

Sunday March 31, 2019
3rd Sunday of Lent – Veneration of the Holy Cross
Hypatios the Wonderworker

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: 27, 3, 27, 134, 234 (Found in red hymnal book)

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** John 21:14-25
 Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-6
 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38, 9:1

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.** Elias Ploutis
 Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. Everyone

NO MEMORIALS due to the Veneration of the Holy Cross.

SERVICE SCHEDULE: Monday, April 1st – *Compline Service* – 6:00 p.m. (Chapel)
Wednesday, April 3rd – *Presanctified Liturgy* – 6:00 p.m. (Chapel).
Friday, April 5th – 4th *Salutation Service to the Theotokos* – 6:30 p.m. (Cathedral).
ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΤΙΚΟΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ:
Δευτερα, 1 Απριλιου – *Μεγα Αποδειπνον*: 6:00 μ.μ. – Παρεκκλησιο.
Τεταρτη, 3 Απριλιου – *Λειτουργια Προηγιασμενων Δωρων*: 9:00 π.μ. (Πκ).
Παρασκευη, 5 Απριλιου – *Δ' Χαιρετισμοι στην Θεοτοκον*: 6:30 μ.μ. – Καθεδρικο

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.

SPECIAL TRAY TODAY: Instead of the usual special tray collecting for the Epitaphio flowers after church, today the collection will be for the benefit of our Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, MA. Please give generously!

CHRIST SPEAKS: I have opened the gates that were bolted. I have shattered the bars of iron and the iron became red-hot; it has melted at My presence; and nothing more has been shut, because I am the gate for all beings. I went to free the prisoners; they belong to Me. I abandon no one. I have sown my fruits in the hearts of mortals and I have changed them into Myself. They are my members, and I am their head.

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: Our Sunday School students have been given Mission Boxes and we ask them to be returned to the Sunday School office by the Saturday of Lazarus, April 20th or Palm Sunday, April 21st. Your support is vital in helping to proclaim the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ throughout the world.

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS: YOUTH RETREAT: We would like to remind our parishioners of our Sunday School Lenten Retreat on April 20th, the Saturday of Lazarus. Registration will begin this Sunday in the lobby after services. The retreat will take place after the worship services for the day. First, we will have a light Lenten meal and then we will break down into various groups for instruction and other activities.

SHUT-IN VISITATION: If there is anyone shut in at home, hospital, or nursing home and would like our clergy to visit them and administer the Sacraments of Holy Confession, Holy Communion, and/or Holy Unction, please call the church office at 219-769-2481 to make an appointment.

STEWARDSHIP: Christ's giving went into depths of His being so that He emptied Himself, becoming poor that others might become rich. No giving can be called too much in the light of this love.

We would like to thank all those of our parish who have submitted their 2019 Stewardship Commitment Pledge Forms to the church office. We ask those who haven't, to please take the time today and do so. We need everyone's support to maintain our parish and the ministries it offers in Christ's Name to all.

KNOW YOUR BLESSINGS: Bill was sitting in his house during a torrential downpour. As the floodwaters reached the bottom of the front door, some friends came along in a rowboat and called to him to climb in. But Bill said, "No, I'm trusting in the Lord to help me. I'll be OK. I'm staying here." The rain kept coming, and the floodwaters kept rising. So Bill moved to the second floor of his house. Another boat with volunteer rescuers came along and offered a ride out of the flood. Bill again said, "No, I'm trusting in the Lord to help me. I'll be OK. I'm staying here." Finally the floodwaters reached the top of the house and Bill was forced onto the roof. Along came a helicopter. The pilot dropped down a rope ladder and called to Bill to climb aboard. Bill said, "No, I'm trusting in the Lord to help me. I'll be OK. I'm staying here." The waters kept rising, and old Bill drowned. Arriving in heaven, Bill said to the Lord, "Lord, I just don't understand it. I trusted in you, and I still ended up drowning." The Lord replied, "Well, Bill, I don't understand it either. I sent you two boats and a helicopter, and you didn't take any of them!"

CHION SOCIETY MEETING: Tuesday, April 2nd, 6:30 p.m. in the Gold Room.

A LENTEN MEAL & TALK will be offered following this week's Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday, April 3rd, at 7:15 p.m. Topic of discussion "*Your Faith in Action!*" will be offered by Nick Kasemeotis of the IOCC. If you would like to attend, please call the church office at 769-2481 so that the proper meal arrangements can be made.

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

GREEK FEST MEETING: Tuesday, April 9th at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall. Please come and offer your time and talent in organizing our Greek Festival which celebrates its 50th year Anniversary this summer.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: **Monthly Meeting** for our St. Helen's Philoptochos Society is Tuesday April 9th, 6:30 p.m. Please note the day change!

The Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon and Bake Sale will take place on Sunday, April 21st, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Cost will be \$10.00 for adults, which include Fried Fish, Rice, Taramosalata, Beets, Bread, Beverage, and Dessert. A child's menu of Cheese Pizza, Chips, and Pop is \$5.00. The Bake Sale will feature Easter Breads and Cookies, along with other Greek Pastries and delicious treats.

GOYA LAMB RAFFLE: Our GOYA will be raffling off 3 lambs this year for Easter. Tickets for the Raffle are available from individual Goyans or may be purchased on Sunday's after church in the lobby. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The raffle will be held on Palm Sunday, April 21st. Please support the efforts of our GOYA.

CELEBRATION FOR ST. SAVVAS OF KALYMNOS: A Vespers Service will be offered to commemorate St. Savvas of Kalymnos on Saturday, April 13th, 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Following worship a Lenten Fellowship Hour will be offered in the Gold Room. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS: Applications for the AHEPA, GOYA, Cathedral and Novak Family Scholarships are available in the church office. Deadline for applications is Monday, May 1st. Applications for Panagiotis Proimos Memorial Scholarship are also available from the church office with a deadline of May 10th.

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 24th-26th 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.

35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Ads for the Commemoration Booklet for Fr. Ted's 35th Anniversary Celebration are being taken at the church office. For details, see Nick Kavadas. Deadline for Ads is April 15th.

Invitations for the June 2nd event have been mailed out to our members, business associates, neighbors and friends. Cost is \$75 per adult, \$25 per child (12 & under). For specific details, call JoAnn Massow (219) 776-6336.

All proceeds raised from the booklet and dinner benefit our Cathedral Roof Renovation Project.

A MEDITATION ON THE CROSS: Jesus has many lovers of His kingdom of heaven, but He has few bearers of His Cross. Many desire His consolation, but few desire His tribulation. He finds many comrades in eating and drinking, but He finds few who will be with Him in His abstinence and fasting.

All would share in the joy of Christ, but few will suffer anything for Christ. Many follow Him to the breaking of His bread, for their bodily refreshment, but few will follow Him to drink a draft of the chalice of His Passion.

Many honor His miracles, but few will follow the shame of His Cross and His other shame. Many love Jesus as long as no adversity befalls them, and can praise and bless Him whenever they receive any benefits from Him, but if Jesus withdraws a little from them and forsakes them a bit, they soon fall into some great grumbling or excessive dejections or into open despair.

But those who love Jesus purely for Himself, and not for their own profit or convenience, bless Him as heartily in temptation and tribulation and in all other adversities as they do in time of consolation.

Oh, how much more may the love of Jesus do for the help of the soul if it is pure and clean, not mixed with any inordinate love of itself!

A SPECIAL LITANY for the Veneration of the Holy Cross will take place today towards the end of the Divine Liturgy. A tray of flowers, bearing a Cross, is taken by the priest in procession around the church. During the procession, the people kneel and sing the hymn "Ayios O Theos – Holy is God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us." After circling the church, the tray is placed on a table in the middle of the solea. As the priest intones the words "Sophia Orthoi – Wisdom, let us be attentive" the people stand. Then the hymn of the day "O Lord save Thy people" is sung by the priest and congregation. After this the people bow their heads and are blessed by the priest as the hymn "Your Cross we venerate, O Lord, and your Holy Resurrection we glorify" is being sung. At the conclusion of the Liturgy the faithful come and venerate the Cross and receive a flower. The flower symbolizes that it is the Cross of Jesus that brings new life, in sublime beauty and fragrance, making every true believer "the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved" (2 Corinthians 2:15).

FROM THE FATHERS: There is nothing impossible unto those who believe; lively and unshaken faith can accomplish great miracles in the twinkling of an eye. Besides, even without our sincere and firm faith, miracles are accomplished, such as the miracles of the sacraments; for God's Mystery is always accomplished, even though we were incredulous or unbelieving at the time of its celebration. "Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?" (Rom. 3:3). Our wickedness shall not overpower the unspeakable goodness and mercy of God; our dullness shall not overpower God's wisdom, nor our infirmity God's omnipotence.

- St. John of Kronstadt

FOR PONDERING: God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

CONFESSION: Our lives need spiritual direction. One of the best ways to receive spiritual direction is by participating in the Sacrament of Holy Confession. To learn more about the Sacrament of Confession, make an appointment with Fr. Ted or Fr. George and experience a renewal of spiritual strength that comes from God's Grace through this Sacrament.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – April 7th

Palm Sunday – April 21st

Pascha/Easter Sunday – April 28th

Mother’s Day Brunch – May 12th

AHEPA Sunday – May 19th

Metropolis of Chicago Jr. Olympics – May 24th-26th

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

Graduate Sunday – June 9th

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: The call to remember the hungry and needy of the world is a continuous call by our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

LENTEN/EASTER DONATIONS: The Lenten season is a time that allows us to provide for the church various items needed. Giving to the church is always special but during Great Lent and Easter it takes on even more meaning. For this reason we would like to take this opportunity to extend to you, the faithful, and an invitation to share in making Great Lent, Holy Week and Easter a most beautiful and inspiring time. Those individuals or families wishing to donate towards any of the following items should contact the church office.

Palms and Bay Leaves for Palm Sunday (April 21): \$2,500

Flowered Wreath (large) Holy Thursday: \$300

Flowered Wreaths (5 small) Holy Thursday: \$150

Epitaphio Flowers – Carnations & Orchids, etc.: \$3500

Flowered Frame Resurrection Icon (large): \$250

40 Easter Lilies: \$400

600 Eggs for Easter & Agape Services:?

GREAT LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICE BOOKS, as well as other spiritual readings, are now available for purchase. The text of the books used for Lenten Services are in Greek and English and are easily understood. If you are interested in purchasing any of these books, please visit the bookstore in the library.

GREAT COMPLINE - \$10

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY - \$20

SALUTATION SERVICE - \$15

HOLY WEEK - \$25

THE GREAT CANON (ENGLISH) - \$10

GREAT LENT - \$15

DAILY LENTEN MEDITATIONS - \$10

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT - \$10

GOD SPEAKS FROM THE CROSS - \$15

THE LENTEN SPRING - \$15

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. For details on how you can help, see Fr. Ted.

THOUGHT: Be grateful for what you have, not regretful for what you haven’t.