

Sunday, September 30, 2018

2nd Sunday of Luke

Gregory the Illuminator, Bishop of Armenia

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: 1, 21, 134, 218 (Found in red hymnal book)

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** John 20:1-10
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

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. All Parish Council Members

MEMORIALS

2 yrs. Maria S. Fotinos
15 yrs. Anthony Pavlides
22 yrs. Pauline Pavlides

“MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL”

FELLOWSHIP HOUR: In memory of Maria S. Fotinos in the Gold Room. Everyone is welcome.

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.

HURRICANE FLORENCE SPECIAL APPEAL: The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is praying for those who lost their lives because of Hurricane Florence and urges our parishes and faithful to continue their fervent prayers to Almighty God for solace, strength and quick relief to those impacted by the storm and who are facing adversity and uncertainty.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios has asked for a special appeal from parishes or individuals. Proceeds are to go to the Hurricane Relief Fund of the National Ladies Philotochos Society to be used for this philanthropic purpose.

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 NOTE: With the end of September, we have finished three-quarters of the year. Yet there are still many members who have failed to make a financial pledge of commitment to our parish. There are others who have pledged yet for some unknown reason have failed to keep their word of commitment. Thank God for those few who have made their commitment, met it, and are now surpassing it. However, for our parish to remain strong and continue to serve the needs of our growing community, we need everyone's cooperation and support. Give to God and His Holy Church what He graciously supplies to you. You will not only gain from this but be truly blessed.

YAL ESSENTIAL BACKPACKS: The YAL along with the Street Outreach Team are preparing for their October outreach. Once again, we will be distributing “essential backpacks for the homeless youth, women and men of Chicago. The following items are needed: socks, wipes, water, mints, Band-Aids, deodorant, granola bars, cheese crackers, and applesauce. You may donate a backpack, essential items, or a backpack full of the essential items. Please keep in mind they are living on the streets; they may be subjected to theft or violence, therefore please no money or gift cards. Backpacks should not be heavy. Your support is greatly appreciated! Collection begins September 9th thru October 14th. Donations can be placed in the baskets located in the Narthex or dropped off in the church office.

FALL MINI GREEK FEST: The Fall Mini Greek Food Fest will be on Friday, November 2nd and Saturday, November 3rd from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Gold Room.

Volunteers are needed to help organize, advertise, set up the hall, serve, cook, bake and clean up afterwards. Monetary donations accepted.

Proceeds raised from this event will go to benefit our parish and help reduce the deficit in the budget caused by unforeseen maintenance and renovation repairs. All parishioners are encouraged to come on out with their families, neighbors, friends and enjoy a delicious meal.

CHURCH FATHERS SPEAK: He who prays should bear in mind that if God spared not even His only-begotten Son but gave him for us all, He cannot but give us every imaginable blessing. For if the infinite and greatest blessing has been given, then will not the finite and lesser blessings also be granted?

-St. John of Kronstadt

CHOIR UPDATE: There will be no choir next Sunday, October 7th because many of our members will be attending the Metropolis of Chicago Choir Federation Conference next weekend to celebrate National Church Musician Sunday. We will celebrate Church Musician Sunday in our parish the following week when our choir is back with us.

JR. GOYA & GOYA MEETINGS: Monday, October 1st, 6:30 p.m.

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

HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS: Dance practice this Wednesday, October 3rd. Junior group from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and the Senior group from 7:00-8:30 p.m. For details or to check on schedule changes, contact Taki Zarakas.

The Second Metropolis of Chicago Hellenic Dance Festival will be held the weekend of October 5th-7th at the Chicago Marriot Oakbrook Hotel, Oakbrook, IL. A group from our parish will be attending.

GREEK MACEDONIAN MEETING: Wednesday, October 3rd, 5:30 p.m. in the Gold Room.

GREEK SCHOOL: Classes are scheduled for this Friday, October 5th from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

GOYA COAT DRIVE: This is the last week that the GOYA will be collecting new and gently used coats for children, teens, young adults, women and men. Coats can be dropped off in the church office or in the Narthex until October 7th.

PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING: Monday, October 8th, 6:30 p.m. in the Gold Room.

FALL FAMILY HAYRIDE: Sunday, October 14th, 2:00pm, Kregel's Pumpkin Patch, Lowell, IN. Cost is \$8 per child, \$6 per adult which includes hayride, slide, and corn maze. RSVP to Kelly @ 331-3119 or the church office.

THE ANNUAL FAMILY FUN NIGHT will be held on Saturday, October 20th, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. this year. Admission is \$5 per person (no meal). Games, dancing, silent auction, raffle, costume contest and refreshments are available for additional cost. The theme is "*Come BOO-gie with Us*" Let us all come together for a fun evening and support this event that benefits the GOYA Scholarship Fund.

THANK YOU to everyone who supported last week's Peter Stassis Memorial Benefit which raises funds for scholarships for our youth to attend Fanari Camp. Special thanks to the Stassis family for providing this awesome event and delicious meal which benefits our children through Peter Stassis' memory.

HARVEST FOR THE HUNGRY: Once again our parish is reaching out to assist those less fortunate during the holiday season by providing meals for Thanksgiving. Won't you step up and offer your help? Monetary donations are being accepted through November 9th. If you would like to help serve dinner on Thanksgiving Day, please contact Bill Logothetis at 219-743-7117, before November 9th. For additional information, contact Eva Kostides at 219-308-8370.

THOUGHT: The world is full of people making a good living but living poor lives.

SAINT OF THE DAY – GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR: Gregory was born in Armenia. He withdrew to Caesarea of Cappadocia where he received baptism and married. He had two sons. Returning to his place of birth, he became Bishop of Armenia where he Christianized the entire area, converting even King Tiridates. He died a martyr's death after a great many trials and tribulations at the hands of his captors. He died in advanced age in 335. His son, Aristanes, was consecrated bishop and was one of the 318 fathers at the First Ecumenical Council.

THE DAY OF SALVATION: We must always look to the glory that is going to be revealed to us in the coming age for many reasons. 1) It has been promised to us repeatedly by our Lord and by the fathers of our Faith. 2) It gives us hope throughout the challenges that we face in our lives. 3) There is so much work to be done in our Lord's vineyard in the meantime.

This good news is made even more excellent for us when we are reminded that this glory that awaits us can be experienced in the present moment. Like St. Paul we can also say with God's help that "today is the day of salvation!" For example, we literally say this when we celebrate the Divine Liturgy with the Resurrection Hymn "Today Salvation Has Come into the World. Let us sing to him who rose from the dead, the author of our life. Having destroyed death by death, He has given us victory and great mercy."

If we couldn't experience God in our present lives why would God have gone through all of that trouble by becoming a man to save us the way He did? Because of this we have so many blessings that are right in front of us as Orthodox Christians. Why wouldn't we be able to live the Christian life and glorify God if we couldn't do it this very second and fulfill our Lord's Holy will for us today?

WHAT CAN WE SAY? What can we say about the will of God and suffering?

First, God came into the world in the person of Jesus not to inflict evil, suffering, and death upon us but to overcome them. "In the world you have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world," said Jesus. Call many things evil, call them inevitable because of sin, but don't call them the will of God.

Secondly, we can understand God's will better if we do not always expect Him to do things our way. "**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts**" (Isaiah. 55:8-9). God does not and will not follow our advice. His is far wiser.

Thirdly, we can say that when we suffer God shares our sorrow and grief. As a little boy who had been badly burned said when a woman said of him, "Oh, why does God punish a child like that?" "Don't say that," the child cried out. "Don't say anything bad about God! When it hurts, God cries with me!" That boy's theology was absolutely Orthodox!

Fourthly, we can say that Jesus Who overcame death for us has it in His power to make it up to those who are taken away too soon by death. This is not the only life. There is eternity ahead. There is more life ahead – infinitely more! The life that is taken away too soon will get its chance to blossom and flourish. God will redress the wrongs of this world. He will balance the books. "**If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied**" (1 Corinthians 15:19). For what is Christianity without the resurrection, both Christ's and ours? His death does us no good without it. What use is forgiveness if we remain dead?

HELPING HAND APPEAL: During the summer donations for the Helping Hand having fallen, while the need is grew, both within our parish and surrounding community. Please remember those less fortunate and offer your gift of love and assistance through our Helping Hand Fund. To see how you can help, see Fr. Ted.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: The Ross Township and our Cathedral Food Pantry has lost the sponsorship of Costco, Panera and other large corporations over the past year. What we used to receive free we now have to purchase through the Northern Indiana Food Depository. This has put a great burden on us in stocking the shelves for those in need. We are pleading with our parishioners and business partners for donations of canned or dried food items, bread, cereal, personal hygiene supplies and household cleaning supplies. Donations may be brought to church on Sundays or left at the church office during the week. Monetary donations are also welcome. Let us all heed the Lord's call when He said **“I was hungry and you gave me food....in as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me”** (Matthew 25:35-48).

BOOKSTORE NEWS: New items are available in our Cathedral Bookstore. One such item are *Prayer Pillows*, which are perfect for baby cribs, backpacks, Christmas stocking stuffers. The cost is \$10.00 per pillow. Come check them out and the other items at the Bookstore after worship.

PICK UP YOUR CROSS DAY CAMP for people with special needs and their families, Saturday, October 27, 9am-3pm, St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Kansasville, WI. This year's theme: *“Putting on Christ”* For details or to sign-up contact Presvytera Toni Mihalopoulos at toni.poteris@gmail.com.

BYZANTINE MUSIC SCHOOL: Learn Byzantine Ecclesiastical Music, men, women, boys, and girls. Twelve sessions. Tuition \$150 per person. Classes are Saturday's 4-6 p.m. at Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church, Westchester, IL. For details or to register contact Fr. Sotirios Malamis at 847-482-1200 or frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com.

HOUSE POWER: Among electricians there is what is known as “house power.” Frequently we see newspaper ads asking the question: “Is your house supplied with enough power to run all the appliances you need for adequate living?” If not, then you are probably blowing fuses when too heavy a load is laid upon the “house power.” The same thing happens in our personal lives. Think of the power we need to face the many problems and temptations of life. Think of the inner strength we need to cope with the pressures of everyday living. When we do not have sufficient inner power, we blow fuses – “blow our tops.” We go to pieces emotionally. It is a sign of frustration, of inadequacy to face and withstand all outside pressures victoriously.

It was the Holy Spirit of God breaking through at Pentecost that gave the disciples the inner power and wisdom to face and withstand all outside pressures victoriously.

This same Holy Spirit is available to us today through the Church, through prayer, through the sacraments.

“You shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit comes to you,” promised the Lord (Acts 1:8). The power of the Holy Spirit will not only energize you spiritually but it will move you forward to do the work of the Lord in this world.