HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Sunday, September 24, 2023
1st Sunday of Luke
St. Thekla the Great Martyr
Mode of the Week: Grave/Βαρύς

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 Parish Hymn:
Σκηνή τών κυρίων προς τοὺς εὐλογηθέντας καὶ παρελθοντας καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a warm welcome to all worshipping 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!
Epistle Reading

God is wondrous in His saints.
Verse: Bless God in the churches. (Psalm 67)

The reading is from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy.

(3:10-15)

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (5:1-11)

1st Sunday of Luke

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.
Today Our Holy Orthodox Church:

- The Holy Great Martyr Thekla, Equal to the Apostles (5th Century)

This saint was from the city of Icinnus. When she was eighteen years of age, she was instructed in the Faith of Christ and the hope of the resurrection by the Apostle Paul, whom she also followed forsoaking her betrothed and exposing a life of virginity for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. Having preached Christ in various cities and suffered many things, she was reposed in Seleucia at the age of 90.

- Our Devout Father Silouan (+1938)

He was a Russian peasant who traveled to Mt Athos and became a monk in the Russian Monastery of St Panteleimon. He lived so simply, humbly and quietly that the mighty forgotten had not Fr Sophrony (Sakharov) become his spiritual child and, after the Saint’s repose, written a book describing his life and teaching: St Silouan of Athos (+1938) - The Great Miracle of the Theotokos on Cilicia at the age of 90.

- The Holy Great Martyr Thekla, Equal to the Apostles (+14th Century)

The Miracle of the Theotokos of the Myrtles on Kythira (+14th Century)

- Our Devout Father Silouan of Athos (+1038)

He was a Russian peasant who traveled to Mt Athos and became a monk in the Russian Monastery of St Panteleimon. He lived so simply, humbly and quietly that the mighty forgotten had not Fr Sophrony (Sakharov) become his spiritual child and, after the Saint’s repose, written a book describing his life and teaching: St Silouan of Athos (+1038).

Offered in the Name of: All Adult/Youth Servers

Eucharist on Duty: Melanie Move

Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Κατάλυσας τω Σταυρώ, –)
  - You destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women’s lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy.
  - (Stung before and after the Small Entrance)

- Hymn of the Theotokos of the Myrtles (Αυξά οίκεσερ, Fourth Mode):
  - O come, all you people, and let us in faith clap our hands* and sing sacred songs to her who is the Mother of God,* and longingly cry aloud: * "Rejoice, O protection of all those who entreat you;* rejoice, the salvation of those who honor you with longing,* rejoice, O Lady who restored* the paralyzed man to health.

- Hymn of St. Thekla (Θεκλᾶς κοινής, Third Mode):
  - All afiance with love for your Creator,* from the teachings of your teacher,* you disregarded as fleeting all things mundane:* and being bold in the face of the penalties,* you gave yourself as a beautiful gift to God.* Thekla, glorious companion of the Apostle Paul,* we pray you entreat your Bridegroom, Christ,* and ask Him to grant us His great gifts.

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, First Mode):
  - Save, O Lord, your people and bless Your inheritance.
  - Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

- The Normal Kontakion (Προσκύνησις των Χριστιάνων, Second Mode):
  - O Protection of Christians that never fails, intercession with the Creator that never fails, intervention that never fails, a source of love and protection that never fails: it has been said that all things the final criterion of true Christian faith is unfinished love for enemies, and that to pray for those is to be shed blood.

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