

Meatfare Sunday



THE SCALES OF JUDGMENT

It is not popular in our day to talk about judgment. Not too many people, it seems, are concerned about judgment and all that it implies. The Scriptures, however, deal with this subject in no uncertain terms. The Gospel of Matthew contains this graphic description: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another . . ." Then our Lord goes on to describe the judgement based on love, identifying Himself with "the least of these My brethren."

February 19, 2023

Meatfare Sunday

Saints of the Day: Philemon, Archippos of the 70 Philothea Martyr of Athens

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS!!!

Thank you for worshipping with us!!! Please join us for fellowship immediately following The Divine Liturgy. For those visiting an Orthodox Church for the first time, please be aware that Holy Communion is a sign of unity of faith which is only offered to Baptized or Chrismated Orthodox Christians. All present are welcome, and encouraged, to receive the antidoron (bread given to those who do not/are not able receive Holy Communion) which is distributed at the end of the service. For those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please feel free to speak with Fr. Demetri after the service.

**WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO FOLLOW ALONG AND PARTICIPATE IN
THE DIVINE LITURGY WITH THE BOOKS PROVIDED!!!**

WEEK IN PREVIEW

Sun., Feb 19

*Orthros 8:45am
Divine Liturgy 10am*

Mon., Feb 20

Office Closed for
President's

Tues., Feb 21

Anagennesis Meeting in
Library 6:30pm

Library Memory Project
Photo ID by Zoom 7pm

Basketball
HS Boys 7pm

Wed., Feb 22

Bible Study in Library
11am

Learn to Chant in
Library 7pm

Thurs., Feb 23

Basketball
5/6 Boys 6pm
7/8 & HS Boys 7:30pm

Sat., Feb 25

*Saturday of Souls
Orthros 8:30am
Divine Liturgy with
Memorials 9:30am*

Greek Preschool
9am

CYO Basketball
8am

Sun., Feb 26

*Orthros 8:45am
Divine Liturgy 10am
Memorial
Sponsored Coffee
Hour*

Hymns Chanted Following the Small Entrance

Resurrectional Hymn in the Third Tone

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy

Anthem of St. George in the Fourth Tone

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτής, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστής, ἀσθενούντων ἱατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Liberator of captives and defender of the poor, physician of the sick and champion of kings, oh Trophy-bearer and Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Seasonal/Kontakion Hymn in the First Tone

Ὅταν ἔλθῃς ὁ Θεός, ἐπὶ γῆς μετὰ δόξης, καὶ τρέμωσι τὰ σύμπαντα, ποταμὸς δὲ τοῦ πυρὸς πρὸ τοῦ Βήματος ἔλκη, καὶ βίβλοι ἀνοίγονται, καὶ τὰ κρυπτά δημοσιεύονται, τότε ρῦσαί με, ἐκ τοῦ πυρὸς τοῦ ἀσβέστου, καὶ ἀξιώσον, ἐκ δεξιῶν σου μὲ στήναι, Κριτὰ δικαιοσύνη.

When You come down to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all things will cower tremulous, and a river of fire will draw before Your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened up, and public knowledge will things hidden be. Rescue me, then, I pray, from unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O You, the most righteous Judge.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning

against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Κορινθίους α 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Ἀδελφοί, βρῶμα ἡμᾶς οὐ παρίστησιν τῷ θεῷ· οὔτε γὰρ ἐὰν φάγωμεν περισσεύομεν, οὔτε ἐὰν μὴ φάγωμεν ὑστερούμεθα. Βλέπετε δὲ μήπως ἡ ἐξουσία ὑμῶν αὕτη πρόσκομμα γένηται τοῖς ἀσθενοῦσιν. Ἐὰν γάρ τις ἴδῃ σε τὸν ἔχοντα γινῶσιν ἐν εἰδωλείῳ κατακείμενον, οὐχὶ ἡ συνείδησις αὐτοῦ ἀσθενοῦς ὄντος οἰκοδομηθήσεται εἰς τὸ τὰ εἰδωλόθυτα ἐσθίειν; Καὶ ἀπολεῖται ὁ ἀσθενῶν ἀδελφὸς ἐπὶ τῇ σῇ γνώσει, δι' ὃν Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν; Οὕτως δὲ ἁμαρτάνοντες εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφούς, καὶ τύπτοντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενοῦσαν, εἰς Χριστὸν ἁμαρτάνετε. Διόπερ εἰ βρῶμα σκανδαλίζει τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, οὐ μὴ φάγω κρέα εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἵνα μὴ τὸν ἀδελφόν μου σκανδαλίσω. Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος; Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἐλεύθερος; Οὐχὶ Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν ἑώρακα; Οὐ τὸ ἔργον μου ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ; Εἰ ἄλλοις οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος, ἀλλὰ γε ὑμῖν εἰμι· ἡ γὰρ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ.

Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart

from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Ματθαιον 25:31-46

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὅταν δὲ ἔλθῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐν τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἅγιοι ἄγγελοι μετ' αὐτοῦ, τότε καθίσει ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καὶ συναχθήσεται ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, καὶ ἀφοριεῖ αὐτοὺς ἀπ' ἀλλήλων ὥσπερ ὁ ποιμὴν ἀφορίζει τὰ πρόβατα ἀπὸ τῶν ἐρίφων, καὶ στήσει τὰ μὲν πρόβατα ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ, τὰ δὲ ἐρίφια ἐξ εὐωνύμων. τότε ἔρεῖ ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῖς ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ· δεῦτε οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρὸς μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτοιμασμένην ὑμῖν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου. ἐπείνασα γάρ, καὶ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ ἐποτίσατέ με, ξένος ἤμην, καὶ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ περιεβάλετέ με, ἡσθένησα, καὶ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με, ἐν φυλακῇ ἤμην, καὶ ἤλθετε πρὸς με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ οἱ δίκαιοι λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα καὶ ἐθρέψαμεν, ἢ διψῶντα καὶ ἐποτίσαμεν; πότε δέ σε εἶδομεν ξένον καὶ συνηγάγομεν, ἢ γυμνὸν καὶ περιεβάλομεν; πότε δέ σε εἶδομεν ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ ἤλθομεν πρὸς σε; καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ βασιλεὺς ἔρεῖ αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἀδελφῶν μου τῶν ἐλαχίστων, ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. τότε ἔρεῖ καὶ τοῖς ἐξ εὐωνύμων· πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ οἱ κατηραμένοι εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ αἰώνιον τὸ ἡτοιμασμένον τῷ διαβόλῳ καὶ τοῖς ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ. ἐπείνασα γάρ, καὶ οὐκ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ οὐκ ἐποτίσατέ με, ξένος ἤμην, καὶ οὐ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ οὐ περιεβάλετέ με, ἀσθενὴς καὶ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐκ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ καὶ αὐτοὶ λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα ἢ διψῶντα ἢ ξένον ἢ γυμνὸν ἢ ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐ διηκονήσαμεν σοι; τότε ἀποκριθήσεται αὐτοῖς λέγων· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον οὐκ ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων, οὐδὲ ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. καὶ ἀπελεύσονται οὗτοι εἰς κόλασιν αἰώνιον, οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP
Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

February 10, 2023

His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston
162 Goddard Avenue
Brookline, MA 02445

Your Eminence,

I greet you warmly in the grace and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I am writing to you at the request of His All-Holiness our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew concerning the recent earthquakes that devastated Turkey and Syria on February 6. Our Patriarch has personally requested the timely assistance of our Archdiocese and Metropolises in meeting the needs that presently exist in the afflicted areas of Turkey. These lands belong to the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Antioch, and thus, His All-Holiness requests our swift financial aid for this ancient Patriarchate of our Church, together with its distressed faithful. Therefore, our charitable mobilization must be swift, so as to alleviate some of the immediate and pressing needs for assistance in the wake of this great catastrophe.

With this in mind, dear brother, I would like to request the prompt support and contribution of your Metropolis as a tangible response to this devastating tragedy and to the appeal of His All-Holiness. Please do everything that you can to encourage the active participation of all the parishes, faithful, ministries and organizations of your Holy Metropolis by sharing with them the recent announcement of our Sacred Archdiocese's Earthquake Relief Fund. With the collective participation of our entire Church, we can certainly lend our help in fulfilling this venerable request of our Ecumenical Patriarch. As with previous philanthropic initiatives, kindly know that your Metropolis' monetary support should be sent directly to the Archdiocese, so that we may convey it accordingly to the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a lump sum from our Christ-loving plenitude in America.

Thanking Your Eminence in advance for your ever-gracious assistance and timely response to this entreaty, I remain

With fraternal love in Christ,

+ ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Announces Earthquake Relief Fund

New York – His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America announces the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Earthquake Relief Fund, a fundraising effort by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to provide humanitarian aid to the victims of the recent earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.

Yesterday, February 8, His Eminence visited the Turkish Consulate General in New York in order to sign its book of condolences. He met with Consul General Reyhan Özgür, to whom he expressed his deepest sympathies for the victims of the tragedy and shared his prayers for the rescue missions still underway as casualties continue to rise. They also discussed ways to work with local humanitarian services to respond to the urgent needs of all those affected by the earthquake.

His Eminence also visited the Very Reverend Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, where he expressed his sadness at the loss of life and the damage to the Armenian churches in both Syria and Türkiye. Today, the Archbishop plans to meet with His Eminence Mor Dionysius John Kawak, Archbishop of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch and Archdiocese for the Eastern United States, to offer solidarity and prayers for the destruction and loss brought on by these tragic earthquakes.

Archbishop Elpidophoros said, "In initiating the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Earthquake Relief Fund, the focus of our Archdiocese is to help with both the immediate needs and the longer-term implications of the devastation from the deadly earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. Our Archdiocese will partner with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) to identify trusted organizations for aid distribution."

A long-standing and trusted partner, IOCC has a proven track record in humanitarian and emergency relief and will lend its logistical and on-the-ground expertise to ensure effective distribution of funds raised by the Archdiocese. Distribution will be directed primarily to those impacted by the earthquake in Türkiye, and, as opportunities to assist are identified, to Syria.

The Archdiocese has set an initial fundraising goal of \$500,000.

Donations can be made online at the dedicated webpage for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Earthquake Relief Fund: <https://www.goarch.org/earthquake>. Checks may also be sent to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, 8 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10075, and made payable to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese with a memo notation of "Earthquake Relief Fund."

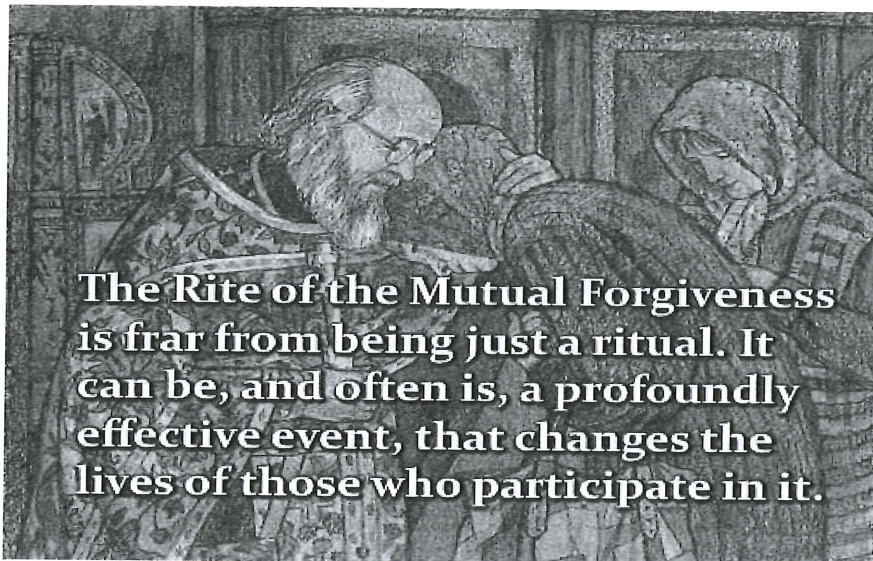
The National Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, an affiliated institution, has committed to an initial disbursement of \$50,000 for the Fund and will launch a fundraising campaign through its chapters to benefit the earthquake victims. The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund is also committed to providing support to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Earthquake Relief Fund. At the same time, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America is directly supporting the relief efforts of IOCC. At the request of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and Mr. John Catsimatidis, Vice Chair of the Archdiocesan Council, have each pledged \$50,000 to be donated to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople for distribution to those affected in Türkiye.

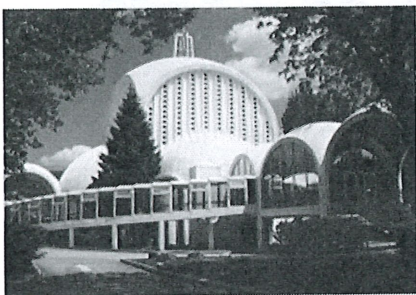
The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America invites all parishes and faithful to support the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Earthquake Relief Fund.

Next Sunday, February 26 is the Sunday of Forgiveness, also known as Cheesefare Sunday. This is the last day that dairy products can be eaten (from those who are able) before the Lenten fast. The full fast begins the following day on Clean Monday, the first day of Great Lent.

On the evening of the Sunday of Forgiveness the Church conducts the first service of Great Lent, the Vespers of Forgiveness, a service that directs us further on the path of repentance and helps us to acknowledge our need for forgiveness from God and to seek forgiveness from our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the first time that the Lenten prayer of St. Ephraim accompanied by prostrations is read. At the end of the service all the faithful approach the priest and one another asking for mutual forgiveness.

Orthodox Christians are encouraged to enter Great Lent in repentance and confession by attending these services, coming for the Sacrament of Confession, and dedicating themselves to worship, prayer, and fasting throughout the Lenten period. The first day of Lent, Clean Monday, signifies the beginning of a period of cleansing and purification of sins through repentance.





JOIN US ON SUNDAY, MARCH 5
AS WE CELEBRATE THE...

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



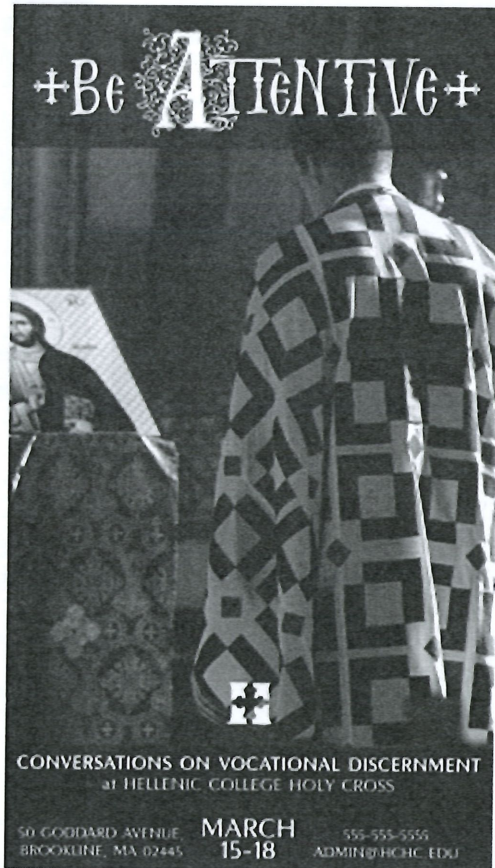
About the Procession...

At the conclusion of The Divine Liturgy, a service is celebrated in commemoration of the affirmation of the 7th Ecumenical Council in 787 and the restoration of the use of icons in 843. Orthodox Faithful carry icons in a procession which clergy offer petitions for people, civil authorities and for those fallen asleep.

We ask that all members of our St. George Parish Family bring an Icon from home in order to participate fully on this beautiful day!!!



Hellenic College Holy Cross



The direction to "be attentive" is repeated throughout the Divine Liturgy. With it, we are called to direct our attention to God speaking to us through the sacred scriptures or offering Himself to us in the mystery of the Eucharist.

We invite men of any Orthodox Christian jurisdiction who may be considering ordained ministry to come and **Be Attentive** to God's voice speaking in their life, to help discern their vocation.

Over the course of the event, participants will engage in directed discussions with each other and eminent clergy to deeply investigate what the Church believes about Holy Orders, what her clergy are truly called to do, and the results of faithful servant ministry in the parishes, the Church at large, and the whole world.

In the interest of keeping these discussions as fruitful as possible, space is limited. Please scan the qr code below the official site with all information

Retreat Information

- Attendees will receive a grant to cover 50% of their travel expenses.
- Room and board are provided for the duration of the retreat.
- Application deadline is March 1, 2023.

Application Requirements

- Resume or CV
- Letter of Recommendation from your Parish Priest
- 500-word essay answering the question: Why would you like to attend this retreat?



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDINATION OF DEACON ANDREW OTTO – Today at the St. George Chapel (on the grounds of the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center, during GOYA Winter Camp), His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios will ordain Dn. Andrew Otto to the Second Rank of the Holy Priesthood. We everyone to keep Deacon Andrew and his family in your prayers during Services this morning.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST TODAY – AHEPA & Daughters of Penelope present an opportunity to enjoy some fluffy pancakes and sizzling sausage on Sunday, February 19 following Divine Liturgy! See the enclosed flyer for details.

FORGIVENESS VESPERS – NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 - A brief service (45 minutes) will follow The Divine Liturgy and conclude with the exchange of mutual forgiveness. The faithful will come up one by one and venerate the Icon of Christ after which we will all ask each other (one by one) saying those beautiful words “Forgive me”. When all have asked for forgiveness, the service is then completed. We ask that you come back into the Church following fellowship and coffee hour in order to participate in the beautiful service which prepares us for Great Lent WHICH BEGINS THE NEXT DAY FEBRUARY 27!

SATURDAYS OF THE SOULS – Commemoration slips are available in the narthex for the names of your deceased loved ones so they may be remembered at the services held on the Saturdays of the Souls.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - Our 2023 Stewardship Commitment Sunday will take place on Sunday, March 5. We ask that all Cathedral Family Members be with us on this special day, and we also ask that if you haven't sent in your 2023 Commitment Form that you bring it with you on this day. A special prayer will be offered to our Lord over our written commitments to Him and to His Cathedral of Saint George! We hope to see you on this day!!!

UPCOMING MEMORIALS – February 26, Henry Gancarz (1 year); March 5, Demetrious Dellas (40 days)

Ancient Christian writings and art forms became very graphic in their depictions of judgement. It was not unusual to see the angel of judgment carefully handling a scale. Into one end of the scale are placed the record of good deeds, and into the other end the record of vices. Great consternation is shown by the evil spirits as the scale tips in favor of the goodness of the person being judged.

The Creed also testifies to our belief in the judgment, saying that Christ “shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.” But there is also judgment in this life, indeed, every day of our lives. It’s just another way of saying: you don’t get away with anything. We know that everything we do marks us. Everything we say, leaves an impression. This is judgement taking place day by day.

To cite some instances of how this works, consider the person who drinks heavily. Well, it won’t be long before there are problems in the family and sickness in the person. Or, say a person takes drugs. Soon there is deterioration of health; again judgement is taking place. Sometimes this judgement even involves others, such as a child of a mother on drugs.

So let us not scorn the idea of judgment or accountability. People reap in life pretty much what they sow. Life has a way of dealing with us to even things out. We can’t really get away with anything. We get back in life what we put into it.

As for those cases that seem like exceptions to all this, as when the just suffer and the wicked prosper, let us remember that the final tally is not yet in. On Judgement Day, the Lord will take care of all these situations.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral

650 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH 03104

Please visit our website: www.stgeorgenh.org

Office Telephone: (603) 622-9113 E-mail: office@stgeorgenh.org

Fr. Demetrios Costarakis, Cathedral Dean

Father's E-mail: frdcostarakis@stgeorgenh.org

Lord's Day (Sunday) Services:

Orthros/Matins: 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.

An electronic copy of this bulletin is available on the website.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, February 19, 2023

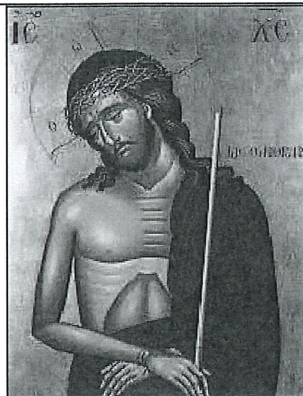
Volume 11, Issue 8

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Christ is in our midst!

When you see your friends, what do you say? "Hey, what's up?" "How's it going?" We always have something to say, don't we? At church, you might hear people greet each other in a different way. "Christ is in our midst!" Christ is with us! And you can answer, "He is and ever shall be!" He always will be with us!



We know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, is with us always: when things are going well and when they're not, when we're in church and when we're somewhere else, when we're with our Christian friends and family and when we're not. But today, in the Gospel reading, we hear about how Christ is with us in a different way too. We hear how God wants us to think about our Lord anytime we see another person!

The Gospel says, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," and more. And for those people, God says, "Inherit the kingdom prepared for you." He invites these people to be with Him in heaven! Then the people wonder when they gave Jesus food or drink or clothes, or when they visited Him. But He answers that as you did it to "the least of these," you did it to Him. So when we help another person, we are really helping Christ too!

Let's always remember, "Christ is in our midst!" He is with us! Let's do our best to give Him food and drink and clothes, and love—every time we help another person!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Baptist
Gospel
Hungry
Helping
John
Least
Meatfare
Ministering
Relic
Thirsty

F	L	P	H	A	H	H	S	V	U	A	T	T	E	S
B	P	U	W	G	E	N	T	I	Y	K	H	P	V	E
D	F	W	A	L	O	C	Z	E	C	N	I	M	V	B
K	O	H	P	Q	D	S	G	C	K	N	R	E	Q	O
S	N	I	P	E	M	J	P	H	R	E	S	A	D	D
G	N	X	I	K	M	W	V	E	U	F	T	T	U	K
G	C	U	H	A	T	H	T	A	L	N	Y	F	Z	Q
G	N	I	R	E	T	S	I	N	I	M	G	A	I	L
J	M	D	I	R	I	R	A	T	U	R	U	R	U	B
J	H	G	E	T	C	B	Q	E	X	M	F	E	Y	N
V	G	R	P	V	X	X	S	O	L	E	T	R	P	H
C	Z	A	R	E	L	I	C	C	T	Y	G	X	M	O
N	B	I	I	Z	I	Z	J	F	Z	G	X	V	P	J
Q	W	G	Q	B	J	Z	D	J	U	V	N	W	I	Q
F	C	J	N	G	K	R	O	Z	W	R	U	W	L	W

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

This icon shows us exactly what was in today's Gospel. When we help others, we help Christ!

"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink..."

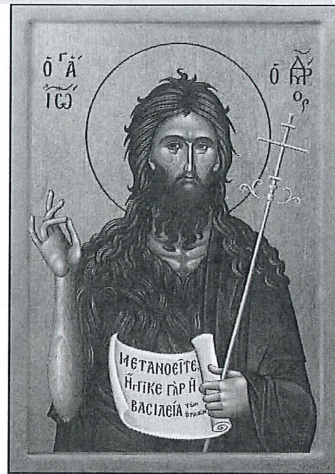


SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

THE 1ST AND 2ND FINDING OF HIS PRECIOUS HEAD

Do you know what a relic is?

A relic means the “remains of” something or somebody. A relic can be a part of somebody’s body, or a piece of his clothes, or anything left over from him. In our Church, you might have heard of a relic of a saint. Lots of times, this is a little piece of the saint’s body. If you’ve seen a relic, maybe it was in a special box, or even part of an icon.



A relic is something very special to us, because it helps us remember the saint. It was a part of the saint, when he or she lived on this earth! We might kiss it, or even bow down in front of it, or light a candle in front of it. A little bone from a saint is so special to us, because we love that saint!

On Friday, we celebrate an interesting day, when, long ago, some faithful Christians found the relic of Saint John the Baptist. Do you remember how Saint John was killed by the king? His head was even cut off! What a horrible thing! After that, Christians took his precious head, and they kept it in a special place. Over many, many years, many, many people prayed in front of St. John’s relic. God healed and helped many people through Saint John’s prayers.

We celebrate this day, because relics are important to us Orthodox Christians. We honor saints’ bodies because we love the saints!

We celebrate this special day on Friday, Feb. 24th (OC: March 9th).

“Come, o Blessed of My Father”



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