



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 23, 2017

7th Sunday of Matthew

St. John of Kronstadt and the Education of Children (Part 3)



The loftiness of trust and responsibility in the education of God's children

Fr. John warned that God and parents have entrusted their children to the teacher, and this requires responsibility

and a careful relationship to them. He often noted that everything beautiful, individual, and unique has already been placed in the child's heart as in a seed. God also provides everything needed for their growth and development; but for our modest, but extraordinarily difficult and painstaking work—education—we must have love, and care for the children. But as great is the responsibility, so great also is the reward for conscientious work entrusted by God; for children are His inheritance. In them is not only our future, but also our present, and especially the eternal future. “Be strongly vigilant,” Fr. John reminds teachers, “that you never disdain in your heart any of these little ones (cf. Matt. 18:10) whom you might dislike for some reason. You are disdaining God's angel, which was assigned to watch over him. You are disdaining God's child; you are disdaining the Lord Himself, the Father of all children, first of all.” Thus, whoever violates the least of these commandments out of negligence, considering it insignificant, and teaches others to do the same, will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven (according to St. John Chrysostom's exegesis, “the violator of the law will be the least, that is, the last, cast out and unworthy of the Kingdom of Heaven”⁵), and whoever keeps and teaches [the commandments] will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven (cf. Matt. 5:19).

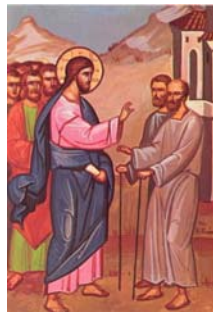


EPISTLE READING : St. Paul's Letter to the Romans **15:1-7**

BRETHREN, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of your Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

GOSPEL READING : The Gospel According to **Matthew 9:27-35**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.



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.

During the summer months, we look forward to fellowship after the Liturgy with coffee and lemonade in our hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 23, 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:** \$96,642
- **Total Outstanding Balance Due:** \$88,845

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**.