Sunday, February 11, 2024
16th Sunday of Matthew
St. Vlassios of Sebaste
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Third (Mark 16:9-20)
Mode of the Week: Third /Τρίτος

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.

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!

Upcoming Schedule

**Today, February 11**
- 9:15am Orthros
- 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 16th Sunday of Matthew
- Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
- Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy

**Friday, February 16**
- 5:00pm Vespers for the Feast of St. Theodore the Recruit

**Sunday, February 18**
- 9:15am Orthros
- 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Canaanite

**Monday, February 19**
- President’s Day—Office Closed

**Tuesday, February 20**
- 5:15pm Parish Council Meeting
- 5:45pm Vespers
- 6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library

**Wednesday, February 21**
- 4:45pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library (and Zoom) - tentative time/date
- 5:45pm Vespers

**Sunday, March 3**
- 9:15am Orthros
- 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son
- Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
- 12:45pm Adult Greek School

**Wednesday, March 6**
- 6:30pm Choir Practice (tentative time/date)

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (2/18) Pete Tsamolias, Cleo Bennett; (2/25) Pete Tsamolias, Sarah Drakopoulos
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (2/18) Natalia Sarantis; (2/25) Jim Lekas; (3/3) John Apostolou
Upcoming Video Operators: (2/21) Despina Passias; (2/25) Eleni Adams; (3/3) Rodica Cazanu; (3/10) Helen Varly

To our Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!
παιδευόμενοι καὶ μὴ θανατούμενοι, ὡς ἀποθνῄσκοντες καὶ ἰδοὺ ζῶμεν, ὡς καὶ εὐφημίας δικαιοσύνης τῶν δεξιῶν καὶ ἀριστερῶν, δυνάμει Θεοῦ ἀνυποκρίτῳ, ἐν λόγῳ ἀληθείας, ἐν ἀγρυπνίαις, ἐν νηστείαις, ἐν ἁγνότητι, ἀκαταστασίαις, ἐν κόποις, ἐν θλίψεσιν, ἐν ἁνάγκαις, Θεοῦ διάκονοι, ἐν ὑπομονῇ πολλῇ, ἐν ἀλλαποστήσεσιν, ἵνα μὴ μωμηθῇ ἡ διακονία, σωτηρίας. Μηδεμίαν ἐν μηδενὶ διδόντες καιρὸς εὐπρόσδεκτο. Λέγει γάρ μὴ εἰς κενὸν τὴν χάριν τοῦ Θεοῦ Ἀδελφοί, συνεργοῦντες παρακαλοῦμεν, Στίχ. Πάντα τὰ ἔθνη κροτήσατε χεῖρας, Ψάλατε τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν, ψάλατε, ψάλατε Πρὸς Κορινθίους Β ἐν παντὶ συνιστῶντες ἑαυτοὺς ὡς ἀλαλάξατε τῷ Θεῷ ἐν φωνῇ τῷ βασιλεῖ ἡμῶν, ψάλατε.
Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (pg. 8 in the Small Book/pg. 37 in the Hymnal):

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Ενακοπίθησι σε οξύα, Third Mode):
  Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He triumphed death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted mercy, (Song before and after the small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 166).

- Hymn of St. Blaise (Κα θρόνον ἄνεος, Fourth Mode):
  Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expanded the word of faith, and you governed the Empire wisely for fifteen years, since her son Michael was not yet of age. But in 857 she forsook her royal power and entered a certain convent in Constantinople called Gastría, where she finished the course of her life in holiness and repose in the Lord. Her sacred incorpore remains are found in Couri, in the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos of the Cave, in the capital city of the island (see also Dec. 12).

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σωτήριον Κινήτηρος, First 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.

- The Normal Kontakion (Πιστολαγία των Χιασταρέων, Second Mode):
  Protection of Christians that never falls, intervention with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with fault. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 224).

Prayer Requests:

- Fr. Symeon (supported by our parish), Pantelimon, Michael, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, Betty, Irene, Valerie, Daiana, Keith, Jeannie, David, Faye, Peter, Mark, Kay, Helen, Demetri, Mike, Nikki, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Bessie, English, Eline, Christa, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stella, Brian, Yassilou, Bennie, Katerina, Link, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael

Prayers for those recently repose:

- Martyr Vlassios (Blaise) of Sebaste;
- Hieromartyr George the Serbian (+1515)
- Our Devout Mother Theodora the Empress (+867)
- Saint Blaise was Bishop of Sebastia. Divine grace, through which he healed the diseases of men and beasts, and especially of infants, made him famous. He contested for the Faith exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He triumphed death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted mercy, (Song before and after the small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 166).

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Peter of Damascas on the necessity of patience in the spiritual life (from the Philokalia):
"For to sin, even in the case of those who are righteous, is easy, while repentance is not easy for everyone because death is near; and even before death there is despair. It is good, then, not to fall; or, if we fall, to rise again with patience. For although we may fall, we should not despair and so estrange ourselves from the Lord’s love. For if He so chooses, He can do anything with our weakness. Only we should not cut ourselves off from Him or feel oppressed when constrained by His commandments, nor should we lose heart when we fail in something. Therefore, let us not be hasty nor tardy, and let us be always ready to make a new start. If you fall, rise up. If you fall again, rise up again. Only do not abandon your Physician, lest you be condemned as worse than blaspheming the spirit because of your despair. Wait on Him, and He will be merciful, either reforming you, or sending you through trial or some other provision of which you are ignorant."