATIONS FOR THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ICON OF THE VIRGIN MARY: Each Friday evening during the Great Lent Period the Salutations to the Virgin Mary are offered. It is tradition that the icon of the Virgin Mary be adorned with flowers for these services. We ask families or individual parishioners wishing to contribute toward these flowers to contact the church office. Cost of the flowers are \$150 each week. Please be generous in your support.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS: Our Parish is in great need for olive oil for the eternal vigil light of Christ and the votive candles on the Altar Table. Donations may be brought to the church on Sundays.

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.

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.

RECEIVE-GIVE-SERVE=STEWARDSHIP: Although there was an increase in Stewardship income for our Cathedral budget in 2018, the financial commitment made still fell short of meeting all the financial obligations of the budget as it should. Therefore, we need to re-examine our commitment and increase our financial giving proportionately.

If you are one of the 74 members who have failed to pay their stewardship that has resulted in a total unpaid balance of \$16,561, please do so today! If you haven't pledged for 2019 as yet, please do so today! In addition to the monetary pledge, just as importantly, the personal involvement and participation by all is needed not only in time of worship but in every affair of the Church. Let us unite and become a closely-knit family, one in which differences of opinions will serve to better understand one another and arrive at more prudent decisions, not allowing destructive divisions to stand as obstacles in the road of progress.

FOOD PANTRY NOTICE: The food pantry is in need of cleaning supplies, toiletries and brown paper bags. The food pantry is currently serving over 400 people in the area each month. Please think of others as you donate items necessary to continue our outreach to those in need.

PARISH COUNCIL OPENING: Due to a 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. Since no one has applied we are extending the deadline for applications until the end of February.

ORTHODOXY 101 UPDATE: Orthodoxy 101 Class, led by Fr. Ted, will take place today, 11:00 a.m. in the Cathedral. Topic for discussion “What we find on the Altar Table.” Everyone is welcome to attend.

YOUTH MEETINGS: Jr. GOYA & GOYA – Monday, February 4th at 6:30 p.m.

CHION SOCIETY NEWS: Meeting – Tuesday, February 5th, 6:30 p.m.

Vespers for St. Anthimos of Chios, Thursday, February 14th, 6:30 p.m. in the chapel, followed immediately after with a Fellowship Hour in the Gold Room.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS: An Adult Religious Education Class will be held on Wednesday, February 6th, at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Topic for the evening “The Triodion.” For more specifics, see Fr. Ted.

HELLENIC DANCERS: Practice Wednesday, February 6th: Jr. Dancers 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. & Sr. Dancers 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. For details see Taki Zarakas. Please note that the times listed on the Calendar in the February Message are in error. The times listed above are correct. We apologize for this error!

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS: Classes this Friday, February 8th at 5:30 p.m.

PTO Meeting: Friday, February 8th, 5:30 p.m.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: **Loukoumades Sale:** Will be on next Sunday, February 10th following worship service. Our Philoptochos will be offering loukoumades for sale for Godparent Sunday. 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.

The next meeting of our St. Helen’s Philoptochos Society will be on Monday, February 11th, 6:30 p.m. in the Gold Room.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING: Our Sunday School (directors, teachers, and assistants) will meet on Monday, February 11th, 6:30 p.m. to discuss our program and upcoming events and activities.

GREEK FEST MEETING: Tuesday, February 12th, 6:00 p.m. in the Gold Room. This meeting is open to all the community. Come out and help us prepare for our 50th Festival.

OCMC BENEFIT BANQUET: Mission Team Chicago will host their 22nd Annual OCMC Benefit Banquet on Thursday, February 28th, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, Des Plaines, IL. Keynote speaker is Jesse Brandow OCMC Long-Term Missionary. Donation is \$35 per person or \$350 for a table of 10. Contact Mission Team Chicago at MTCbeneft@yahoo.com or 630-464-7249 for details.

FANARI WINTER CAMP: Registration is now open for Fanari Winter Camp held March 22nd -24th at the SIRC. Youth 6th – 11th grade are welcome to attend. Cost is \$175 per participant. Email gochicagoyouth@aol.com for questions.

FOR PONDERING: The Scribes and the Pharisees despised the common man; Jesus loved him. The Scribes and the Pharisees stood on their little eminence of formal piety and looked down on the sinner. Jesus came and sat beside him, and by sitting beside him lifted him up.

SAINTS OF THE DAY: SYMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER: Symeon, who held the baby Jesus in his arms on the day of His Presentation in the Temple, was one of seventy men whom the Egyptian Pharaoh Ptolemy asked to translate the Bible from Hebrew into Greek, in about the year 250 BC. As he translated, he came to Isaiah's prophecy, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son." Confused, he was about to change the word virgin to young woman, when an angel appeared and explained the prophecy to him. Also, the angel said that he would not die until he had seen the birth of Jesus. This came to pass, and very soon after Symeon did die.

ANNA THE PROPHETESS: Anna was in the temple along with the aged Symeon when the forty-day-old Jesus was brought there by Joseph and the Theotokos. Anna was from the tribe of Asher who was one of the twelve sons of Jacob, the son of Issac, who was the son of Abraham. Asher and his eleven brothers were known as the Twelve Patriarchs of Israel. Anna had been married for seven years, but when she was widowed, she chose to live in the temple to fast and pray for the rest of her life. Because of this God-pleasing life, she was made worthy to see the infant Jesus. Anna praised and thanked God and prophesied to those present saying, "The infant is that Lord who creates heaven and earth; this infant is Christ, about Whom all of the prophets have spoken."

USE IT OR LOSE IT: The man in a parable of today’s Gospel Lesson, had only one talent and was afraid to invest it. For if he lost it, he would have lost all he had. “Safety first” was his motto. But how wrong he was! We never really save our talent when we bury it. God’s law for life is, “if you do not use it, you lose it.” For example, perhaps we have only a little faith. Bury the little faith we have and we lose it. Use it and we increase it. Our gift of prayer may be small. Bury it and it becomes smaller. Use it, and it is enlarged. Perhaps we have only a little human understanding, compassion and kindness. Bury it and it will disappear. Use it, and it will grow. Use it or lose it. But you can’t bury it.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Godparent Sunday – February 10th

Triodion Begins – February 17th

Hellenic Museum Outing - February 17th

Saturday of Souls – March 2nd, 9th & 16th

Koliva Workshop – March 8th

Philoptochos Lenten Food Sale – March 10th

Great Lent begins – March 11th

Koulouma Dinner – March 11th

Palm Sunday – April 21st

Pascha/Easter Sunday – April 28th

35th Anniversary of Fr. Ted’s Ordination Celebration - June 2nd

Greek Fest – July 12th, 13th, & 14th

CHUCKLE: A mother was concerned about her eldest son’s use of profanity. She was counseled to slap the boy each time he cursed. The next morning as her sons came to the table, she asked what they wanted for breakfast. The eldest said, "I want some blankety, blank Post Toasties." The mother slapped him as hard as she could. As he sat dazed on the floor, she turned to the younger son and asked what he wanted for breakfast, to which he replied, “Well, one things for sure: I sure don’t want any Post Toasties!”