

Sunday, February 4, 2018
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Isidore of Pelusium & Nicholas the Confessor

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: 110, 2, 110, 228 (Found in red hymnal book)

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** Mark 16:1-8
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

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. All Parish Council Members

MEMORIALS

6 mons. Paraskevi Tsilimos 3 yrs. Spero Melegos
9 mons. Carol Kaliope Davilis 23 yrs. Despo Melegos
1 yr. George Vlahos 26 yrs. Panteli Tsilimos

1 yr. Nicholas Melegos
As well as all Godparents and Godchildren of blessed memory.

“MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!”

FELLOWSHIP HOUR in memory of George Vlahos in the Great Hall. All are welcome!

SERVICE SCHEDULE: Saturday, February 10th – 1st *Saturday of Souls* – Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. followed by the Trisagion Service.

©ΡΗΣΚΕΥΤΙΚΟΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ: Σαββατο, 10 Φεβρουαριου –
Α΄ Ψυχοσαββατο – Θεια Λειτουργια με Τρισαγιο : 9:00 π.μ.

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 the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the church hall for fellowship, refreshments and visit with our Clergy, our Parish Council and the Stewards of our Parish.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The mouth is the grocer's friend, the dentist's fortune, the orator's pride, and the fool's trap.

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.

WHERE DO THE CHURCH OFFERINGS GO? It takes a great deal of money to operate our church. For the month of December 2017, the expenses of our parish came close to \$70,000. We thank those who have attended worship regularly and helped to maintain a steady income. However, that is not enough. It is in our hands to shape the future of our parish, along with the future of every man, woman, and child that calls SS. Constantine & Helen their home. It is our commitment of time, talent, and resources, that with the Lord's blessings, we shall build up our fellowship to be a worthy body of Christ. Show your concern and love. Please give generously. You will truly be blessed for it.

For your information as of February 1, 2018, 347 pledges for a total of \$232,642 have been submitted to the church office. This is 353 pledges and \$267,438 short of our goal set by the Stewardship Committee to raise \$500,000. Have you remembered to submit your 2018 Pledge Form and payment to our parish? If so, thank you! If not, what are you waiting for?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday of Souls – February 10th, 17th & 24th
St. Athimos of Chios Vespers & Feast Day – February 14th & 15th
Koliva Making Workshop, February 16th
Great Lent Begins – Monday, February 19th
Philoptochos Koulouma Dinner – February 19th
St. Savvas of Kalymnos Vespers – March 17th
Palm Sunday – April 1st
Pascha/Easter Sunday – April 8th

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.

FEAST DAY CELEBRATION OF ST. ANTHIMOS OF CHIOS will take place with the Vespers Service 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 14th and the Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 15th. Following Vespers a Fellowship Hour will be offered. This Feast Day is being sponsored by the Kanaris Chion Society.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING: Monday, February 5th, 7:00pm in the library. We ask all our teachers and assistants to be in attendance so that we can review our program and make plans for the Saturday of Lazarus Retreat, as well as our Summer Vacation Bible School. For more details, see Fr. George.

CHION SOCIETY MEETING: Tuesday, February 6th, 6:30 p.m. in the library.

HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS: Practice will be Wednesday, February 7th 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 Friday, February 9th, 5:30–8:00 p.m. PTO meeting at 5:40 p.m. in the library.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: Loukoumades Sale: 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.

The next meeting of our St. Helen's Philoptochos Society will be on Monday, February 12th, 6:30 p. m. in the Gold Room. All women of our community, 18 years and older, single or married, are invited to attend.

Mark your calendars for the Philoptochos **Lenten Food Sale**, Sunday, February 18th, after church. For Pre-Orders call Drosula Vliside at 219-226-4272 or Panagiota Nuses at 219-769-2698.

HELPING HAND UPDATE: For those who would like to help those less fortunate from our parish and the needy of our area, and don't know how to go about it, the solution is easy. Give a monetary donation to our Helping Hand Fund. Through your generosity we hope to assist those less fortunate with their various needs during the holiday season. For details on how you can help, see Fr. Ted.

FOOD PANTRY: Donations of a ham for Easter as well as pasta, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, canned meats, canned tuna, canned fruits, canned vegetables, dry beans, lentils are all needed. Other things needed are personal hygiene items, shampoo, and toothpaste, cleaning products, hand soap, dish soap, toilet paper and other paper goods. Cash donations are always welcome.

CELC NEWS: CELC is having their DEE-licious Cookie Dough, Popcorn, and Bundt Cake Fundraiser from February 5th through March 3rd. All purchases must be paid in full when order is placed. Please support our pre-school and stop by our table in the lobby after Liturgy. Thanking you in advance for your support.

THE NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM is hosting a workshop for educators on the topic of *"The Greeks of Asia Minor"* on February 9th, 9:00am-2:30pm at the National Hellenic Museum. For further information or to register, please contact Dimitra Georgouses at dgeorgouses@hellenicmuseum.org.

YAL ORTHODOX ON TAP: The topic *"How do you understand death?"* will be discussed by speaker Rev. Dr. Perry Hamalis, February 22 at 7:30 p.m., at Leona's, 6935 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL. All young adults are welcomed to attend.

GODPARENT SUNDAY: The tradition of hosting a day for Godparents, Godchildren, and the parents, is a blessing. Most of us become preoccupied with our day to day tasks and often forget the solemn promise made when we assumed the role of Godparent. It is not enough to witness the sacred moment when our godchild's name was entered into the Book of Life, but to follow the progress of his or her spiritual journey. Today, we call to mind the moment during the Baptism of the words we spoke on behalf of the child. "We renounce Satan and we embrace the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." As we worship in today's liturgy, let us recall the moment of God's Grace and Love in our journey to the Kingdom. We thank all who have accepted the awesome responsibility of a Godparent. May God continue to strengthen you and provide the Light to guide you in the path of our Lord Jesus Christ' footsteps.

Let us take a moment to thank our Philoptochos Ladies for their remembrance and efforts to host a Loukoumades Sale today, bringing families together in fellowship once more in the spirit of God's love and joy.

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON is one of the best-known and most loved of all of the Gospel lessons. No doubt we are all quite familiar with the pertinent details of this touching tale: an impatient man – the younger of two sons – asks for his portion of his inheritance from his father so that he could begin what he expected to be an exciting new life. He seeks freedom and independence, but quickly finds out that he has become a slave to excess and wasteful living. Soon he has lost everything, forced to take the most degrading of jobs just to survive. Thankfully, the son decides to go back and seek a second chance. "I will return to my father," he wisely concludes. The story has a happy ending: the father forgives his prodigal son, rejoicing that the boy who **"was dead is alive again, and was lost and found"** (Luke 15:32).

The Parable of the Prodigal Son symbolizes God's unlimited mercy. It teaches us that God forgives and receives back even the greatest of sinners, as long as they repent and are strong enough to utter those two different words: I'M SORRY. Truly, a sincere apology is the first step to forgiveness.

But wait...the father had TWO sons, didn't he? We see that the older son is not pleased with the "royal treatment" given to his younger brother. In fact, he resents it greatly and refuses to join in the celebration provided in his brother's honor. Now, some may think the older son's anger was justified. After all, he HAD been faithful to his father – he HAD obediently served him well, and apparently had never received any attention or accolades for his loyalty. In his own bitter words, no celebration was given to honor him. It just didn't seem fair to him. But should the father have to reward the older son for doing what was expected of him? In reality, the older son was passing judgement on his brother, self-righteously viewing him with contempt and disdain. There is a great lesson here for us as well. We must serve our Father because we are called upon to do so, not merely because we are looking for something in return. After all, "everything that He has will be ours" one day if we are faithful to Him for the right reasons. As we approach the Lenten season, let us imitate the Prodigal Son in his contrition and avoid the judgement attitude of his brother.

CHURCH FATHERS SPEAK: The person who accuses his brother for his evil deeds will find God as his accuser.

-St. Isaac the Syrian