

Philotochos News

- Thank you, Fr. Vasileios and Dcn. George for the beautiful service on Philotochos Sunday. We are also very appreciative to the parish for your generosity with the second tray passed for the Holy Cross and Hellenic College. A special thank you to Christiana Spiropoulos for the Koliva and to Nyda Glaros for the Artoclasia.
- Next Saturday, Nov. 20th from 9am to 5pm, Philotochos will have our 2nd Annual Holiday Bazaar. Please plan on dropping by and doing some shopping while enjoying lots of homemade Greek foods. Please support us and enjoy the afternoon.
- Scrip cards are always available, so please come by and see what we can offer you for your holiday shopping ('tis the season!) and in doing so, remember Transfiguration. Philotochos members will come by your table and answer any questions.
- This is the time to put your name on the list for this year's Christmas card. We will collect names now and get the payment later. Stop by our table to add your name to the list.
- Very soon our beautiful Christmas tree will be up and decorated with the CASA angels. As in the past, we will have angels for lots of children who count on them to make their Christmas a happy one. Pick an angel and make someone very happy.
- Save the date! Saturday, Dec. 4th is the date for our annual Philotochos Christmas party. We will celebrate at Rocco's in Lakeway. Details to come soon.

(St. Gregory - continued)

At the Constantinople Council of 1341 in the church of Hagia Sophia St Gregory Palamas debated with Barlaam, focusing upon the nature of the light of Mount Tabor. On May 27, 1341 the Council accepted the position of St Gregory Palamas, that God, unapproachable in His Essence, reveals Himself through His energies, which are directed towards the world and are able to be perceived, like the light of Tabor, but which are neither material nor created. The teachings of Barlaam were condemned as heresy, and he himself was anathemized and fled to Calabria.

But the dispute between the Palamites and the Barlaamites was far from over. To these latter belonged Barlaam's disciple, the Bulgarian monk Akyndinos, and also Patriarch John XIV Kalekos (1341-1347); the emperor Andronicus III Paleologos (1328-1341) was also inclined toward their opinion. Akyndinos, whose name means "one who inflicts no harm," actually caused great harm by his heretical teaching. Akyndinos wrote a series of tracts in which he declared St Gregory and the Athonite monks guilty of causing church disorders. The saint, in turn, wrote a detailed refutation of Akyndinos' errors. The patriarch supported Akyndinos and called St Gregory the cause of all disorders and disturbances in the Church (1344) and had him locked up in prison for four years. In 1347, when John the XIV was replaced on the patriarchal throne by Isidore (1347-1349), St Gregory Palamas was set free and was made Archbishop of Thessalonica.

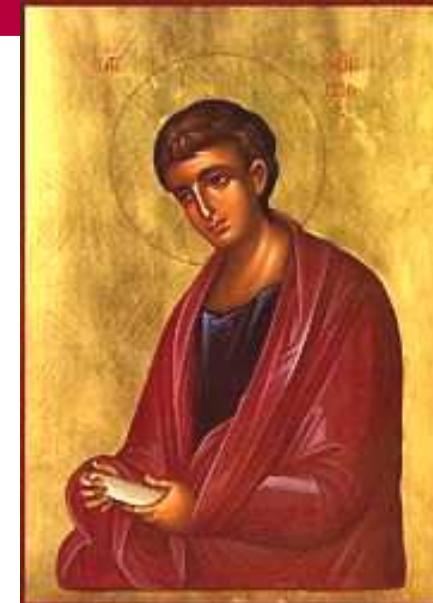
In 1351 the Council of Blachernae solemnly upheld the Orthodoxy of his teachings. But the people of Thessalonica did not immediately accept St Gregory, and he was compelled to live in various places. On one of his travels to Constantinople the Byzantine ship fell into the hands of the Turks. Even in captivity, St Gregory preached to Christian prisoners and even to his Moslem captors. The Hagarenes were astonished by the wisdom of his words. Some of the Moslems were unable to endure this, so they beat him and would have killed him if they had not expected to obtain a large ransom for him. A year later, St Gregory was ransomed and returned to Thessalonica.

St Gregory performed many miracles in the three years before his death, healing those afflicted with illness. On the eve of his repose, St John Chrysostom appeared to him in a vision. With the words "To the heights! To the heights!" St Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, 1359. In 1368 he was canonized at a Constantinople Council under Patriarch Philotheus (1354-1355, 1364-1376), who compiled the Life and Services to the saint.

SUNDAY BULLETIN
NOVEMBER 14, 2010

8TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE



TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

414 ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL ROAD
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

(512) 329-6363 WEBSITE - TRANSFIGURATION.ORG

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

ORTHROS 8:45AM; DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM

Reverend Fr. Vasileios Flegas, Proistamenos

NOVEMBER 14, 2010 - 8TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

EPISTLE - 1CORINTHIANS 4: 9-16

Brethren, for I think that God showed forth us the apostles last, as condemned to death; for we became a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ. We are weak, but ye are strong. Ye are held in honor, but we are dishonored. Until the present hour, we both hunger and thirst, and are naked, and are being buffeted, and never at rest. And we toil working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we bear up; being evilly spoken of, we beseech. We became as the filth of the world, the off-scouring of all until now. I do not write these things shaming you, but admonishing you as my beloved children. For if ye have myriads of tutors in Christ, yet ye have not many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I begot you through the Gospel. Therefore, I beseech you, keep on becoming imitators of me.



Ἀδελφοί, ὁ θεὸς ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἀποστόλους ἐσχάτους ἀπέδειξεν ὡς ἐπιθανατίους· ὅτι θέατρον ἐγενήθημεν τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ ἀγγέλοις, καὶ ἀνθρώποις. Ἡμεῖς μωροὶ διὰ χριστόν, ὑμεῖς δὲ φρόνιμοι ἐν χριστῷ· ἡμεῖς ἀσθενεῖς, ὑμεῖς δὲ ἰσχυροί· ὑμεῖς ἔνδοξοι, ἡμεῖς δὲ ἄτιμοι. Ἄχρι τῆς ἄρτι ὥρας καὶ πεινῶμεν, καὶ διψῶμεν, καὶ γυμνητεύομεν, καὶ κολαφιζόμεθα, καὶ ἀστατοῦμεν, καὶ κοπιῶμεν ἐργαζόμενοι ταῖς ἰδίαις χερσίν· λοιδορούμενοι εὐλογοῦμεν· διωκόμενοι ἀνεχόμεθα· βλασφημούμενοι παρακαλοῦμεν· ὡς περικαθάρματα τοῦ κόσμου ἐγενήθημεν, πάντων περιψήμα ἕως ἄρτι. Οὐκ ἐντρέπων ὑμᾶς γράφω ταῦτα, ἀλλ' ὡς τέκνα μου ἀγαπητὰ νοθετῶ. Ἐὰν γὰρ μυρίους παιδαγωγούς ἔχητε ἐν χριστῷ, ἀλλ' οὐ πολλοὺς πατέρας· ἐν γὰρ χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διὰ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ἐγὼ ὑμᾶς ἐγέννησα. Παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς, μιμηταὶ μου γίνεσθε.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, November 14, 2010

Please join us today for our monthly luncheon.
The scrumptious menu includes:
Pastitsio, spanakopita, greek salad, bread and for dessert - Bougatsa

Thank you to today's Luncheon Sponsors:
the Gianakopoulos family

Youth Choir Practice
The children's choir will practice today immediately following Sunday School.

GOYA Basketball Practices
Our basketball practice will be at O'Henry Middle School, beginning at approximately 12:50.
The registration website for the 2011 GOYA Basketball Tournament is now open and can be found at: <https://www.goyahoops.net/>.

GOYA Retreat
Fr. Vasileios and our GOYAns will be attending the Metropolis of Denver Fall Retreat next weekend.
Parents, please have your students here at church on Friday, 11/19 by 4:00. We leave at 4:30pm - sharp!

YAL (Young Adult League)
Join us for our first YAL gathering Thursday, November 18 at the church hall at 6:30PM.
We will have a potluck and discussion with Fr. Vasileios. Everyone is welcome to attend!

GOLF (Greek Orthodox Ladies Fellowship)
Fr. Vasileios is leading the ladies in a discussion of Elder Paisius' newest book Spiritual Awakening. Next class is Tuesday, November 16, from 9:30 to 11:30. - hope to see you there!

Greek School
Classes will be Tuesday evenings from 6:45pm to 8:00pm.

Men's Fellowship
The men have begun a study of the book The Gurus, the Young Man and Elder Paisios.
Fr. Vasileios is leading the study on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays of each month.
Please join them on Monday, Nov. 15 in the conference room beginning at 6:30. Food will be provided.
Please contact Allen Wynn for more information - awynn3816@gmail.com

2011 Stewardship Sunday is Dec 5th!
Its time to submit your stewardship commitment for next year.
2011 Stewardship cards will be available starting Sunday Dec 5th. We strongly encourage you to come prepared to submit your card on that Sunday. Please prayerfully consider your commitment for 2011.
"What shall I give to the Lord in return for all His benefits towards me?" (Ps 116:2)

Thank you to last week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:
Petropoulos, Phocas, Phoumivong-Naresh, Pon

Next week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:
Price, Randol, Read, Rigney, Rizkalla

Today's ushers are:
Elizabeth George

Next week's ushers will be:
Marko Bjeletich



Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki

Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, was born in the year 1296 in Constantinople. St Gregory's father became a prominent dignitary at the court of Andronicus II Paleologos (1282-1328), but he soon died, and Andronicus himself took part in the raising and education of the fatherless boy. Endowed with fine abilities and great diligence, Gregory mastered all the subjects which then comprised the full course of medieval higher education. The emperor hoped that the youth would devote himself to government work. But Gregory, barely twenty years old, withdrew to Mount Athos in the year 1316 (other sources say 1318) and became a novice in the Vatopedi monastery under the guidance of the monastic Elder St Nicodemus of Vatopedi. There he was tonsured and began on the path of asceticism. A year later, the holy Evangelist John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and promised him his spiritual protection. Gregory's mother and sisters also became monastics.

After the demise of the Elder Nicodemus, St Gregory spent eight years of spiritual struggle under the guidance of the Elder Nicephorus, and after the latter's death, Gregory transferred to the Lavra of St Athanasius (July 5). Here he served in the trapeza, and then became a church singer. But after three years, he resettled in the small skete of Glossia, striving for a greater degree of spiritual perfection. The head of this monastery began to teach the young man the method of unceasing prayer and mental activity, which had been cultivated by monastics, beginning with the great desert ascetics of the fourth century: Evagrius Pontikos and St Macarius of Egypt.

During his stay at Glossia the future hierarch Gregory became fully imbued with the spirit of hesychasm (mental prayer, or prayer of the heart) and adopted it as an essential part of his life. In the year 1326, because of the threat of Turkish invasions, he and the brethren retreated to Thessalonica, where he was then ordained to the holy priesthood.

St Gregory combined his priestly duties with the life of a hermit. Five days of the week he spent in silence and prayer, and only on Saturday and Sunday did he come out to his people. He celebrated divine services and preached sermons. For those present in church, his teaching often evoked both tenderness and tears. Sometimes he visited theological gatherings of the city's educated youth, headed by the future patriarch, Isidore. After he returned from a visit to Constantinople, he found a place suitable for solitary life near Thessalonica the region of Bereia. Soon he gathered here a small community of solitary monks and guided it for five years.

In the 1330s events took place in the life of the Eastern Church which put St Gregory among the most significant universal apologists of Orthodoxy, and brought him great renown as a teacher of hesychasm.

About the year 1330 the learned monk Barlaam had arrived in Constantinople from Calabria, in Italy. He was the author of treatises on logic and astronomy, a skilled and sharp-witted orator. Soon Barlaam journeyed to Mt Athos, where he became acquainted with the spiritual life of the hesychasts'. Saying that it was impossible to know the essence of God, he declared mental prayer a heretical error. Journeying from Mount Athos to Thessalonica, and from there to Constantinople, and later again to Thessalonica, Barlaam entered into disputes with the monks and attempted to demonstrate the created, material nature of the light of Tabor (i.e. at the Transfiguration). He ridiculed the teachings of the monks about the methods of prayer and about the uncreated light seen by the hesychasts.

St Gregory, at the request of the Athonite monks, replied with verbal admonitions at first. But seeing the futility of such efforts, he put his theological arguments in writing. Thus appeared the "Triads in Defense of the Holy Hesychasts" (1338). Towards the year 1340 the Athonite ascetics, with the assistance of the saint, compiled a general response to the attacks of Barlaam, the so-called "Hagiorite Tome."

(continued on back page)

NOVEMBER 14, 2010 - 8TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

GOSPEL - ST. LUKE 10: 25-37

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, νομικός τις ἀνέστη, ἐκπειράζων αὐτόν, καὶ λέγων, Διδάσκαλε, τί ποιήσας ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσω; Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτόν, Ἐν τῷ νόμῳ τί γέγραπται; Πῶς ἀναγινώσκεις; Ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν, Ἀγαπήσεις κύριον τὸν θεόν σου, ἐξ ὅλης τῆς καρδίας σου, καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς ψυχῆς σου, καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς ἰσχύος σου, καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς διανοίας σου· καὶ τὸν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτόν. Εἶπεν δὲ αὐτῷ, Ὁρθῶς ἀπεκρίθης· τοῦτο ποίει, καὶ ζήσῃ. Ὁ δὲ θέλων δικαιοῦν ἑαυτόν εἶπεν πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν, Καὶ τίς ἐστίν μου πλησίον; Ὑπολαβὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν, Ἄνθρωπός τις κατέβαινεν ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλήμ εἰς Ἱεριχῶ, καὶ λησταῖς περιέπεσεν, οἱ καὶ ἐκδύσαντες αὐτόν καὶ πληγὰς ἐπιθέντες ἀπήλθον, ἀφέντες ἡμιθανῆ τυγχάνοντα. Κατὰ συγκυρίαν δὲ ἱερέυς τις κατέβαινεν ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ ἐκείνῃ· καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτόν ἀντιπαρῆλθεν. Ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Λευίτης γενόμενος κατὰ τὸν τόπον ἐλθὼν καὶ ἰδὼν ἀντιπαρῆλθεν. Σαμαρεΐτης δὲ τις ὁδεύων ἦλθεν κατ' αὐτόν, καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτόν ἐσπλαγχνίσθη, καὶ προσελθὼν κατέδησεν τὰ τραύματα αὐτοῦ, ἐπιχέων ἔλαιον καὶ οἶνον· ἐπιβιβάσας δὲ αὐτόν ἐπὶ τὸ ἴδιον κτῆνος, ἤγαγεν αὐτόν εἰς πανδοχεῖον, καὶ ἐπεμελήθη αὐτοῦ. Καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν αὐριον ἐξελθὼν, ἐκβαλὼν δύο δηνάρια ἔδωκεν τῷ πανδοχεῖ, καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ, Ἐπιμελήθητι αὐτοῦ· καὶ ὅ τι ἂν προσδαπανήσης, ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ ἐπανέρχεσθαί με ἀποδώσω σοι. Τίς οὖν τούτων τῶν τριῶν πλησίον δοκεῖ σοι γεγονέναι τοῦ ἐμπεσόντος εἰς τοὺς ληστὰς; Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν, Ὁ ποιήσας τὸ ἔλεος μετ' αὐτοῦ. Εἶπεν οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, Πορεύου, καὶ σὺ ποίει ὁμοίως.

HYMNS FOR TODAY

Resurrection Hymn (4th Plagal Tone)

*“From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure,
three days in the tomb that we may be, released from passions in this world,
You who are our resurrection and our life Glory unto You O Lord.”*

Hymn to the Holy Apostle Phillip

*“O holy Apostle Phillip, intercede with the merciful God
that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offenses.”*

Hymn for Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

*“Metemorforthis en to ori, Christe o Theos, dixas tis mathites Sou tin doxan Sou,
kathos I dynando Lampson ke imin tis amarto lis to fos Sou to aidion,
presvies tis Theotokou Fotodoto doxa Si.”*

*“When O Christ our God Thou wast Transfigured on the mountain
Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy disciples in proportion as they could bear it.
Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners. Through the intercessions of the
Theotokos, O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.”*

Kontakion

*“The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin,
the Saviour's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled,
into the House of the Lord on this day is brought forward and bringeth with herself
the grace of the Most Divine Spirit; her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise,
for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.”*

Receiving Holy Communion

The sacrament of Holy Communion is reserved for only baptized and/or chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared by fasting, prayer and confession. The Orthodox Church is not in sacramental communion with any other church outside the Orthodox Christian Faith. If you would like information about the Orthodox Church and becoming an Orthodox Christian, please see Father Vasileios after services.

Please allow the Church School children and teachers to go to Holy Communion first so they can leave for their classes. All others should wait until the ushers dismiss you by rows to receive Communion.

WELCOME VISITORS!

*We welcome all new visitors who worshipped with us this morning.
Please join us next door after service for coffee and fellowship.
There is material in the entrance of the church regarding ministries and events
of our community. Please sign our guest book!*

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH

Dolly, Betty, Arlena, Sophie, Archie, Lou, Thomas, Kathy, Suzanne, Pat, Steve, Nina, Phyllis, Katheryn, Panayioti, Anna, Margaret, Sami, Ibrahim, Mary, George, Susan, Matthew, Ellen, Gary, Katina, Nelda, Nick, Elaine, Fotini, Malone, Tracy, Richard, Lilly, Kimberly, Dion, Jamil, Dimitrios, Lisa, Maggie, Mindy, Joan, Nakis, Estela, Micky, Kiane, Lari, Ed, Sally, Mariana, Brian, Kaeley, Tristan, Matt, Jeff, Sophia, Konstandinos, Angela, Jennifer, Rose Marie, Elia, Bilyana, Maria, Mai Oy, Susan, Mara, Xenophon, Jane

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY GREAT VESPERS, NOV. 20- FR. VASILEIOS WILL BE AT CAMP WITH THE GOYANS;
THERE WILL BE A VESPERS SERVICE AT ST. ELIAS AT 6:00PM

St. Philip the Apostle



This Apostle, one of the Twelve, was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was a compatriot of Andrew and Peter. He was instructed in the teachings of the Law, and devoted himself to the study of the prophetic books. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus called him to the dignity of apostleship, he immediately sought out and found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1.45). Having preached Jesus the God-man throughout many parts of Asia Minor, and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he was finally crucified upside down in Hierapolis of Phrygia.