



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

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November 18, 2018: 9th Sunday of Luke

Nativity Fast 2018

My Beloved in the Lord,

As we find ourselves approaching the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are called to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. We hear in the hymnology of the Church from the Kathismata of the Sunday prior to the Nativity, “Prepare yourself, O Bethlehem, for Eden is opened unto all.” We are thus given a glimpse at the precise reason for which we are preparing ourselves – salvation. With the coming Nativity of Christ as the incarnate Word of God, we prepare ourselves for something no other group of people in the history of the world has ever beheld; God in the flesh condescending to us not out of necessity, but out of choice. He does not take on flesh out of grandeur, but in humility. He does not judge us with the condemnation of death, but He exalts us with the acclamation of life. What kind of God is He who willingly condescends for the salvation of a disobedient people? What kind of God is He who endures an incarnation and is subject to the pains and trials of this world? It is precisely a God of mercy and compassion who does this for us so that we might no longer be subject unto death, but have a renewed life with Him in His everlasting Kingdom. Thus, we are called to prepare ourselves to welcome our God, our King, and our Liberator from death. We are called to prepare for Him so that in seeing his self-sacrificial love, we may use the freedom He gave us to ... **(Continued on the back)**



EPISTLE READING:

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.



GOSPEL READING:

The Gospel According to Luke 12:16-21

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?'" And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Weekly Liturgical Schedule for November

8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Nov. 21 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Nov. 30 St. Andrew the Apostle

UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

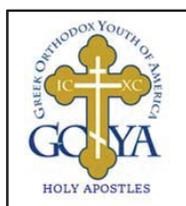
DEADLINE is TODAY!

With a \$25 donation, your family's name will be included in our parish card which is sent to all parishioners. Make your donation payable to HAGOC and write "Christmas Card" in the memo section along with your family's name, or donate on our website under "Announcements". Email Lia Economou with questions at liaecon@comcast.net.



Stewardship Sunday,

TODAY! Hear an update on our Stewardship program from Stewardship Chair, Ron Baldinger, and a parishioner testimonial.



GOYA Meeting, December 2nd

Immediately following Sunday School

GOYA Alumni College Discussion, **December 15th, 3-5pm at church**

Hear from our GOYA alumni about their current college experience and lessons learned.



Philoptochos Tsoureki and Vasilopita **Bake Sale: ORDER BY DEC. 2ND**

Order forms are on our website. Pick up is at church on Dec. 16th



Hope & Joy Meeting. Dec. 3rd

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

Contact Ashley Joiner
(ashleydjoiner@gmail.com)



PAREA (Our Company of **Friends) Fasting Potluck Lunch,** **Dec. 4th at 11:30am** **Blair Residence: 47753 Allegheny** **Cir., Potomac Falls, VA 20165**

Our beloved PAREA will be celebrating its 7th anniversary! Please RSVP to Marina (571-969-9234).

UPCOMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS



PAREA (Our Company of Friends), Dec. 16th

PAREA will continue the tradition by distributing platters with sweets to the elders of our parish in a humble effort to show our love, respect and gratitude. HOPE and JOY will accompany the platters with beautiful handmade Christmas cards! Questions: Marina (703-349-1842)

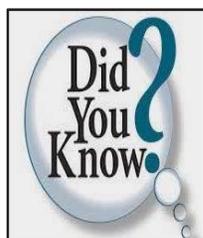
Laconian Society of DC 83rd Annual Dance:

Fri. Nov. 23rd, 8pm-1am, Tysons Corner Marriott, Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres, Greek and American music, raffle prizes, call 703-734-3200 for tickets.

Volunteer2Cheer with Special Olympics VA

Hope & Joy invites you to volunteer with Special Olympics VA by cheering on athletes competing in their 2019 Basketball Invitational Tournament – **January 5th, 2019**. The game will take place at a Leesburg school (exact location TBD). Sign up at: <http://specialolympicsva.org/volunteer/be-a-volunteer>. Contact Ashley Joiner with questions.

Metropolis Opioid Response Effort (M.O.R.E) - His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, unveiled a new awareness program and informational video about opioid abuse at the 2018 Metropolis Clergy Laity conference. The awareness program is entitled the Metropolis Opioid Response Effort (M.O.R.E) and His Eminence created a committee from his Metropolitan Council to plan and oversee the initiative. Go to our website to read more about it.



Did you know, our **Capital Campaign** has reached a **new milestone!** We have **\$1.3 Million in the bank!** Be a part of history by making a donation **TODAY** to our **Capital Campaign** for a permanent church campus in Ashburn.

WEEKLY FEATURE: Nativity Fast

The Nativity Fast is one of our main fast periods throughout the ecclesiastical year. Beginning on Nov. 15 and concluding on Dec. 24, the Nativity Fast gives individuals the opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior in the Flesh on Dec. 25. By abstaining from certain food and drink as well as focusing more deeply on prayer and almsgiving, we can find that the primary aim of fasting is to make us conscious of our dependence upon God. Eggs, dairy, poultry, red meat, meat products, oil, fish and wine are all abstained from. However, some of these foods are allowed at certain times for most fasters. On Saturday and Sunday, fish, oil, and wine are acceptable to consume. Oil and wine is also allowed on Tuesday and Thursday, with some exceptions. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Nov. 16, Nov. 30, Dec. 4, 6, 12, and 20. No fish may be consumed from December 20-24, and hymns are sung during this time. Shellfish may be allowed even on days that exempt fish except for these. Paramony is something that also occurs on Christmas Eve and is considered to be the strictest fasting day because no solid food should be consumed until the first star comes in the evening sky. However, if it falls on Saturday or Sunday, the fasting is not strict and allows a meal with wine and oil after the morning's Divine Liturgy. The fast lasts until the evening's first star is spotted or until after the Vespers Divine Liturgy. December 25-January 4 there is no fasting, but Jan. 5, the Eve of the Theophany, is another Paramony or strict fast day.



*Thank you to the Stewardship
Committee for sponsoring today's
coffee hour in appreciation of our
Stewards!*

(Cover Message Cont.) do the same for our neighbor. My beloved in the Lord, I thus implore you to prepare yourselves for this great feast since it is through the incarnation of Christ that we are enabled to partake in this experience of God's continual salvation. Let us prepare ourselves through increased prayer, fasting, and our presence in the divine services of our Holy Church. We should never lack in preparations in order to greet our Savior who is the savior of our souls and bodies. Instead, let us greet Him who offers us His love, His freedom, and His salvation. It is with these thoughts in mind that I ask you to search your hearts as we progress in this nativity season so that you may prepare both your body and your soul for the coming of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ who offers us a reopened Eden for all of humanity. Praying that our Lord, whose Nativity we are preparing to celebrate, blesses you and your families throughout this season, I remain
With Paternal Love and Blessings,
†EVANGELOS Metropolitan of New Jersey

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.