Sunday, December 17, 2023
Sunday of the Forefathers
St. Dionysios of Zakynthos
Mode of the Week: Third/Τρίτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Orthros
Divine Liturgy

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.
Verse: For You are righteous in all You did for us. (Prayer of Azariah)

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Epistle Reading

Eὐλογητὸς εἰς Κύριε ὁ Θεὸς τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν.
Στίχ. Ὑπεκοινωνοῦτε με ἵνα γνωρίσητε ὅτι ἐμπιστεύεσθε ἐν ἀληθείᾳ ὑμεῖς.

Πρὸς Κολασσαεῖς Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

Adelfoi, ὅταν ὁ Χριστός φανερωθῇ, ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν, τότε καὶ ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν δόξῃ. Νεκρώσατε οὖν τὰ μέλη τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, πορνείαν, ἀκαθαρσίαν, πάθος, ἐπιθυμίαν κακήν, καὶ τὴν πλεονεξίαν ἥτις ἐστὶν εἰδωλολατρία, δι’ ἅ ἔρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας."
This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (12/17—Wine+Oil):

Monday (12/18—Strict Fast):
Hebrews 3:5-11:7-19, Mark 9:42-50, 10:1

Tuesday (12/19—Strict Fast):
Hebrews 4:1-13, Mark 10:12-12

Wednesday (12/20—Wine+Oil):
Hebrews 10:32-38, Mark 9:33-41

Thursday (12/21—Strict Fast):
Hebrews 7:1-6, Mark 10:17-27

Friday (12/22—St. Anastasia—Strict Fast):
Hebrews 6:10-12, Mark 10:18-22

Saturday (12/23—Wine+Oil):

Prayer Requests:
Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon (mission priest), Hoffman, Kassiani, Kirnos, Dimitrios, Georgios, Pavlos, Betos, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jannine, Dawn, Kenneth, Hermoine, Emmanuel, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Lucy, Landry, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stefanos, Brian, Vanessa, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Lilly, Bill, Virginia, Marco, Colin, Mitch, April

Prayers for those recently reposed:
John (+November 22), Panagiotis/Pete (+November 27), Marinos (+November 27), Samuel/Bob (+December 7), Sophia (+December 7)

Prayers for expecting mothers:
Hannah Kl, Kimberly, Shyrah S.

Families:
Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrathio, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and candidates:
Evelyn, Mackenzie, Tender Harris

St. John Chrysostom

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:
St. John Chrysostom on raising up children with wisdom as the first priority: “Let everything take second place to our care of our children, our bringing them up to the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If from the beginning we teach them to love true wisdom, they will have in abundance the fruits and virtue of it.” Rich parents can provide child a trade, or is highly educated for a lucrative profession, all this is nothing compared to the art of detaching our riches; if you want to make your child rich, teach him this. He is truly rich who does not desire great possessions, or surround himself with wealth, but who requires nothing... Don’t think that only monks need to learn the Bible; Children about to go into the world stand in greater need of Scriptural knowledge.

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
December 17: Holly Economopoulos, Connor Aaron
Morris, David Needham
December 17: Presvytera Stacey Ehmer

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!
December 17: Kathye Patras
December 18: Guy Holland, Lilly Anne Syrbneys
December 19: Noni Economopoulos
December 23: Logan Wells

Anniversaries—Congratulations!
(No in the Records)

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

Announcements:

Philothecos: The Philothecos is collecting $2-$4 clothing, baby wash and lotion, jackets of all sizes, and stuffies as a Nativity Almsgiving opportunity supporting the work of The Kolbe Center (our local crisis pregnancy center) and the Orthodox Action (local Pro-Life groups). Donations need to be received by the Church by today. Delivery of items and tour of the Kolbe Center: 12/19 at 1000pm.

Orthodox 101 will take place this Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in the Church Library after the Vesper. The topic will be “Why do we pray?” We will explore the contents of the interior of the Church and the meaning, symbolism, and theology. Zoom is available for those who would like to join digitally, please contact Fr. Theodore for more info!

As a reminder, the Bookstore is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00. A great option for Christmas gifts!

Christmas Poinsettias: If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia “In Memory of” or “In Honor of”, please fill out the form that was sent by email and turn in your payment in the collection tray or in the box located in the Narthex. Deadline is today!

Youth: Nativity (Christmas) Pageant will be taking place at the end of the Divine Liturgy today. Please plan to stay and watch our youth during this special time.

Safety Committee meeting will be held today at 12:30pm.

The Holy Cross Choir and Youth invite all parishioners to join them in spreading some cheer with Christmas Caroling and Kalanda on Thursday, December 21st (2:00pm in Macon & 7:00pm in Bibb County). The details and route will be confirmed. St. John Chrysostom will take place this Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Parish House.

Blood Drive: Tuesday, January 3 at 3-7pm in the Parish House.