



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

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February 23, 2020: Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

Chatting During the Divine Liturgy

“The Eucharist is always a going out from this world”

Recently one of our greeters approached a visitor after liturgy asking, “So, what did you think?” The response was unexpected. “Such a beautiful church: the icons, the singing. But I couldn’t pray very well or understand much of the prayers because the people around me were chatting throughout the service.” Unfortunately, not the lasting impression we’re striving for. Now, just for the record, I’m the priest that once didn’t even notice a visitor’s child drinking from his bottle while seated on the bottom step of the ambo. So chatting during services is not a pet peeve of mine. I once served with a clergyman who halted liturgy, called out chatters, and refused to continue until the room was completely silent; so chatters, count yourselves lucky. However, put frankly, adults participating in any degree of conversation not essential to worship or the instruction of their children is unacceptable. We gather at church services for one purpose only: prayer. And the appropriate words to speak during services are clearly identified in the available booklets at the lines labeled “People.”

Confronted with the reality, we can rebel against what might appear to be a legalistic directive. Or, in humility and love for God, we simply admit our error, repent, and quickly move on to forming a new habit. Aiding our effort are the words of inspiring spiritual mentors such as these: “[Liturgy is] the gathering together of heaven and earth and all creation in Christ—which constitutes the essence and purpose of the Church itself. . . . The Eucharist is always a going out from ‘this world’ and an ascent to heaven” (Fr. Alexander Schmemmann). And, “the Eucharist is an offering to God . . . thanksgiving and praise are offered and we express noetic contemplation of God’s glory, we bring to mind the creation of the world, the coming of the Son of God, His ...**(Cont. on the back)**

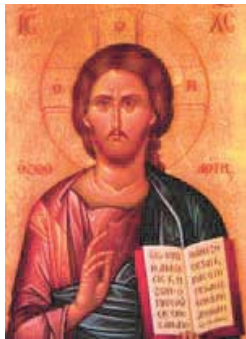


EPISTLE READING:

St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a

stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.



GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a

shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will... **(Continued on the back)**

EVENTS for our Youth and Parents



GOYANs Got Talent, Show and Luncheon TODAY!

1:00 in the church hall

All parishioners are invited!

\$15 per family includes lunch and entertainment. Join us and support our talented teenagers!



Collection for GOYA

Consignment Sale Fundraiser

Only 2 Sundays left to donate!

Bring in gently used kid's clothing, toys, games/books, bedding, strollers, and sports equipment. Ask your friends and neighbors to help! Hangers also needed.



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, Sunday, March 1

More information is on our website.

Contact the the Oratorical Director with questions:, Mr. Yiannis Margetis (gerakas2@yahoo.com)



Mommy and Me Group

Moms only Dinner

Saturday, March 7 at 5:30pm

Red Lobster at 21065 Dulles Town Center

All moms of young children through elementary school are welcome to join us to share fellowship as we nurture our faith together.



HOPE (Ages 5-8) and JOY (Ages 9-12) Event

Monday, March 9

6:30-7:30pm at church

Join our host Ashley Joiner with Denise Lansdell to make Easter Cards for the Prison Ministry and Resurrection Egg Kits.

Attention High School Seniors! AHEPA Scholarship Applications are available!

Go to our AHEPA Chapter 542 website (ahepa542.org) for the AHEPA chapter, district, metro, and national scholarship applications.



Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry
Almsgiving Opportunity at Holy
Apostles, March 1-15

Starting next Sunday, please stop by the table in the hall to sign Easter cards for our fellow brothers and sisters in prison. This is a way to show our support and encouragement by letting them know God loves them! (Matthew 25:36 "...I was in prison and you visited me...") In addition, Scouts in our parish Sunday School who are pursuing the Alpha Omega Award are participating in a fundraiser for the Prison Ministry. They will have a donation box next to the Greeting Card materials for you to donate until March 15th. Thank you!

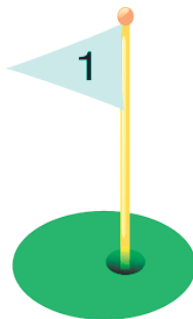
UPCOMING Events



Philoptochos Meeting
Sunday, March 1
Immediately after Liturgy

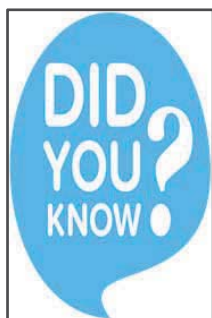
Philoptochos Membership Drive
Through February

Membership forms are on our website and by the bookcase in the hall. Women all ages are welcome to join and support our efforts.



1st Annual Holy Apostles Charity
Golf Tournament; Friday, April 24
1757 Golf in Ashburn

Form your teams! Sponsorships are also available! Look for the flyer in our weekly parish email to register. 7:00 – 7:45 am Registration. 8am Start \$275 per person or \$795 per foursome



With Metropolitan Evangelos' recent approval, we are closing on the sale of a portion of our property. This will allow us to move more quickly to construction but we still need your help. Donate to the Capital Campaign today so we can build YOUR church!

Liturgical and Faith Events

Introduction to Orthodoxy: Part Two

Wednesdays through March 18

7:00-8:30PM

Holy Apostles Church

Contact Fr. George for more information.



February Weekly Liturgical Schedule

Feb. 29, Saturday of Souls; Orthros, 8:30AM

Divine Liturgy, 9:30AM

Today's memorial is in memory of **Elizabeth Kennedy** (1 year), beloved mother of Nick Spyros. May her memory be eternal.



Congratulations!

On January 25th, at the Prometheas organization event at St. George in Bethesda, Vangelis Hadjimichael and Antonis Pardos were honored for passing the Ellinomatheia exams. They acquired the certificates of attainment in the Greek language in specific levels, from the University of Thessaloniki, Greece. On February 2nd, at the Greek Embassy in DC, they received their actual certificates from Greece. On February 1st in Baltimore at St. Nicholas, our student of Ellinomatheia and parishioner, Dionysis Hadjimichael spoke about the Three Holy Hierarchs and their shining example for Orthodoxy and the value of education and the Greek language in society. Congratulations to all! We thank the parents of these children, we are proud of the hard work and all the efforts of these students!



***Thank you** to our Taste of Greece Committee, led by Bill Aubin, our Greek Dance Troupe led by Maria Plevrakis, and all our volunteers who worked for many hours and days to make our Taste of Greece a success!*

(Cover Message Cont.) earthly life, the Mystical Supper, the death upon the Cross, and the Resurrection, and we raise up a prayer that the Holy Spirit might be sent down upon the Gifts that have been set forth” (Fr. Michael Pomazansky). Therefore, every parishioner is spiritually obligated to resist bringing the world into worship. For this reason, most sources of church etiquette contain something like this: “Isn’t it great to come to church and see friends and family members? But wait until after the service to talk to them. It is not appropriate to greet people and have conversation with them during the services. Besides being disrespectful towards God, it is rude towards other people in the church who are trying to worship. Talk to God while in church through your prayers, hymns, and thanksgiving, and to your friends outside, afterwards” (Holy Virgin Cathedral). As Father Thomas Hopko exhorts us, “One who participates in liturgical prayer should put his whole being, his whole mind and heart, into each prayer and petition and liturgical action, making it come alive in himself. If each person does this, then the liturgical exclamations become genuine and true, and the whole assembly as one body will glorify God with ‘one mouth, one mind and one heart.’” So, let us pray, not chat. When you enter the church, venerate the icons, take the priests’ blessings, and simply smile a greeting at your neighbors, but please don’t talk once inside the church. Listen to the words of the prayers and hymns. Make the words your own. Services are an opportunity to freely connect with God. Let your love for Him be the priority. (Archpriest Thaddaeus Hardenbrook)

(Gospel Continued) say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Thank you to our Sunday School and Greek School families for sponsoring today's coffee hour!