



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

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October 14, 2018: Sunday of the 7th

Ecumenical Council

St. Justin Popovich on Divisions in the Church

“A division within the Church has never occurred, nor indeed can one take place, while apostasy from the Church has and will continue to occur after the manner of those voluntarily fruitless branches which, having withered, fall away from the eternally living theanthropic Vine—the Lord Christ (John 15:1-6). From time to time, heretics and schismatics have cut themselves off and have fallen away from the one and indivisible Church of Christ, whereby they ceased to be members of the Church and parts of her theanthropic body. The first to fall away thus were the Gnostics, then the Arians, then the Pneumatomachians, then the Monophysites, then the Iconoclasts, then the Roman Catholics, then the Protestants, then the Uniates, and so on—all the other members of the legion of heretics and schismatics.” “Like the holy apostles, the Holy Fathers and the teachers of the Church confess the unity and uniqueness of the Orthodox Church with the divine wisdom of the cherubim and the zeal of the seraphim. Understandable, therefore, is the fiery zeal which animated the Holy Fathers of the Church in all cases of division and falling away and the stern attitude toward heresies and schisms. In that regard, the holy ecumenical and holy local councils are preeminently important. According to their spirit and attitude, wise in those things pertaining to... **(Continued on the back)**

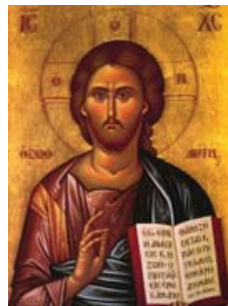


EPISTLE READING:

St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply

themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.



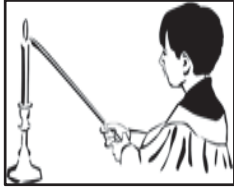
GOSPEL READING:

The Gospel According to Luke 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under

foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones... **(Continued on the back)**

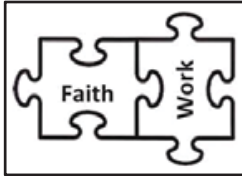
UPCOMING EVENTS



Altar Boy Blessing, TODAY

Following Liturgy

Our Altar Boys will take a special blessing and oath of service.



“Career and Faith” series, TODAY

Immediately following Sunday School

GOYAns will learn how our faith impacts career and business decisions from our Stewards Paul Orphanides (Keller Williams Realty) and Lisa Orphanides (Marriott International) over a pizza lunch. All teens are welcome!



GREEK SCHOOL

REGISTRATION continues

TODAY!

Classes start on Wednesday 17 October at 5:00pm. Please see Ergini

Martnishn for the information sheet with program details and the curriculum.



Greek Dance Group Practice, Oct. 28th

After Sunday School

For ages 5 and up. Go to our website or email Maria Plevrakis for a registration form: holyapostlesdance@gmail.com.



Prepare spanakopita and tiropita for the Philoptochos Bake Sale

Saturday, Nov. 3rd and 10th at 10 AM

Holy Apostles Church

Order your Spanakopita and Tiropita (\$25 per tray) by November 9th for pickup November 17th and 18th.



Hope & Joy Meeting. November 5th

6:30-7:30pm, Holy Apostles Church

Contact Ashley Joiner

(ashleydjoiner@gmail.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ EVENTS



PAREA (Our Company of Friends)

Lunch, November 6th

11:30am, Delia's Pizzeria and Grill

28 Edds Lane, Sterling 20165 (703-444-1661)

LCPS will be closed that day, so feel free to bring the whole family! RSVP to Marina (571-969-9234)

Loudoun Hunger Relief Thanksgiving Dinner

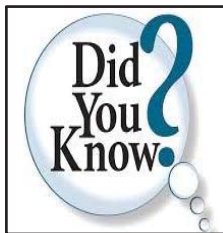
Bags, Bring to church by Nov. 11th

Place in a reusable bag: stuffing, 4 cans of vegetables boxed potatoes, gravy (mix or jar), cornbread or biscuit mix, cranberry sauce, dessert mix/ingredients, no perishables, \$10 grocery store gift card in envelope.

Laconian Society of DC 83rd Annual Dance:

Friday, Nov. 23rd, 8pm-1am, Tysons Corner

Marriott, Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres, Greek and American music, raffle prizes, call 703-734-3200 for tickets.



Did you know, our rent in this temporary facility is \$5,755 a month! Help us move to a permanent church campus where we can invest in a church and buildings that are actually ours! Make a donation today to our

Capital Campaign for a permanent church campus in Ashburn.

GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:

Holy Communion is offered in the Orthodox Church only to those individuals baptized and Chrismated (Confirmed) in the Orthodox Faith. To participate in Holy Communion one must be in good standing with the Church spiritually (for example, married people must have had their marriage blessed in the Church; and, all must be without grave sin on their hearts). For all Orthodox Christians, the proper preparation for Holy Communion must be observed: that is, examination of conscience, confession, reading the prayers for Holy Communion, and the proper fasting and abstinence prior to Holy Communion. If you have any further questions about this, please speak with our Parish Priest. Women should remove all lipstick when approaching for Holy Communion.

Weekly Feature: Stewards of the Faith, All Things are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ

(Excerpt from Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Stewardship brochure)

Having faith can be difficult. Keeping faith in the face of doubt is the ongoing struggle of every Christian. Thomas the Apostle, though having proven himself one of the bravest apostles, is forever remembered as “Doubting Thomas,” because he doubted the first reports of the Resurrected Christ. In the Gospel of Mark (9:22 NKJV), we read that when the disciples couldn’t help him, a father brings his epileptic son to Jesus in desperation, saying, “... if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus replies to the father’s lack of faith, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” The father’s response is a prayer we can pray every day: “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” Faith is our trust in God. Faith is our trust that He watches over us and has a plan for us: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV). Living with the uncertainty of our daily lives requires faith. Uncertainty also invites doubt. But doubt does not indicate a lack of faith. As theologian and philosopher Paul Tillich has written, “Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is one element of faith.”

Stewardship of our faith in Jesus Christ calls us to do those things that protect and strengthen the faith that lies within us. Taking the time to learn about our Orthodox Christian Faith, praying to God for understanding and guidance, and worshiping with others as the Body of Christ – all these things protect and strengthen our faith. As stewards of the faith, Saint Peter instructs us to “...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you...” (1Peter3:15NKJV). Faith is not a big rule book of “dos and don’ts.” It is about loving and seeing Jesus Christ in the other. **Stewardship** of our faith in Jesus Christ calls us to do those things that reflect our faith to others, living our faith through our actions. As Jesus tells us, “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35 NKJ V). Stewardship is an act of faith; faith in action; action motivated by humble gratitude to God for his blessings in our life.

(Cover Message Cont.) Christ, the Church is not only one but also unique. Just as the Lord Christ cannot have several bodies, so He cannot have several Churches. According to her theanthropic nature, the Church is one and unique, just as Christ the God-man is one and unique. Hence, a division, a splitting up of the Church is ontologically and essentially impossible.”

(Gospel Reading Cont.) on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Weekly Liturgical Schedule for October

Oct. 18 Saint Luke the Apostle 8:15 AM Orthros,
9:30 AM Liturgy
Oct. 26 St. Dimitrios the Great Martyr 8:15 AM
Orthros, 9:30 AM Liturgy

*Today's memorial is in memory of **Moska Stratis (40 days)** and **Peter Stratis (5 years)**, beloved parents of Vasiliki and her husband, Andrew Kaffes. May their memory be eternal.*



***Thank you to the Kaffes family
for sponsoring today's
Coffee Hour!***