

Sunday June 2, 2019

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

6th Sunday of Pascha – Sunday of the Blind Man

The Holy Fathers of the 2nd Ecumenical Council

Nikephoros the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: 198, 5, #, 134, 240 (Found in red hymnal book)

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** John 20:11-18

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: John 9:1-38

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.** John Nikolaras

Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. Everyone

MEMORIALS

6 mons. Kalotina Kritikos 2 yrs. Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago
1 yr. Haralambos Zairis 21 yrs. Stamatoula Tripodis
2 yrs. Vasilios Tsouklis

“MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!”

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 τριημερω εγερσει!

And the congregation responds by saying:

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

Προσκυνουμεν Αυτου την τριημερον εγερσιν!

35th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Tonight our parish honors Fr. Ted Poteres on the 35th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m. with Social Hour followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. and concluding with entertainment and dancing.

THE SECOND ECUMENCIAL COUNCIL: The decision of the Nicene Council was not universally accepted in the Church for a long time. The controversy raged for many decades. Numerous councils were held in different places which formulated various statements of faith. The Arian party gained imperial support and the defenders of the Nicene faith were greatly persecuted. The troubles persisted until 381 when, at a council in Constantinople, known as the **Second Ecumenical Council**, the original decision of Nicea was reaffirmed and the divinity of the Holy Spirit was proclaimed. The combined statement of these two councils comprises the **Symbol of Faith**, the **Creed** of the Orthodox Church.

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 REMINDER: The 2019 stewardship list of members for our Cathedral is growing. As of June 1st, the church office has received 550 pledge forms equaling \$351,966 in pledges. This is an encouraging sign; however, we are still short of our goal of raising \$500,000. There are still many members in our community who have failed to make a financial commitment to the Cathedral for 2019. If you haven't submitted a 2019 Pledge to the Cathedral, please stop by the church office and fill one out and make your payment.

Also, please note, since we are entering into the month of June those members who have pledged for 2019 your pledge commitment should be at least half way paid at this time.

If everyone who claims our SS. Constantine and Helen Cathedral as their spiritual home did their fair share in support of our stewardship program, and paid their stewardship pledge, and paid their stewardship on time and on a yearly basis, we wouldn't need gimmicks such as raffles, festivals, rentals, etc. to raise the funds necessary to do God's work and preach His Word in this world.

GREEK FEST NOTES: Following worship today our Greek Fest Committee members will be seeking volunteers to help with and work our Fest. We hope that we can have enough members of our community to volunteer for at least 2 to 4 hours of work during the peak times of the Fest. This will be a great assistance. If we have enough workers it will not over-work, or burden anyone. Secondly, we can save a lot of money if we can do certain jobs ourselves instead of having to pay others to do the work. Please offer your time and talent by signing up today!

BAKERY NEWS: We need a variety of baked goods, Greek and non-Greek. If you can bake something, please do so. If you can't bake a monetary donation may be made, which will assist us in purchasing ingredients and items for our Bake Shop. The baking schedule for June and July is as follows:

Monday, June 3	8:00 a.m. – Sweet Bread
Wednesday, June 5	8:00 a.m. – Kolachkies
Tuesday, June 11	8:00 a.m. – Kolachkies
Thursday, June 13	8:00 a.m. – Finikia
Tuesday, June 18	8:00 a.m. – Almond Cookies
Thursday, June 20	8:00 a.m. – Kourambietes
Tuesday, June 25	8:00 a.m. – Copenhi/Karithopita
Thursday, June 27	8:00 a.m. – Koulouria
Tuesday, July 2	8:00 a.m. – Diples
Monday, July 8	8:00 a.m. – Baklava
Thursday, July 11	8:00 a.m. – Get Pastries Ready

HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS: Practice will be Wednesday, June 5th 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.

GRADUATE SUNDAY will be held next Sunday, June 9th in honor of our 2019 Graduates. We will be presenting the Cathedral, Novak Family, Latos, GOYA, Panagiotis Proimos and other designated scholarships on this day. There will be a brunch served in the Great Hall honoring our graduates in memory of Panagiotis Proimos. Please contact the church office if you plan on attending.

NAME DAY CELEBRATION of His Eminence, Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago will be held on Monday, June 10th, with Great Vespers, 7:00 p.m. at St. Nectarios GOC in Palatine, IL. Following Vespers there is an Open House Reception. Everyone is invited to attend and greet His Eminence for His Nameday.

On Tuesday, June 11th, the Feast Day of the Holy Apostle Bartholomew worship will begin with Orthros at 8:30 a.m. followed immediately with the Hierarchal Liturgy at the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago. After worship a luncheon will be offered. All are welcome to attend.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Act now, if you are interested in signing up your child. VBS will be held the week of June 17th-20th, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon with the theme of "The Church is the Door of Life." Registration will take place on Sunday's after worship in the lobby or the church office during the week. Registration ends on Sunday, June 9th. There is a \$5.00 donation per child to help cover the cost for the snacks and meals that will be served. We are in need of volunteers: teachers, team leaders, kitchen staff, and a morning registration person. If interested, please see Fr. George.

6th ANNUAL 5K FAMILY WALK-RUN will take place Saturday, June 22nd, 8:00am. Besides the 5K, we will also have a 50 yard dash for our younger participants. 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 our website at www.ssconstantineandhelen.org. If you are interested in sponsoring or volunteering for this event or for other specific details, contact Joe Massow at (219) 776-2682 or Jo Ann Massow at (219) 776-6336.

JR. OLYMPICS UPDATE: Great job by all our athletes who represented our parish with heart, hustle and sportsmanship. Thank you to all our coaches who volunteered their time and did such a terrific job. Special thanks goes out to Peter Georgiadis and his crew for organizing our parish roster. It was a lot of fun and we look forward to next year.

Medal count for the 2019 Junior Olympics was 25 medals total - one of our best years! 14 Swimming medals alone! Our team of swimmers medaled in every event they participated in. A first for our community!

Listed below are our medal & award recipients:

Anesti Tsagris – silver (long jump), bronze(100m)

Anastasia Tsagris – gold (400m)

Juliette Mills – silver (shot put)

Ari Bairaktaris bronze (checkers)

Elena Dovellos – gold (checkers)

Thanasi Georgiadis – silver (400m)

Maria Paviadakis and Nikki Gerodemos – Silver (table tennis doubles)

Stavros Mihalakis – bronze (checkers)

Girls Volleyball - Bronze Medal. First volleyball medal ever for Cathedral!

Swimming:

George Dovellos - 1 gold, 2 silver 1 bronze (relay)

Helene Papadakis - 3 gold, 1 bronze (relay)

Niko Katsaros - 1 gold, 1 bronze (relay)

Katie Gardner - 1 gold, 2 silver,

Anesti Tsagris - 1 gold, 2 silver

Evan Vaupel - 1 bronze (relay)

WHAT IS A PRIEST?



Priests are mystery men. They come in assorted sizes, ages, weights and vestments. They are found everywhere, speeding along, perspiring over, walking by, kneeling down, praying over, laughing with, preaching to, teaching about, pardoning for and just being there. Little children run to them, teenagers marvel at them, aged folk turn to them, lay people treasurer them, non-Orthodox stare at them and Panagia watches over them.

A priest is prudence in a T-shirt, fortitude with a breviary in his hand, justice on a ball diamond and temperance at any party. He is Faith with a blueprint, Hope with a sense of humor and Charity with a golf club in hand.

A priest may be anything from a contemplative monk in a monastery to a magazine editor on Wall Street, from a labor mediator to a TV personality, from a student to a professor. Formerly known as the boy around the corner, he's a member of each family, yet belongs to none. He penetrates secrets, shares sorrows and heals wounds. He has the trust of a child, the kindness of a best friend, the sternness of a top sergeant, the daring of a tight rope walker, the authority of an encyclopedia, the versatility of a commando and the salesmanship of a Fuller Brush man,

A priest is a humble creature, a mystifying worker at all professions. His hours are the longest, his salary the smallest, his Boss the best! He loves a full church, the smiles of children, a good sermon, a home-cooked meal and the name "Father."

A priest is all things to all men in the sight of God. He may be misquoted, mistaken and misunderstood, but he'll always forgive, because he's a mediator, a peacemaker, a go between heaven and earth. It's no wonder God loves him. He's a man standing at an altar, clothed in Holy clothes, who while being aware of his own nothingness speaks to God for us and to us for God. And although his greatest act is to offer the sacrifice, his most consoling one is to say to me, "Go in peace, your sins are forgiven."

AXIOS FR. TED ON YOUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD!

"LEAVING" WITHOUT "LEAVING US ALONE": Forty days after His glorious Resurrection, Christ ascended from Mount of Olives, returning to His heavenly home. One can only imagine how the Apostles felt when He vanished before their very eyes. For three years, they spent nearly every moment with Jesus. They heard His teachings they witnessed His miracles they shared in intimate discussions with Him. Now, their Master was gone.

Soon, however, the Apostles realized that this, too, was part of God's plan. Christ's work on earth was completed. He had come to "*seek and save the lost.*" That being accomplished, it was necessary that He return to heaven to "*prepare a place for us.*" But while our Lord physically left this world, He did not leave us alone! At the Mystical Supper, He explained to His Apostles: "**It is to your advantage that I go away. If I do not, the Comforter will not come to you, but if I go, I will send Him to you**" (John 16:7). Even in His Resurrected Body, Christ could only be at one place at a time, The Holy Spirit, however, is "*in all places and fills all things!*" Christ continues to be with us through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Moreover, He told His followers: "**Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world**" (Matthew 28:20). How can we ever think that our Lord has really left us, when we constantly greet one another with these words: "*Christ is among us – He is and always shall be*"?

As we celebrate the FEAST OF THE ASCENSION, may we rejoice at the Lord's "home coming!" May God allow us to, one day, be united with Him in His kingdom.

SERVICE SCHEDULE: Thursday, June 6th – *Ascension of the Lord* – Orthros: 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. in the Cathedral.

Πεμπτη, 6 Ιουνιου - *Της Αναληψεως του Χριστου* – Ορθρος: 8:00 π.μ. και η Θεια Λειτουργια: 9:00 π.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

OUR CATHEDRAL GREEK FEST will be held on the weekend of July 12th-14th. Preparations are underway for a great weekend.

Once again, we will be seeking donations for bakery, dairy, meat, seafood, produce and other various items. We especially need donors for the 400 lambs that we need for this year's Festival. If you can donate a lamb or two (\$100-whole, \$60-half) or be of assistance in donating towards the other items, please see Fr. Ted, John Petalas Parish Council President or contact the church office. Your assistance will help ensure a successful festival. Our goal for this year's festival is to raise at least \$100,000 profit. We can do it if everyone pitches in.

Raffle tickets have been mailed out to all members of our Cathedral. If you have not received your raffle tickets or need more, contact the church office. It may seem a little early, but the Festival Committee wants to have a successful year in raffle sales. This year we will be giving out \$20,000 in prizes. Tickets are 1 for \$25 or 5 for \$100. This we urge everyone to make every effort to sell your tickets. It is through the raffle that the Festival makes most of its money.

Anyone interested in working the outside bar at this year's Grecian Festival today is the last day to turn in your bartender application

CATHEDRAL EARLY LEARNING CENTER: Our preschool is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. To enroll for the two day class 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 for details.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Graduate Sunday – June 9th

Saturday of Souls – June 15th

Pentecost & Father's Day – June 16th

Fanari Camp Weeks– June 16th, June 23rd, July 7th, July 14th

5K Family Walk/Run – June 22nd

Greek Fest – July 12th, 13th, & 14th

FOOD PANTRY NEWS: The Merrillville Meijer Food Store is hosting their Simply Give Campaign on Friday, June 14th. Purchase a gift card for \$10 at Meijer's and Meijer's will match your donation which then goes to benefit our Food Pantry. Please support these Double Match Days when doing your grocery shopping.

HELPING HAND UPDATE: If anyone 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.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS: Early registration for next year's Greek School program has begun. Don't miss out on discounted registration costs. Parents register your children during the week in the church office. For further details, see Taki Zarakas.

JOB OPENING: There is a great opportunity for someone young looking for a manager position at a local business establishment. If you are interested in this career move, contact John at 219-921-3507.

THOUGHT: If you could phone, fax, text or write to Heaven for information on how to be saved, you would get the same answer the Bible gives you, **"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved"...** (Acts 16:31).