



## Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

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

**\*\*SUMMER HOURS BEGIN TODAY!\*\***

**Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am**

**June 18, 2017**

**The Second Sunday of Matthew**

### **Fatherhood and Faith: A Divine Partnership**

Summer comes along and the thought of spending time outdoors with our families and friends brings a warm feeling to our hearts. It's no surprise that in June, then, the beginning of the "official summer season" we take time to honor our fathers since grilling and outdoor activities have come to symbolize men in general but fathers more specifically. For weeks leading up to Fathers' Day, advertising seems to center around dad, mom and kids around the grill enjoying quality family time. My memories of spending time with my father enjoying the outdoors still bring a smile to my face. But is that all there is to honoring fathers on Fathers' Day? Sadly, for many families, it is. We cannot speak about fathers without also speaking of our Heavenly Father, Who loves us so much that "He gave His only begotten Son." (John 3:16) His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then established His Church as "His Body" (Ephesians 1:23) to be the Ark of our salvation. We were baptized into His Body becoming one with the Lord who gave us "the right to become children of God." (John 1:12) Our real, albeit mystical, union with God is what leads us to understand, or at least appreciate, the connection between family, church and heaven. When one is united to our Heavenly Father, one cannot help but discuss every aspect of life from the perspective of union with Him, whether fathers and their families are grilling in the back yard or receiving the Eucharist in Church on Sunday. Let us, for a moment, examine the following words by St. Paul referring to the character of our spiritual fathers, the clergy: "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence." (1 Timothy 3:2-5) When St. Paul outlined the requirements for a bishop (or priest), he was expressing this truth; that leading the Church was not a separate function of men, but a function of fathers and husbands leading their families to God. (Although today our bishops are ordained from within the celibate clergy, this was not always the case.) How then is it that our fathers, physical and spiritual, lead us to God? Let us begin with the first statement of St. Paul, by replacing the word "bishop" with "father." The only true model of a father is The Father, Who even though His Children and His (**Cont. on the back**)



## **EPISTLE READING : St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 2:10-16**

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

## **GOSPEL READING : The Gospel According to Matthew 4:18-23**

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.



### **WEEKLY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE for JUNE 2017**

Fri. June 28 Vespers at Sts. Peter and Paul, Frederick, Md

Thurs. June 29 Sts. Peter and Paul 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy  
7:00 PM, Great Vespers

Fri. June 30 The Twelve Holy Apostles Feast day of our Church 8:15 AM,  
Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy



Looking for a gift for your special occasion? Take a peek at the Philotochos bookstore. We have beautiful icons for a special day. If you can't find what you need, we can order for you.



***We had another great Vacation Church Camp! A special  
THANK YOU to Father George, the  
Co-Directors, Denise Lansdell and Asha Ioanou, and all  
the teachers and volunteers who took us on the Ark of  
Salvation. The campers ranging in age from pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup>  
grade learned about the life and feast days of the  
Theotokos. Fun was had by all!***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 18, 2017

*All Ministries wish the fathers of our parish a  
Happy Father's Day!*



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](mailto:ron.baldinger@gmail.com)



**GOYA – TODAY**, GOYAnS will be handing out Father's Day gifts.



**AHEPA** – On June 10 at the 86th District 3 Convention in Charlotte, 2 Chapter members and parishioners of Holy Apostles were honored with special awards. Mike Hadjimichael was named Treasurer Of The Year and Pete Margaros was named Secretary Of The Year. To learn more and to join our vibrant and exciting Chapter, visit our website at [ahepa542.org](http://ahepa542.org).



For the 4th year PAREA is launching the "**BECAUSE EYE CARE FOR YOU**" campaign. PAREA will be collecting old and used eye glasses and sunglasses. These glasses will be donated to an eye center for further distribution to individuals who cannot afford to buy new eyewear. A special

collection box will be placed in the church hall **throughout the month of June**.

Thank you in advance for supporting this great cause. Comments? Marina (703-349-1842).



**Save the date!** Annual Parish Picnic, Sat. Aug. 26, 12:00-3:00, Ashburn Farm Windmill Pavilion. Organized by the Stewardship Committee. All parishioners are invited! An online sign-up and RSVP will be forthcoming closer to the date.

*Thank you to PAREA for sponsoring today's Coffee Hour and organizing the clean-up of our fellowship hall.*

**(Cover message cont...)** Bride (the Church) disobeyed Him and continue to disobey Him, has never faltered in His dedication to leading us toward Heaven. Since that first moment in the Garden, God has been working to restore us to Himself. Our Father in Heaven is blameless, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence...of course God is perfect... If we, as fathers, strive to live these traits in our lives, then we shall be perfect, just as our Father in Heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48) And that is something worth honoring this Fathers' Day. (*Fr Athanasios C. Haros, "Be Transfigured"*)

**Camp Good Shepherd –VA :** July 2-8, Camp Piankatank in Hartfield, VA, 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Camp Good Shepherd is a Metropolis of New Jersey overnight youth camp for the Orthodox Christian youth in the Diocese. Contact [cgsvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:cgsvirginia@gmail.com) with questions.



**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 be gathering again around our

PAREA's table on Tuesday, September 6th at Mimi's cafe. Have a blessed and safe summer! Marina (703-349-1842)



**AmazonSmile** - Help our Church receive donations when you shop at Amazon.com! Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of orders to a selected charity. To get started, go to our website and click on the "Go to smile.amazon.com" button to select our Church.

**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**.