



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

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Presiding Priest: Fr. George Alexson (cell) 703-314-6421

****SUMMER HOURS****

Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am

July 30, 2017

8th Sunday of Matthew

St. John of Kronstadt and the Education of Children (Part 4)



St. John's Commandment to Teachers

What does Fr. John command the instructors of children for the discernment of and caution against sin? What does he command the children themselves so that they would know of the danger and consequences of sin? He said, "Warn the children about sin and its consequences!"

And he instructed, "Do not leave children without attention with regard to uprooting from their hearts the chaff of sin, wicked, evil, and blasphemous thoughts, sinful passions, inclinations, and habits, from which our lives are also made. The enemy of salvation and the sinful flesh does not spare the children either, and the seeds of all the sins are also in them. Present a picture to the children of the whole danger and sorrowful consequences of their sins, so that they out of ignorance and unreasonableness would not be formed by their elders on the path of life in sinful passions and habits, which multiply and grow with age." Christian upbringing is the first line of defense in the struggle for the salvation of a child's soul. Fr. John, who himself had difficulty learning as a child, was according to the recollections of his contemporaries a remarkable pedagogue. He never resorted to methods of teaching that were often found in schools: neither to excess strictness, nor to the moral humiliation of slow learners. Well known was his warm, soulful relationship to the students as well as to the work of teaching itself. He had no "slow learners". Everyone at his lessons without exception greedily soaked in his every word. They couldn't wait for his lessons to start. His lessons were more of a pleasure for the students than a heavy burden and obligation. It was living conversation, engaging speech, and interesting, attention-grabbing stories. There were often cases when Fr. John would defend a lazy student who had been "condemned" to expulsion, and he would take the child's correction upon himself. A few years would pass, and the child who seemed to be a hopeless case would be raised up... **(Continued on the inside left page)**



EPISTLE READING : St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-17

BRETHREN, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.



GOSPEL READING : The Gospel According to Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

(Cover message cont...) as a worthy individual. Christians, first of all, should take care that the children grow to be unwavering in the Christian faith, true children of God, living members of the Church, so that Christ would be formed in their hearts (cf. Gal. 4:19), so that more than anything in earthly life they would love and prefer God, then their neighbor as themselves (Mt. 22:37-40). So that the goal of their lives, in the words of St. Seraphim of Sarov, would be the "acquisition of the Holy Spirit" unto the salvation of their souls.

ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB – Due to summer vacations, the Orthodox Book Club will hold off its meetings for the summer and will resume its meetings in September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 30, 2017



Here is an update on the status of our 2017 Stewardship collections:

- **Total Pledges:** 100
- **Total Amount Pledged:** \$185,488
- **Total Paid to Date:** \$108,221
- **Total Outstanding Balance Due:** \$77,267

Contact Ron Baldinger, Stewardship Chair with questions, ron.baldinger@gmail.com



PAREA (Our Company of Friends) – A huge thank you to all who joined PAREA's June gathering! Special thanks also to everyone who brought delicious treats for PAREA's June Coffee Hour. PAREA will be in hiatus during the months of July and August. God willing, we will

gathering again around our PAREA's table on **Tuesday, September 5th at Mimi's Cafe**. Have a blessed and safe summer! Marina (703-349-1842)

Congratulations to the new GOYA Officers for 2017-2018.

We wish them the best of luck in their endeavors to support their church and its community. And they are:

Presidents: Lizzie Emch & Luke Kendrat

Vice President: Christina Kendrat

Secretary: Alexandros Kouiroukidis

Treasurer: Paris Economou

Historian: Millie Morris

Public Relations: Maria Mantalvanos



We thank all former GOYA Officers for their accomplishments this year and wish all our wonderful parishioners a fantastic summer. GOYA activities will resume in September 2017.

UPDATE FROM THE FUTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE

We all have a dream of a permanent home for our community. The FPC has reorganized with church members who are accomplished in the disciplines we need moving forward to make our dream a reality. From Finance, Commercial Real Estate, Engineering, Legal, and Marketing, this new committee brings together decades of collective experience that will take us to the next level. At the same time, without you, our parishioners, we can't get to that ultimate goal so we look forward to sharing news about how you can help very soon. All of us have a chance to make history by helping build the first Greek Orthodox Christian parish in the most affluent county and one of the fastest growing areas of the country. What a wonderful legacy to leave to our future generations! I look forward to working with the COMMITTEE, the PARISH COUNCIL, and all of you as we move forward. If you have any questions, ideas, or thoughts, please email our team at holyapostlesfpc@gmail.com or call the FPC Chair Hotline at (703) 594-6836. Thank you very much for being part of this historic journey for our church!

Tom Skuce, Holy Apostles FPC Chair

Weekday Liturgical Schedule for August, 2017

Aug. 1 Beginning of Dormition Fast (strict fast); 7:00 PM, Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Aug. 2 7:00 PM, Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Aug. 4 7:00 PM, Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Aug. 7 7:00 PM, Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Aug. 9 7:00 PM, Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Aug. 11 7:00 PM, Paraklesis to the Theotokos
Aug. 14 7:00 PM, Great Vespers for Dormition
Aug. 15 Koimisis (Dormition) of the Theotokos; 8:15 AM, Orthros; 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy
Aug. 29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist (strict fast); 8:15 AM, Orthros; 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

2017 Stewardship Pledge (ALL PLEDGES JANUARY- DECEMBER 2017) **HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

In faith, prayer and sacrifice, my family and I wish to share in the support and work of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. We would like to pledge:

\$_____ for the year 2017 (through December 2017)

You may pay via cash, check or online using PayPal

☐ Annually ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Your pledge is **strictly confidential**.