HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, March 5, 2023
1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy
+ St. Conon of Isauria
Mode of the Week: Plagal First/Πλ. του Πρότου

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.

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!
Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, for You are praiseworthy and exalted beyond measure unto the ages.

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Samuel, and the prophets—through whom faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, wandered over deserts and dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."
For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus’s death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodios (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodios and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: “If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adorning them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema.” Then with common prayer and fasting during the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and restored the holy inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and inheritance.  Give victory to those who battle evil and inheritance.

For in His goodness He was pleased * to ascend the throne of His glory, and from a Virgin was born * for us, the Son of God. I do not venerate the matter, but I venerate the represented. But now, since God has appeared in flesh among men, I can depict that which is visible and invisible. From all kinds of perils as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils perishable food is being collected in the Narthex and in the Parish Hall. This will be at St. Innocent Orthodox Church in Bolingbroke at 10-12 a.m. on March 5. If the high cost of groceries is a deterrent, we invite first-timers to attend. The baking of Tsourekia (a traditional Greek sweet bread made primarily of honey, eggs, flour, and yogurt) will take place to commemorate the Sunday of Orthodoxy. If you haven’t already. See Presvs. Stacey if you need assistance! It’s just two weeks away, on March 19. The GOYA Lantern Retreat at the Diakonia Center March 31-April 2. Once again, Fr. Theodore is leading this retreat. Let Fr. Theodore or Pres. Stacey know if you are interested in attending! 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-timers to host a second time. This is strictly on a volunteer basis. We have established a fund for repeat hosts/hostesses to use this fund. We welcome all contributions.

* 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 so that he can visit with them, pray with them, and administer to them the Holy Mysteries.

* Great Lent & Holy Week Preparations: An email has been sent out giving parishioners 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: NOW is the time to register for the Oratorical Festival if you haven’t already. See Frsvs. Stacey if you need assistance! It’s just two weeks away, on March 19. The GOYA Lantern Retreat at the Diakonia Center March 31-April 2. Once again, Fr. Theodore is leading this retreat. Let Fr. Theodore or Pres. Stacey know if you are interested in attending! 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-timers to host a second time. This is strictly on a volunteer basis. We have established a fund for repeat hosts/hostesses to use this fund. We welcome all contributions.

* This year, there will be a Pan-Orthodox Vespers that will take place to commemorate the Sunday of Orthodoxy. This will be at St. Innocent Orthodox Church in Bolingbroke at 5:00pm. Fr. Theodore will concelebrate with the clergy there and some of our own. A light meal will be served, as well! There will also be a light Lenten meal provided for the service. All are welcome!

* Coin Boxes: to support the work of OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center). Coins may be picked up in coffee hour. These will be collected after Pascha.

* Philoptochos has begun a Lenten Food Drive: non-perishable food is being collected in the Narthex and in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in joining Philoptochos for the baking of Tsoureki (a traditional Greek sweet bread made for Pascha) on Saturday, March 11th beginning at 8:30 am. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Celebrations This Week
Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
None in the Records

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!
March 10: Andrew Adams
March 11: Steve Douglas

Anniversaries—Congratulations!
None in the Records

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

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- Hymn of the Sunday of Orthodoxy (Tvó αγαπανε Εκοια οων, 2nd Mode):

  • Our common prayer is the word who is unoriginate with * the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born * for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased * to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, * and to raise up those who died, * by His glorious Resurrection.  

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Tvó oöváveγεν Ανάων, Plagal 1st Mode):

  • Weekly Vespers:

  - Hymn of the Holy Cross (Zσανον Κύριον, 1st Mode):

  - The Kontakion of the Annunciation (Τή υπερμάχω, Plagal 4th Mode):

- The Holy Martyr Archelaos and the 142 Martyrs with him (+308)

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

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