



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org
Priest: Fr. George Alexson (cell) 703-314-6421

September 3, 2017; 13th Sunday of Matthew

Meditation on the Holy Cross



“Every action, therefore, and performance of miracles by Christ are most great and divine and marvellous: but the most marvellous of all is His precious Cross. For no other thing has subdued death, expiated the sin of the first parent, despoiled Hades, bestowed the resurrection, granted the power to us of contemning the present and even death itself, prepared the return to our former blessedness, opened the gates of Paradise⁵, given our nature a seat at the right hand of God, and made us the children and heirs of God, save the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. For by the Cross⁷ all things have been made right. So many of us, the apostle says, as were baptized into Christ, were baptized into His death, and as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ⁹. Further, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. Lo! the death of Christ, that is, the Cross, clothed us with the enhypostatic wisdom and power of God. And the power of God is the Word of the Cross, either because God’s might, that is, the victory over death, has been revealed to us by it, or because, just as the four extremities of the Cross are held fast and bound together by the bolt in the middle, so also by God’s power the height and the depth, the length and the breadth, that is, every creature visible and invisible, is maintained...The tree of life which was planted by God in Paradise pre-figured this precious Cross. For since death was by a tree, it was fitting that life and resurrection should be bestowed by a tree.” (John of Damascus, “An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith”, Chapter XI, Concerning the Cross)



EPISTLE READING : St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 16:13-24

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow

worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

GOSPEL READING : The Gospel According to Matthew 21:33-42

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying "They will

respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"



*Today's 40 day Memorial is in memory of **Martin Constantine Gardner**, beloved husband of Ekaterini Gardner, father of Diakonisa Maria and father-in-law of Deacon Harry Chelpon. May his memory be eternal.*



Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Ekaterini Gardner in memory of Martin Gardner. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 3, 2017



Parishioner statements have been mailed. Please contact Lia Economou, Office Manager, if you did not receive your statement or have any questions: liaecon@comcast.net. We thank all parishioners for their stewardship payments and donations made throughout the year.

Contact Ron Baldinger, Stewardship Chair, with your stewardship and pledge questions: ron.baldinger@gmail.com. Help us receive over 100 pledges for 2017!



PAREA (Our Company of Friends) – God willing, we will be gathering again around our PAREA's table on **Tuesday, September 5th at Mimi's Café**. Marina (703-349-1842)



PHILOPTOCHOS – Mark your calendars! Our first meeting will be **Sunday, September 10th** immediately following Liturgy. We will be meeting upstairs. We look forward to our new year and seeing you there!



GOYA – Sept. 10th is the Blessing of GOYA Officers by Fr. George following Liturgy. Stop by the GOYA information table in the church hall for registration and health forms. On **September 17th** we will have a meeting upstairs immediately after Liturgy.



SUNDAY SCHOOL registration forms must be **returned to the church by September 17th**. The form can be found in our weekly parish

email. Following the Divine Liturgy on September 17th, we will have a meet and greet session to collect forms and offer class details. **Classes begin September 24th**. This year we will offer additional classes including “Biblical Greek” and “Learn Greek through Orthodox Faith.” Questions: Contact Ergini B. Martnishn, Sunday School Program Coordinator, ergini@aol.com.



Hope and Joy – The first Hope & Joy meeting of the 2017-18 school year will be held at church from 6pm to 7:15pm on **September 29th**.



Get ready for Fall!
Get involved in our church!
It will change your life.

What is your calling? What are your talents? Our church needs you!

Youth Groups

GOYA, Hope and Joy

Schools

Greek School, Sunday School

Committees, Groups and Ministries

AHEPA, Choir, Greek Dance Troupe, Newsletter, Orthodox Book Club,
PAREA, Philoptochos, Prosfora, Stewardship Committee, Website

Weekday Liturgical Schedule for September, 2017

Sept. 8 Nativity of the Theotokos; 8:15 AM, Orthros; 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

Sept. 14 Universal Elevation of the Holy Cross (Strict Fast); 8:15 AM, Orthros;
9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

Sept. 16 St. Euphemia; 8:45 AM, Orthros; 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy

We begin our regular Sunday services schedule next Sunday, the 10th:
Orthros at 8:45 AM and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

**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**.

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