

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:
Sunday, November 21, 2010

Philoptochos News

- Thank you to all of the women (and men!) who helped with our 2nd Annual Holiday Bazaar! So many people worked very hard to put this together and make it a huge success. Special thanks to Judy Eagle, Ellen Apostolakis, Elaine Leatherwood and Linda Robertson. We are looking forward to our 3rd Annual Bazaar!
- 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. Philoptochos 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 Philoptochos Christmas party. We will celebrate at Rocco's in Lakeway. Details to come soon.

Choir Rehearsal

Sue Stevens is leading choir rehearsal for anyone interested in learning how to chant. The rehearsals are on Saturdays at 5:15pm before Vespers. You can contact Sue at sues@lavoce.us if you have any questions.

Thank you to today's Coffee Hour Sponsors:
Price, Randol, Read, Rigney, Rizkalla

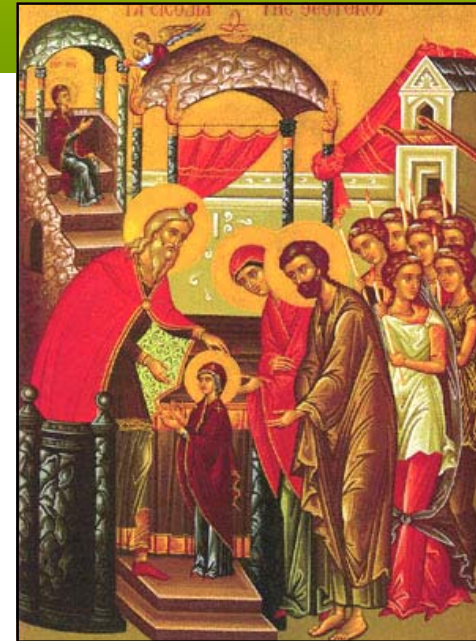
Thank you to last week's Luncheon Sponsors:
the Gianakopoulos family

Next week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:
Roberts, Robertson, Scattergood, Shannon, Shotwell

Today's usher: Sophia Khan

Next week's usher will be: Michael Glaros

ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS



TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

(512) 329-6363 WEBSITE - TRANSFIGURATION.ORG

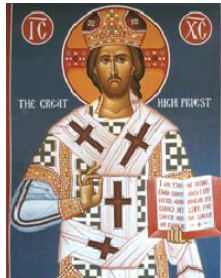
SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE
ORTHROS 8:45AM; DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM

Reverend Fr. Vasileios Flegas, Proistamenos

NOVEMBER 21, 2010 - ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

EPISTLE - HEBREWS 9: 1-7

Brethren, then indeed, also the first tabernacle used to have both ordinances of worship and the sanctuary of this world. For a tabernacle was furnished: the first in which were both the lampstand and the table, and the laying forth of the loaves, which is called holy; and after the second veil, a tabernacle which is called holy of holies, which hath a golden censer, and the ark of the covenant which hath been covered all around from every side with gold, in which was the golden jar having the manna, and the rod of Aaron that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat, concerning which now is not the time to speak severally. Now after these things were thus furnished, the priests, on the one hand, enter into the first tabernacle, performing worship services; on the other hand, into the second, the high priest entereth alone once for all every year, not without blood, which he offereth on behalf of himself and the faults of ignorance of the people.



Ἀδελφοί, εἶχεν ἡ πρώτη σκηνὴ δικαιώματα λατρείας, τό τε ἅγιον κοσμικόν. Σκηνὴ γὰρ κατεσκευάσθη ἡ πρώτη, ἐν ἣ ἦ τε λυχνία καὶ ἡ τράπεζα καὶ ἡ πρόθεσις τῶν ἄρτων, ἧτις λέγεται ἅγια. Μετὰ δὲ τὸ δεύτερον καταπέτασμα σκηνὴ ἡ λεγομένη ἅγια ἁγίων, χρυσοῦν ἔχουσα θυμιατήριον, καὶ τὴν κιβωτὸν τῆς διαθήκης περικεκαλυμμένην πάντοθεν χρυσίῳ, ἐν ἣ στάμνος χρυσοῦν ἔχουσα τὸ μάννα, καὶ ἡ ῥάβδος Ἀαρὼν ἡ βλαστήσασα, καὶ αἱ πλάκες τῆς διαθήκης· ὑπεράνω δὲ αὐτῆς Χερουβὶμ δόξης κατασκιάζοντα τὸ ἱλαστήριον· περὶ ὧν οὐκ ἔστιν νῦν λέγειν κατὰ μέρος. Τούτων δὲ οὕτως κατεσκευασμένων, εἰς μὲν τὴν πρώτην σκηνὴν διὰ παντὸς εἰσίστησιν οἱ ἱερεῖς, τὰς λατρείας ἐπιτελοῦντες· εἰς δὲ τὴν δευτέραν ἄπαξ τοῦ ἐνιαυτοῦ μόνος ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς, οὐ χωρὶς αἵματος, ὃ προσφέρει ὑπὲρ ἑαυτοῦ καὶ τῶν τοῦ λαοῦ ἀγνοημάτων·

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, November 21, 2010

Next Sunday Fr. Vasileios will be in Denver for the holiday weekend. Fr. Theodore Bitas, Fr. David Eckley and Dn. George Bithos will be here serving the Liturgy for us. Have a most Blessed Thanksgiving!

Youth Choir Practice

The children's choir will practice today immediately following Sunday School. The Nativity Pageant will be held on Sunday, Dec. 12th at 5:00pm

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/>.

2011 Parish Council elections will be held on December 5!

All 2010 stewards of Transfiguration are encouraged to stop by the fellowship hall after the Liturgy and place your vote! The elections will close at 12:45pm.

Philoptochos Christmas luncheon

Please join us at Roccas for a Christmas celebration lunch on Dec. 4th at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$25.00 and includes everything! Please stop by the Philoptochos table and sign up and make your menu selection. Reservations are required by Nov 28th. Contact Anastasia Read for more information Anastasia.read@yahoo.com

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 23, 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 will be out of town on Monday, November 28, so the next meeting will be on **Monday, December 6th at 6:30pm at Mt. Tabor Hall**

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)

The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Sts Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said St Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

St Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Sts Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.

NOVEMBER 21, 2010 - ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

GOSPEL - ST. LUKE 10: 38 - 42; 11: 27 - 28

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"



Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσῆλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς κώμην τινά· γυνή δέ τις ὀνόματι Μάρθα ὑπεδέξατο αὐτόν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτῆς. Καὶ τῆδε ἦν ἀδελφὴ καλουμένη Μαρία, ἣ καὶ παρακαθίσασα παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἤκουεν τὸν λόγον αὐτοῦ. Ἡ δὲ Μάρθα περιεσπᾶτο περὶ πολλὴν διακονίαν· ἐπιστᾶσα δὲ εἶπεν, Κύριε, οὐ μέλει σοι ὅτι ἡ ἀδελφὴ μου μόνην με κατέλειπεν διακονεῖν; Εἶπε οὖν αὐτῇ ἵνα μοι συναντιλάβηται. Αποκριθεὶς δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, Μάρθα, Μάρθα, μεριμνᾷς καὶ τυρβάζῃ περὶ πολλά· ἐνὸς δὲ ἐστὶν χρεία· Μαρία δὲ τὴν ἀγαθὴν μερίδα ἐξελέξατο, ἣτις οὐκ ἀφαιρεθήσεται ἀπ' αὐτῆς. Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ λέγειν αὐτὸν ταῦτα, ἐπάρασά τις γυνὴ φωνὴν ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου εἶπεν αὐτῷ, Μακαρία ἡ κοιλία ἢ βαστάσασά σε, καὶ μαστοὶ οὓς ἐθήλασας. Αὐτὸς δὲ εἶπεν, Μενοῦνγε μακάριοι οἱ ἀκούοντες τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ φυλάσσοντες αὐτόν.

HYMNS FOR TODAY

Resurrection Hymn (1st Tone)

*“The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Jews
and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred body
O Savior the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life
where by all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life
Glory unto our resurrected Christ, Glory unto Your Kingdom,
Glory to Your dispensation O You alone who loves all”*

Hymn for the Presentation of the Theotokos

*“Today is the prelude of God’s good will and the heralding
of the salvation of mankind.
In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly,
and she proclaims Christ unto all.
To her, then, with a great voice let us cry aloud:
Rejoice, O thou fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation.”*

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.”*

Megalynarion

*Seeing how the Virgin entered the Holy of Holies the Angels were struck with
amazement beholding the entry of the all pure one. Let no uninitiated hand
approach the living Ark of God and touch it. Rather let believers’ lips
unceasingly in great joy sing out the Angel’s salutation to the Theotokos
and cry out: truly dost thou surpass all creation O spotless Virgin.”*

Special Communion Hymn for the feast of the Entrance

*“I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the name of the Lord.
Alleluia.”*

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!*

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 out-
side 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.**

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, Romeo*

THIS WEEK’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

***THERE ARE NO WEEKDAY SERVICES SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK.
HAVE A BLESSED AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING!***