



## 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**

**August 13, 2017**

### **Dormition of the Theotokos 2017**

My Beloved,

In the life of the Church we encounter several saints and holy people whose lives inspire us and whose deeds prove to be examples for our everyday lives. But there is no greater saint of the Church nor is there any saint who shares more in our struggles than that of the Theotokos—the Mother of God. Perhaps it is for this reason that she is *“...more honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.”* As we commemorate the Dormition of the Theotokos today, we are reminded of the various reasons we honor her and why she is so revered in the Orthodox Church. There are various reasons for which we honor the Mother of God. One of these reasons is that she is the representative of humanity before her Son and her God. God did not desire to intervene and to infringe upon humanity’s freedom, even when humanity had fallen. However, it was the pureness of the person of the Panagia and her freely saying “Yes” to God and “Yes” to bearing Christ in her womb that allowed the curse of the devil on humanity to be reversed. It was her free-willed decision that opened the door of salvation to humanity once more. Thus, as the one who gave her entire self freely, she has the special position of being the representative for all of humanity as she continually intercedes on our behalf. Another reason she is so revered by the Orthodox everywhere is because she not only holds the title of the Mother of God, but she also holds the role of mother to all of us as well. One of the most comforting and tender words in all languages is that of *“mother”*. Whereas the role of a mother is usually limited to her own children, the Theotokos took on this role and included all of humanity as her children. It is her to whom we flee when we are afflicted, when we are in pain, and when we are in despair precisely because in her motherly love that nurtured God, she also guards, protects, and nurtures us. Therefore, as we commemorate her Dormition today, we should not only remember her motherly attributes or the favor she has with her Son as she intercedes for all of humanity, but we should principally remember that her devotion to God opened the door to paradise for all of creation. It is to ...**(Continued on the inside page)**



## **EPISTLE READING : St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16**

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor,

working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

## **GOSPEL READING : The Gospel According to Matthew 17:14-23**

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus

privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."



(Cover message cont...) her example that we should strive every day of our lives as we seek to "*commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.*" Praying the Theotokos continues to guard, guide, and protect you all, I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† E V A N G E L O S

Metropolitan of New Jersey

Today's 1 Year Memorial service is in memory of *Sophia Kangelaris*, beloved mother of Fr. Demetri (Olga) and Alex (Debbie) Kangelaris; grandmother to Katina Vlahakis (Thomas), Michael, Sarandis, Christina, Emily, and Melanie; and great grandmother to Hunter and Blake. May her memory be eternal.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 13, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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

**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.

### **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**.