Sunday, February 26, 2023
Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday
+ St. Photini the Samartian Woman
Mode of the Week: Fourth/Tέταρτος

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:
Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σῶσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

Our Upcoming Epistle Readers:
(3/5) George Saratsiotis, Rene Esquivel; (3/12) Pete Tsamolias, Beth Zoumbri

Our Upcoming Ushers:
(2/27) Charles; (2/28) Eleni+Norm; (3/1) Tassie; (3/2) Sarah; (3/4) Cleo

Our Upcoming Video Operators:

Our Upcoming Fellowship Hosts:
(3/5) Maria B., Joanna P.; (3/12) Aleca Hortman; (3/19) Philoptochos Luncheon

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a warm welcome to all worshiping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is reserved for Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.

Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!

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HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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+ St. Photini the Samartian Woman
Mode of the Week: Fourth/Tέταρτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)
Pray and return to the Lord Your God.
Verse: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75)

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomeingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcome him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.
Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Cheesefare/Fasting Sunday (The Expulsion of the First-Fast from Adam) (from the Garden of Eden)

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam’s exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the Holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiation and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fastish recipients did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they fasted even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the fastish, and disobedience of the first-fastish, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commandments. Taking occasion from today’s Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by even the least other fastish this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

+ The Holy Martyr Photini the Samaritan Woman (+66)
+ Our Devout Father Porphyrios, Bishop of Gaza (+420)
+ The Holy Martyrs Photo, Photis, Paraskevi, Kyriaki sisters of St. Photini (+66)
+ The Holy martyrs Joses and Photinos, sons of St. Photini (+66)
+ The Holy martyr Sebastian the Duke (+66)
+ The Holy New Martyr John of Constantinople (+1575)

By the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.


- Weekly Resurrectional Hymns (To φανέρῳ, 4th Mode):
  When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world. (sung before and after the Small Entrance)

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώον Κόσµον, 1st Mode):
  Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross. (sung in Greek and English)

- The Kontakion of Forgiveness Sunday (Τῆς σοφίας οδηγή, Plagal 2nd Mode):
  O guide to wisdom, provider of prudence, discriminant of fools, and defender of the poor, fortify and discipline my heart, O Master; You, give me a word, O Word of the Father. For behold, I will not hinder my lips from crying to You: O merciful Lord, have mercy on me who have fallen.

Prayer Requests:

Metropolitan Alexis, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Angelo, Panteleimon, Michael, Eve, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Peter, Jll, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Marina, Alexi, Chris, Dianna, Keith, Joanne, Donna, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Adrienne, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Sedky, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett

Prayers for those recently reposéd:
Louis (+January 23), Kay (+January 23), Michael (+February 7)

Prayers for expecting mothers:
Katina B.

Prayers for military personnel and their families:
Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Gioztiach, Robert ice, Aaron Ysbyt (Granddaughter Valzage)

Prayers for our catechumens and inquirers into the Orthodox Church:
Nate, Chad, Alexander, and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Macarios of Optina on the importance of not letting our bad feelings towards another to foster: “Do not allow the spark of discord and enmity to smolder. The longer you wait, the more the enemy tries to cause confusion among you. Be watchful, so that he does not mock you. Humility destroys all of his schemes.”

St. Mark the Ascetic: “The sign of sincere love is to forgive wrongs done to us. It was with such love that the Lord loved the world.”

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polia, Many Years! February 25: Vasilis (Tamisi) Contrell
February 29: Kassiani Andros
March 2: Eve McGrath
1st Sat. of Lent—Drakopoulos
Birthdays—Happy Birthday! February 26: Carter Zounis
February 27: Jessica Holland
February 29: Marie-Leonie Saratsiotis
Anniversaries—Congratulations! February 27: Georgia and George Saratsiotis

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

* Shut-Ins: If you know of anyone who is unable to come to the Church because of illness, age, or any other reason, please contact Fr. Theodore and we will pray with them, and administer to them the Holy Mysteries.
* Blood Drive: Our next blood drive is this Thursday, March 2. If you have not scheduled your appointment, please do so today! Thanks to Melanie Moe who has volunteered to open the doors for the American Red Cross. We are still looking for volunteers for the following two drives: May 24 and July 19.
* Great Lent & Holy Week Preparations: An email has been sent offering the opportunity to participate in many different ways during Great Lent & Holy Week. Many have volunteered. Thank you! There are still some items available. If interested, please let Natalia know or send an email to office@holycrossga.org.
* YOUTH: Today after Sunday School: Altar Boy and St. Photini Handmaiden (for our female youth) meeting! Please bring an offering! Next Sunday for the Icon Procession for the Sunday of Orthodoxy.
  * As there are still coffee fellowship spots available (for example, March 26), we are seeking volunteers to host a second time. This is strictly on a volunteer basis. We have established a fund for repeat hosts/hostesses to aid in purchasing light food and beverages. Also, if the high cost of groceries is a deterrent, we invite first-time hosts/hostesses to use this fund. We welcome all contributions.

* Next Sunday, March 5th, there will be a Pan-Orthodox Vespers that will take place to commemorate the Sunday of Orthodoxy at the Greek Orthodox Church in Bolingbroke at 5:00pm. Fr. Theodore will consecrate with the clergy there and some of our choir will be participating, as well. All are welcome!
* Coin Boxes: To support the work of OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) will be available for pick up in coffee hour. These will be collected after Pascha.
* Philotheos begins a Lenten Food Drive today—collection will take place in the Narthex and the Parish House.

This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (2/26—Dairy+Eggs+Fish+Oil+Wine):
Monday (2/27—Strict Fast):
Isaiah 1:1-20; Genesis 11:13-13; Proverbs 12:1-20
Tuesday (2/28—Strict Fast): Isaiah 1:19-23; Genesis 1:14-23; Proverbs 12:20-33
Wednesday (3/1—Strict Fast): Isaiah 2:3-11; Genesis 1:23-24; Proverbs 21:22
Thursday (3/2—Strict Fast): Isaiah 11:21-21; Genesis 2:4-10; Proverbs 3:18
Friday (3/3—Strict Fast):
Isaiah 3:1-14; Genesis 2:20-30; Proverbs 19:34

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:
Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Gioztiach, Robert ice, Aaron Ysbyt (Granddaughter Valzage)

Prayers for our Catechumens and inquirers into the Orthodox Church:
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