



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

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February 3, 2019: 16th Sunday of Matthew

When People Don't Forgive

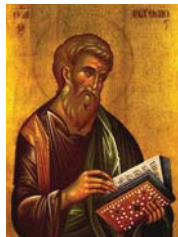
There are people who insist on holding on to resentment, often inventing situations in their minds that never happened, justifying their bad behavior, and putting the blame on others. They see themselves as the abused party, always quick to take offense. Rarely are they able to have healthy relationships, for they are in reality, the abusers. Their world centers around them, and any attempt by others to appease them, only contributes to the anti-social behavior. Such behavior betrays a deep spiritual and psychological illness, one that is not easily healed. Such people feel empowered by making other people uncomfortable, and normal attempts at rapprochement often end in failure, for such people are always looking for ways to continue their control over others. Their illness is difficult to heal, for their pride and deep seated sense of superiority makes repentance difficult, for they simply don't see themselves as having a problem. The cure for the illness of the soul is to be found in the life of the Church, where Her sacred mysteries (the sacraments), Her scriptures, and Her divine services, are the source for the healing that the heart so craves. Forgiveness Sunday Vespers is but one of the sources that can begin the process of healing, for it is during this service that the faithful, one by one, speak the words, "Please forgive me for any hurt or offense I have caused you in any way". The response, "God forgives. Please forgive me for any hurt or offense I have caused you in any way", exemplifies the Church's teaching that we can only forgive others if we have Christ in us, for it is Christ Who gives us the power to forgive. Since God forgives us, we, too, can forgive. One of the Desert Fathers tells us of a young monk who came to his elder, complaining that he'd been wronged... **(Continued on the back)**



EPISTLE READING:
**St. Paul's Second Letter to the
Corinthians 6:1-10**

Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the

acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.



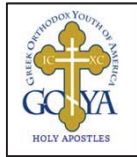
GOSPEL READING:
**The Gospel According to
Matthew 25:14-30**

The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the...' **(Continued on the back)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feast of the Three Hierarchs Ceremony by the Sunday and Greek Schools, TODAY after Liturgy

The Three Hierarchs feast is associated with the Celebration of Greek Letters. This long association highlights the emphasis these holy fathers gave to learning, intellectual ability and discipline, as well as to their use of the Greek language and thought for the message and mission of the Church and the Gospel of Christ.



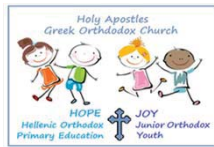
GOYA Meeting, TODAY after Sunday School

Contact Lia Economou
(liaecon@comast.net)



Greek Dance Practice, Feb. 4th 6:30-7:30pm at church

Contact Maria Plevrakis
(maroudi@hotmail.)



Hope & Joy Meeting, Feb. 4th 6:30-7:30pm at church

Contact Ashley Joiner
(ashleydjoiner@gmail.com)



**PAREA (Our Company of Friends)
Lunch, February 5th
11:30am at OPA; 44110 Ashburn
Village Blvd., Ashburn VA 20147
RSVP to Marina (571-969-9234).**

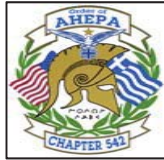
Ellinmoatheia Certification Ceremony, Feb. 10th 2pm, Greek Embassy in Washington, D.C.

All are invited to the ceremony in which our students that passed the Ellinomatheia exams will receive their official certificate of attainment in the Greek language. This certificate is sent directly from the department for the Greek language at the University of Thessaloniki.



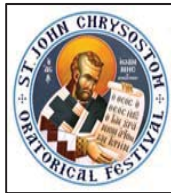
Today's coffee hour is sponsored by
the Sunday School and Greek
School. *Thank you!*

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



AHEPA Chapter 542 Meeting, Feb. 21st
7:30-9pm at church

Visit ahepa542.org for more information.



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical
Festival, March 3rd

After Liturgy at church

Please support our Sunday School students and stay after the Liturgy and listen to our children speak about their Orthodox faith on a variety of topics.

SPRING PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)
March 10th after Liturgy

Save the date for an important vote about the future of our parish.



Greek School Programs for all ages and levels! *Ellinomatheia, Elementary School, Learning Greek with Theater, Greek Language Workshops/Express Greek*

Contact Ergini (ergini@aol.com) or Athanasia (sdacey@comcast.net)



Our GOYA Talent Show and Luncheon had such a big turnout that we had to cancel coffee hour! Wouldn't it wonderful to have room for both? **DONATE to our Capital Campaign TODAY** so we can have our own adequate facilities.

GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:

Holy Communion is offered in the Orthodox Church only to those individuals baptized and Chrismated (Confirmed) in the Orthodox Faith. One must be in good standing with the Church spiritually (for example, married people must have had their marriage blessed in the Church; and, all must be without grave sin on their hearts). For all Orthodox Christians, the proper preparation for Holy Communion must be observed: that is, examination of conscience, confession, reading the prayers for Holy Communion, and the proper fasting and abstinence prior to Holy Communion. For questions, please speak with our Parish Priest. Women should remove all lipstick when approaching for Holy Communion

TASTE OF GREECE
PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND!
February 15-17
Ashburn Firehouse



Volunteer!
Sign up on the board in the hall or
online on our website.



Can't volunteer? Donate!
Help us cover our costs. All donations
welcome!



Tell everyone about it!
Share on social media!
Hand out flyers!

Attention High School Seniors!

Applications are now available for the Washington Metropolitan Area 49th AHEPA Scholarship program. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 30th. The awards will be presented during the May 19th AWARD DINNER. Donor applications are also available to contribute to this worthy program. Contact Steve Martnishn for the application and details: smartnishn@aol.com, 571-204-7048.

AHEPA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

To get details on the **Chapter, District, and National Scholarship programs**, email **info@ahempa542.org**. Since these programs usually support our Holy Apostles Youth, consider helping to raise money by buying or selling a **50/50 raffle ticket** from an AHEPAn Brother. For details, go to **ahempa542.org**.



GOYA needs gently used children's clothes, toys, and other children's items for a consignment sale fundraiser. If you have items your kids have outgrown, give them to us and support GOYA! We also need hangers. Look for the basket in the church hall. *Thank you!*

(Cover Message cont.) by one of his brothers, and following the holy tradition of the desert, had gone to the one who had wronged him, asking for forgiveness. The erring brother refused, so the wronged brother wanted to know what he should do in response. The elder told the young monk that he had walked away justified in the eyes of God, and that there was nothing left for him to do, except to pray for his erring brother. This true story from the Desert Fathers makes clear that we must always be quick to forgive others, even if they were at fault, not remembering the wrong done to us, nor depend on the other cooperating in the reconciliation. Their repentance is not required, for we will be held accountable only for our own response. Before God, we will be justified. When another person refuses to accept our heartfelt apology, we must be willing to let it be, and walk away, knowing that we've done our part. Abusive people such as these, can, if we let them, prevent us from living our own life in Christ, for they keep our focus away from the forgiveness that comes from Christ. When we walk away from such negative people, we walk away having forgiven them, and we commit ourselves to praying for their repentance. There is nothing more we can do. Keeping our focus on Christ, we do not react, do not resent, and do not lose our inner peace. The sickness that is at the basis of controlling, abusive people, must not be allowed to take away from the inner joy and peace that comes from our personal relationship with Christ. For your own soul's sake, and for the soul of the abuser, continue to pray for them, but go your own way, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7)." (By Fr. Tryphon, Abbot of All-Merciful Savior Monastery)

(Gospel Reading Cont.) joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' And he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"



Turn in your 2019 Stewardship Pledge Card today! Cards are available in the church hall and on our website.