

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS - Sunday, November 21, 2010

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

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.

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)

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 30, from 9:30 to 11:30. - hope to see you there!

Greek School

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

Young Adult League - Thursday, December 2

We will meet at 7PM at Marquis at Tree Tops apartment complex clubhouse to have a Lenten potluck dinner and watch/discuss the movie Ostrov. All are welcome to attend and bring a Lenten dish. Please contact Father Vasileios or Maria Miller for more information.
If you plan to attend, please contact Maria for her gate code. mariamiller26@yahoo.com

Philoptochos News

- **One stop shopping!** Come by the Philoptochos table and pick up those gifts for that "hard to purchase for" person! These cards make great stocking stuffers, too! Don't forget to pick up some Home Depot cards to get your Christmas lights and yard decorations!
- The CASA angels are almost gone. Help a child have a happy Christmas and pick up an angel at our tree!
- There is still time to put your name on the list for this year's Christmas card. Stop by our table to add your name to the list.
- Our bookstore and gift shop has received some beautiful cards and gift items for Christmas and beyond. We also have a new stock of books. Check it out!
- Saturday, Dec. 4th is the date for our annual Philoptochos Christmas party. We will celebrate at Rocco's in Lakeway. The deadline to sign up is November 30th, so stop by the table and let us know if you would like fish or pasta!

Thank you to today's Coffee Hour Sponsors:

Roberts, Robertson, Scattergood, Shannon, Shotwell

Thank you to last week's Luncheon Sponsors:

Price, Randol, Read, Rigney, Rizkalla

Next week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:

Simbles, Skevofilax, Skevofilax, Stevens, Strong

Today's usher: Michael Glaros

Next week's usher will be: Brandon Suehs

**SUNDAY BULLETIN
NOVEMBER 28, 2010**

13TH SUNDAY OF LUKE



**TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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

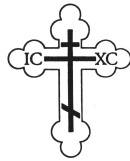
(512) 329-6363 WEBSITE - TRANSFIGURATION.ORG

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

Reverend Fr. Vasileios Flegas, Proistamenos

For the rest, my brethren, keep on being empowered in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, for you to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil; because for us the wrestling is not against blood and flesh, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the cosmic rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of evil on account of the heavenly things. For this cause take up the full armor of God, in order that ye might be able to withstand in the day, and having counteracted all things, to stand. Stand therefore, having girt your loins with truth, and having put on for yourselves the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet in readiness of the Gospel of peace; on the whole, take up the shield of faith, with which ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



Ἀδελφοί, ἐνδυναμοῦσθε ἐν κυρίῳ, καὶ ἐν τῷ κράτει τῆς ἰσχύος αὐτοῦ. Ἐνδύσασθε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, πρὸς τὸ δύνασθαι ὑμᾶς στήναι πρὸς τὰς μεθοδείας τοῦ διαβόλου. Ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἡ πάλη πρὸς αἶμα καὶ σάρκα, ἀλλὰ πρὸς τὰς ἀρχάς, πρὸς τὰς ἐξουσίας, πρὸς τοὺς κοσμοκράτορας τοῦ σκότους τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου, πρὸς τὰ πνευματικὰ τῆς πονηρίας ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις. Διὰ τοῦτο ἀναλάβετε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, ἵνα δυνηθῆτε ἀντιστήναι ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ πονηρᾷ, καὶ ἅπαντα κατεργασάμενοι στήναι. Στῆτε οὖν περιζωσάμενοι τὴν ὀσφὺν ὑμῶν ἐν ἀληθείᾳ, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν θώρακα τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ ὑποδησάμενοι τοὺς πόδας ἐν ἑτοιμασίᾳ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου τῆς εἰρήνης· ἐπὶ πᾶσιν ἀναλαβόντες τὸν θυρεὸν τῆς πίστεως, ἐν ᾧ δυνησέσθε πάντα τὰ βέλη τοῦ πονηροῦ τὰ πεπτρωμένα σβέσαι. Καὶ τὴν περικεφαλαίαν τοῦ σωτηρίου δέξασθαι, καὶ τὴν μάχαιραν τοῦ πνεύματος, ὃ ἔστιν ῥῆμα θεοῦ·

They tried to lure St Stephen into the Iconoclast camp, at first with flattery and bribery, then by threats, but in vain. Then they slandered the saint, accusing him of falling into sin with the nun Anna. But his guilt was not proven, since the nun courageously denied any guilt and died under torture and beatings. Finally, the emperor gave orders to lock up the saint in prison, and to destroy his monastery. Iconoclast bishops were sent to St Stephen in prison, trying to persuade him of the dogmatic correctness of the Iconoclast position. But the saint easily refuted all the arguments of the heretics and he remained true to Orthodoxy.

Then the emperor ordered that the saint be exiled on one of the islands in the Sea of Marmora. St Stephen settled into a cave, and there also his disciples soon gathered. After a certain while the saint left the brethren and took upon himself the exploit of living atop a pillar. News of the stylite Stephen, and the miracles worked by his prayers, spread throughout all the Empire and strengthened the faith and spirit of Orthodoxy in the people.

The emperor gave orders to transfer St Stephen to prison on the island of Pharos, and then to bring him to trial. At the trial, the saint refuted the arguments of the heretics sitting in judgment upon him. He explained the dogmatic essence of icon veneration, and he denounced the Iconoclasts because in blaspheming icons, they blasphemed Christ and the Mother of God. As proof, the saint pointed to a golden coin inscribed with the image of the emperor. He asked the judges what would happen to a man who threw the coin to the ground, and then trampled the emperor's image under his feet. They replied that such a man would certainly be punished for dishonoring the image of the emperor. The saint said that an even greater punishment awaited anyone who would dishonor the image of the King of Heaven and His Saints, and with that he spat on the coin, threw it to the ground, and began to trample it underfoot.

The emperor gave orders to take the saint to prison, where already there were languishing 342 Elders, condemned for the veneration of icons. In this prison St Stephen spent eleven months, consoling the imprisoned. The prison became like a monastery, where the usual prayers and hymns were chanted according to the Typikon. The people came to the prison in crowds and asked St Stephen to pray for them.

When the emperor learned that the saint had organized a monastery in prison, where they prayed venerated holy icons, he sent two of his own servants, twin-brothers, to beat the saint to death. When these brothers went to the prison and beheld the face of the monk shining with a divine light, they fell down on their knees before him, asking his forgiveness and prayers, then they told the emperor that his command had been carried out. But the emperor learned the truth and he resorted to yet another lie. Informing his soldiers that the saint was plotting to remove him from the throne, he sent them to the prison. The holy confessor himself came out to the furious soldiers, who seized him and dragged him through the streets of the city. They then threw the lacerated body of the martyr into a pit, where they were wont to bury criminals.

On the following morning a fiery cloud appeared over Mount Auxentius, and then a heavy darkness descended upon the capital, accompanied by hail, which killed many people.

Monkmartyr and Confessor Stephen the New of Mt St Auxentius

The Monk Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New was born in 715 at Constantinople into a pious Christian family. His parents, having two daughters, prayed the Lord for a son. The mother of the new-born Stephen took him to the Blachernae church of the Most Holy Theotokos and dedicated him to God.

During the reign of the emperor Leo the Isaurian (716-741) there was a persecution against the holy icons and against those venerating them. With the support of the emperor, the adherents of the Iconoclast heresy seized control of the supreme positions of authority in the Empire and in the Church. Persecuted by the powers of this world, Orthodoxy was preserved in monasteries far from the capital, in solitary cells, and in the brave and faithful hearts of its followers.

The Orthodox parents of St Stephen, grieved by the prevailing impiety, fled from Constantinople to Bithynia, and they gave over their sixteen-year-old son in obedience to the monk John, who labored in asceticism in a solitary place on the Mount of St Auxentius. St Stephen dwelt with the venerable monk John for more than fifteen years, devoting himself totally to this spirit-bearing Elder, and learning monastic activity from him. Here Stephen received the news that his father was dead, and his mother and sisters had been tonsured as nuns.

After a certain time his teacher John also died. With deep sorrow St Stephen buried his venerable body, and continued with monastic effort in his cave by himself. Soon monks began to come to the ascetic, desiring to learn from him the virtuous and salvific life, and a monastery was established, with St Stephen as the igumen. At forty-two years of age Stephen left the monastery he founded, and he went to another mountain, on whose summit he dwelt in deep seclusion in a solitary cell. But here also a community of monks soon gathered, seeking the spiritual guidance of St Stephen.

Leo the Isaurian was succeeded by Constantine Copronymos (741-775), a fiercer persecutor of the Orthodox, and an even more zealous iconoclast. The emperor convened an Iconoclast Council, attended by 358 bishops from the Eastern provinces. However, except for Constantine, the Archbishop of Constantinople, illegitimately raised to the patriarchal throne by the power of Copronymos, not one of the other patriarchs participated in the wicked doings of this Council, thus making it less likely to style itself as "ecumenical." This council of heretics, at the instigation of the emperor and the archbishop, described icons as idols, and pronounced an anathema on all who venerated icons in the Orthodox manner, and it described icon veneration as heresy.

Meanwhile, the monastery of Mount Auxentius and its igumen became known in the capital. They told the emperor about the ascetic life of the monks, about their Orthodox piety, about the igumen Stephen's gift of wonderworking, and of how St Stephen's fame had spread far beyond the region of the monastery, and that the name of its head was accorded universal respect and love. The saint's open encouragement of icon veneration and the implied rebuff to the persecutors of Orthodoxy within the monastery of Mount Auxentius especially angered the emperor. Archbishop Constantine realized that in the person of St Stephen he had a strong and implacable opponent of his iconoclastic intentions, and he plotted how he might draw him over to his side or else destroy him.

(continued on the next page)

NOVEMBER 28, 2010 - 13TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

GOSPEL - ST. LUKE 10: 18-27

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."



Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄρχων, λέγων, Διδάσκαλε ἀγαθέ, τί ποιήσας ζῶν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσω; Εἶπεν δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, Τί με λέγεις ἀγαθόν; Οὐδεὶς ἀγαθός, εἰ μὴ εἷς, ὁ θεός. Τὰς ἐντολάς οἶδας, Μὴ μοιχεύσης, μὴ φονεύσης, μὴ κλέψης, μὴ ψευδομαρτυρήσης, τίμα τὸν πατέρα σου καὶ τὴν μητέρα σου. Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν, Ταῦτα πάντα ἐφυλαξάμην ἐκ νεότητός μου. Ἀκούσας δὲ ταῦτα ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ, Ἔτι ἓν σοὶ λείπει· πάντα ὅσα ἔχεις πώλησον, καὶ διάδος πτωχοῖς, καὶ ἕξεις θησαυρὸν ἐν οὐρανῷ· καὶ δεῦρο, ἀκολούθει μοι. Ὁ δὲ ἀκούσας ταῦτα περίλυπος ἐγένετο· ἦν γὰρ πλούσιος σφόδρα. Ἴδὼν δὲ αὐτὸν ὁ Ἰησοῦς περίλυπον γενόμενον εἶπεν, Πῶς δυσκόλως οἱ τὰ χρήματα ἔχοντες εἰσελεύσονται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ. Εὐκοπώτερον γὰρ ἐστὶν κάμηλον διὰ τρυμαλιᾶς ῥαφίδος εἰσελθεῖν, ἢ πλούσιον εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ εἰσελθεῖν. Εἶπον δὲ οἱ ἀκούσαντες, Καὶ τίς δύναται σωθῆναι; Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν, Τὰ ἀδύνατα παρὰ ἀνθρώποις δυνατὰ ἐστὶν παρὰ τῷ θεῷ.

HYMNS FOR TODAY

Resurrection Hymn (2nd Tone)

“When You descended to the realm of death You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all radiant divinity. And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead all the hosts of heaven’s powers did proclaim and cry out O life-giving Christ and Our God we give glory”

Hymn for St. Stephen the New

Trained on the mountain in ascetical labors, with the whole armor of the Cross, thou didst vanquish the spiritual arrays of unseen enemies; and when thou hadst stripped thyself with great courage for contest, thou didst slay Copronymus with the sword of the true Faith. For both these things, hast thou been crowned by God, O righteous martyr, blest Stephen of great renown.

Hymn for Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

“Metemorphosis 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

“I Parthénos símeron ton proeónion Lógon, en spiléo érhete apotkín aporrítos. Hóreve, I ikouméni, akoutisthísa; dóxason metá Angélon ke ton Piménon, voulithénta epofthine, pedíon néon, ton pro eónon Theón.”

“On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.”

We welcome this morning
Fr. Theodore Bitá, Fr. David Eckley and Dn. George Bithos.
Thank you all for serving the Liturgy for us!

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 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.

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

FEAST OF ST. ANDREW— TUESDAY, NOV. 30: *ORTHROS 8:00AM; LITURGY 9:00AM*

FEAST OF ST. BARBARA— SAT, DECEMBER 4: *ORTHROS 8:00AM; LITURGY 9:00AM*

GREAT VESPERS— SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4—6:00PM