

Decorations for Christmas



We are currently accepting donations to help decorate the church for this beautiful season. Please help us out by contributing poinsettias, Christmas trees or cash for the purchase of these items! Thank you!

Philoptochos News

- The ladies of Philoptochos enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch and fellowship time last Saturday. We ate a delicious meal at Rocco's, sang some carols and played Judy's version of "Let's Make a Deal". So much fun! We want to extend our deepest appreciation to Ellen Apostolakis for making all of the arrangements, and to Linda Robertson for the lovely favors! Thank you, ladies!
- If you are looking for some special gifts this Christmas, make sure that you come by the book/gift store and choose from some unique items. We have things for the children, books for everyone, beautiful Christmas music and items for all. We receive new things weekly.
- Holiday bread will be coming very soon! We have a limited amount to sell so don't wait! Sign up now and save the baking time for other things.
- The scrip cards are replenished for this week. Lots to choose from. Check out the list that we will be able to order from for you.
Remember that Home Depot cards are great for your Holiday decorating and HEB is perfect for your Holiday feast. Come and get your cards!

Attention Bakers!

Philoptochos is beginning a new way of providing Prospora for our Liturgies. Fr. Vasileios has explained to us the importance of offering fresh Prospora to become the Body of our Lord. This ministry is such an important one; without Prospora, we can not have a Liturgy! Diana Angelo is organizing a "baking schedule". Our schedule is beginning to fill; however, we still have many empty slots! **No one has volunteered to bring Prospora for these following dates:**

- NEXT SUNDAY! - 12/19
- Dec. 24th-Christmas Eve service
- Monday, 12/27 for the Feast of St. Stephen
 - Sunday, Jan. 2
 - Wednesday, Jan. 6

Please stop by the Philoptochos table to sign up to bake!

Holy Water Bottles

The Feast of Holy Theophany is quickly approaching. If you have any empty Holy Water bottles at home or your office, please return them to the church office as soon as possible. Let's recycle!

Thank you to last week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:
Simbles, Skevofilax, Skevofilax, Stevens, Strong

Next week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:
Spiropoulos, Stahlke, Stamatis, Stamatopoulos, Stathos

Today's usher: Sophia Khan

Next week's usher will be: Elizabeth George

**11TH SUNDAY OF LUKE
ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER**



**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

DECEMBER 12, 2010 - IITH SUNDAY OF LUKE

EPISTLE - EPHESIANS 5: 8-19

Brethren, for ye were once darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; be walking as children of light— for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth— proving what is well-pleasing to the Lord. And cease having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things which are reprovèd are made manifest by the light; for all which is made manifest is light. Wherefore, He saith, “Rouse thyself, thou who sleepest, and arise from the dead, and the Christ shall shine on thee.”

Be taking heed then how exactly ye walk, not as unwise ones, but as wise ones, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. On this account cease becoming foolish, but become as ones understanding what the will of the Lord is. And cease being drunk with wine, in which is prodigality, but keep on being filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting in your heart to the Lord.



Ἀδελφοί, ὡς τέκνα φωτός περιπατεῖτε - ὁ γὰρ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματος ἐν πάσῃ ἀγαθωσύνῃ καὶ δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ - δοκιμάζοντες τί ἐστὶν εὐάρεστον τῷ κυρίῳ· καὶ μὴ συγκοινωνεῖτε τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς ἀκάροποις τοῦ σκότους, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐλέγχετε· τὰ γὰρ κρυφῆ γινόμενα ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν αἰσχρὸν ἐστὶν καὶ λέγειν. Τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ φωτός φανεροῦνται· πᾶν γὰρ τὸ φανερούμενον φῶς ἐστίν. Διὸ λέγει, Ἔγειρε ὁ καθεύδων καὶ ἀνάστα ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ἐπιφαύσει σοὶ ὁ χριστός. Βλέπετε οὖν πῶς ἀκριβῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι, ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί, ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρὸν, ὅτι αἱ ἡμέραι πονηραὶ εἰσιν. Διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνιέντες τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ κυρίου. Καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνῳ, ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἀσωτία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεύματι, λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις καὶ ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ᾄδοντες καὶ ψάλλοντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ κυρίῳ.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS - Sunday, December 12, 2010

December Luncheon today!

Please join us immediately after the Liturgy for a delicious luncheon. All proceeds will benefit our church! The delicious menu includes:

- ~ Lentil Soup ~
- ~ Spaghetti with mock “Bolognese” sauce ~
- ~ Stewed green peas and potatoes ~
- ~ Salad ~
- ~ Bread and Dessert ~

Thank you to today’s Luncheon Sponsors:

Michael & Mary Katherine Bakiris, and Tsambika Bakiris

Sunday School

Today will be the last day of Sunday School before we break for the holiday; there will be **no classes** on December 19 & 26. We will resume classes on Sunday, January 3.

Greek School

Classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

This Tuesday, 12/14 will be the last class before the Christmas break.

Classes will resume on January 11, 2011

Youth Caroling

All youth of Transfiguration will go Christmas caroling to one or two assisted living residences on Sunday, December 19th. We will return to the church for some snacks and fellowship.

Call the church office for more information.

OCF

The last meeting of OCF will be a Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 15th at the home of Austin Gunter. The party will begin at 8:00pm. Please contact Andrea Gaspar for more information or directions: 713-962-4641; agaspar.amg@gmail.com

YAL (Young Adult League)

***Thursday, December 16** – Meeting at St. Elias (408 E. 11th St.) from 7:30 to 9:30 to discuss lives of the saints. If there is a saint that has made an impression on you, bring his/her story to share and discuss with all. There will be snacks & drinks available.

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, December 14, from 9:30 to 11:30. - hope to see you there!

Men’s Fellowship

The next meeting will be on **Monday, January 3rd at 6:30pm at Mt. Tabor Hall**

Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous

Spyridon, the God-bearing Father of the Church, the great defender of Corfu and the boast of all the Orthodox, had Cyprus as his homeland. He was simple in manner and humble of heart, and was a shepherd of sheep. When he was joined to a wife, he begat of her a daughter whom they named Irene. After his wife's departure from this life, he was appointed Bishop of Trimythous, and thus he became also a shepherd of rational sheep. When the First Ecumenical Council was assembled in Nicaea, he also was present, and by means of his most simple words stopped the mouths of the Arians who were wise in their own conceit. By the divine grace which dwelt in him, he wrought such great wonders that he received the surname "Wonderworker." So it is that, having tended his flock piously and in a manner pleasing to God, he reposed in the Lord about the year 350, leaving to his country his sacred relics as a consolation and source of healing for the faithful.

About the middle of the seventh century, because of the incursions made by the barbarians at that time, his sacred relics were taken to Constantinople, where they remained, being honoured by the emperors themselves. But before the fall of Constantinople, which took place on May 29, 1453, a certain priest named George Kalokhairetes, the parish priest of the church where the Saint's sacred relics, as well as those of Saint Theodora the Empress, were kept, took them away on account of the impending peril. Travelling by way of Serbia, he came as far as Arta in Epirus, a region in Western Greece opposite to the isle of Corfu. From there, while the misfortunes of the Christian people were increasing with every day, he passed over to Corfu about the year 1460. The relics of Saint Theodora were given to the people of Corfu; but those of Saint Spyridon remain to this day, according to the rights of inheritance, the most precious treasure of the priest's own descendants, and they continue to be a staff for the faithful in Orthodoxy, and a supernatural wonder for those that behold him; for even after the passage of 1,500 years, they have remained incorrupt, and even the flexibility of his flesh has been preserved. Truly wondrous is God in His Saints! (Ps. 67:3 5)



Thank you to everybody who participated in Stewardship Sunday last week.

If you have not yet turned in a stewardship commitment card for 2011, commitment cards are available in the narthex and in Mt. Tabor Hall. You may leave completed stewardship cards in the offering trays or the stewardship box in Mt. Tabor Hall. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding stewardship please discuss them with Fr. Vasileios, your stewardship committee, or any Parish Council member.

DECEMBER 12, 2010 - IITH SUNDAY OF LUKE

GOSPEL - ST. LUKE 14: 16 - 24; MATTHEW 22: 14

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"



Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπός τις ἐποίησεν δεῖπνον μέγα, καὶ ἐκάλεσεν πολλούς· καὶ ἀπέστειλεν τὸν δούλον αὐτοῦ τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ δείπνου εἰπεῖν τοῖς κεκλημένοις, Ἔρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἕτοιμά ἐστιν πάντα. Καὶ ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς παραιτεῖσθαι πάντες. Ὁ πρῶτος εἶπεν αὐτῷ, Ἄγρον ἠγόρασα, καὶ ἔχω ἀνάγκην ἐξελεῖν καὶ ἰδεῖν αὐτόν· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. Καὶ ἕτερος εἶπεν, Ζεύγη βοῶν ἠγόρασα πέντε, καὶ πορεύομαι δοκιμάσαι αὐτά· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. Καὶ ἕτερος εἶπεν, Γυναῖκα ἔγημα, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο οὐ δύναμαι ἔλθειν. Καὶ παραγενόμενος ὁ δούλος ἐκείνος ἀπήγγειλεν τῷ κυρίῳ αὐτοῦ ταῦτα. Τότε ὀργισθεὶς ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης εἶπεν τῷ δούλῳ αὐτοῦ, Ἐξελεθε ταχέως εἰς τὰς πλατείας καὶ ὀύμας τῆς πόλεως, καὶ τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ ἀναπήρους καὶ χωλοὺς καὶ τυφλοὺς εἰσάγαγε ὧδε. Καὶ εἶπεν ὁ δούλος, Κύριε, γέγονεν ὡς ἐπέταξας, καὶ ἔτι τόπος ἐστίν. Καὶ εἶπεν ὁ κύριος πρὸς τὸν δούλον, Ἐξελεθε εἰς τὰς ὁδοὺς καὶ φραγμοὺς, καὶ ἀνάγκασσον εἰσελεῖν, ἵνα γεμισθῇ ὁ οἶκος μου. Λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐκείνων τῶν κεκλημένων γεύσεται μου τοῦ δείπνου. Πολλοὶ γὰρ εἰσι κλητοί, ὀλίγοι δὲ ἐκλεκτοί.

HYMNS FOR TODAY

Resurrection Hymn (Fourth Tone)

“When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished to the Apostles, with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.”

Hymn for St. Spyridon

Pierced through with the love of Christ, O sacred Spyridon, thou gavest thy mind divine wings with the Spirit's light; in the active vision of God were all thy labours, O inspired of God, whereby thou becamest the Lord's divine altar, asking divine light for all.

Hymn for St. Herman of Alaska

Blessed ascetic of the northern wilds and gracious intercessor for the whole world, teacher of the Orthodox Faith, good instructor of piety, adornment of Alaska and joy of all America, holy Father Herman, pray to Christ God that He save our souls.

Hymn for St. Peter the Aleut

O Peter, upon the rock of thy faith hath Christ built His Church, and in the streams of thy blood hath He hallowed our land. In thee thy people hath been sanctified, O Aleut; from the farthest islands of the west hath He raised thee, a light unto all. Glory to Him that hath glorified thee. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

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

“I Parthénos símeron ton proeónion Lógon, en spiléo érhete apotkín aporrítos. Hóreve, I ikouméní, 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.”

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, Clara

CHRISMATIONS

THE SERVICE OF CHRISMATION TODAY IS FOR JACQUELYNNE RANDOL. HER SPONSOR IS DIANN DOW. GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

MEMORY ETERNAL

*THE MEMORIAL SERVICE TODAY IS FOR:
ANDREAS PISTIS -1 YR
JIM CARROZZA - 2 YRS
ANDREAS YENNADIU - 2 YRS*

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15: PARACLESIS AT 6:00PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18: GREAT VESPERS—6:00PM