

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:  
Sunday, March 27, 2011**

**A special thank you to AHEPA for sponsoring today's lunch!**  
Please support Transfiguration by participating in the luncheon after the Liturgy.  
AHEPA has prepared a mouth-watering menu of:

- ◆ Greek baked fish
- ◆ Vegetable platter
  - ◆ Bread
- ◆ Lemonade

**Special Announcement**

Please do not throw away your bulletins.  
If you do not want to take it home with you, please place it in the designated basket that is in the Narthex. Thank you!

**GOLF (Greek Orthodox Ladies Fellowship)**

GOLF will be held on Thursday, March 31st at 9:30am.  
Please come and join us for our study of Great Lent by Alexander Schmemmann  
Children are welcome!

**Philotochos News**

- Bookstore: We are in our Lenten period now and the bookstore is prepared with books that can be of help with our studies. Make sure you have what you need because supply is limited.
- Our shipment of imported icons have arrived. We have several different kinds to choose from that will glorify your home. As a special treat this year we have a few Faberge egg pendants for that special Easter gift. Stop by and see them! We did not forget the children. We have some very cute bracelets which are priced very low. They would be great for those little surprises that can be found in an Easter basket.
- We hope that you will be planning to fill those Easter baskets with scrip cards for the bigger kids. We can order (within 1 week) from any number of stores such as Macy's, Old Navy, movie theaters, Starbucks, and even restaurants like Ruth's Chris. Whatever you think will fill the bill. While you are at the Philotochos table, don't forget to pick up your weekly shopping cards: HEB, Wal-Mart or Target. This all goes to helping us purchase an appliance for the kitchen. So please stop by and get your cards.
- Thank you to the Philotochos ladies who provided the Wednesday evening dinner this past week: Shelley Ebeling, Effie Ambrose and Valli Pappas.

**Thank you to last week's  
Coffee Hour Sponsors:**  
Dewbre, Dietz, Dow, Draina, Eagle

**Next week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:**  
The Harris family in memory of their mother, Foster, Garwood, Gatlin, Effie & Anthony George, Patricia & Jean George

Thank you to today's usher:  
Brandon Suehs

Next week's usher will be:  
Stuart Yoder

**Sunday Bulletin  
March 27, 2011**

**Sunday of the Holy Cross  
Third Sunday of Lent**



**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**  
512-574-1972

Brethren, having then a great High Priest Who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us be holding fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is not able to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who hath been tempted in all respects according to our likeness, without sin. Let us therefore be coming with boldness to the throne of grace, that we might receive mercy and find grace for help in due season.

For every high priest being taken from among men is being appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins, who is able to feel in due measure with those who are ignorant and led astray, since he himself also is compassed about with weakness. And by reason of this he ought, even for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. And no one taketh the honor to himself, but he who is called by God, even as also Aaron. Thus also the Christ glorified not Himself to become a high priest, but the One Who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee." Even as He saith also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedek".

Ἀδελφοί, ἔχοντες οὖν ἀρχιερέα μέγαν, διεληλυθότα τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ θεοῦ, κρατῶμεν τῆς ὁμολογίας. Οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ἀρχιερέα μὴ δυνάμενον συμπαθῆσαι ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν, πεπειραμένον δὲ κατὰ πάντα καθ' ὁμοιότητα, χωρὶς ἁμαρτίας. Προσερχώμεθα οὖν μετὰ παρρησίας τῷ θρόνῳ τῆς χάριτος, ἵνα λάβωμεν ἔλεον, καὶ χάριν εὕρωμεν εἰς εὐκαιρον βοήθειαν. Πᾶς γὰρ ἀρχιερεὺς, ἐξ ἀνθρώπων λαμβανόμενος, ὑπὲρ ἀνθρώπων καθίσταται τὰ πρὸς τὸν θεόν, ἵνα προσφέρῃ δῶρά τε καὶ θυσίας ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν· μετριοπαθεῖν δυνάμενος τοῖς ἀγνοοῦσιν καὶ πλανωμένοις, ἐπεὶ καὶ αὐτὸς περικείται ἀσθένειαν· καὶ διὰ ταύτην ὀφείλει, καθὼς περὶ τοῦ λαοῦ, οὕτως καὶ περὶ ἑαυτοῦ, προσφέρειν ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ οὐχ ἑαυτῷ τις λαμβάνει τὴν τιμὴν, ἀλλὰ καλούμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ, καθάπερ καὶ Ἀαρών. Οὕτως καὶ ὁ χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτὸν ἐδόξασεν γεννηθῆναι ἀρχιερέα, ἀλλ' ὁ λαλήσας πρὸς αὐτόν, Υἱός μου εἰ σύ, ἐγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά σε. Καθὼς καὶ ἐν ἑτέρῳ λέγει, Σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

**Service Schedule for the 4th week of Lent**

**Great Compline**, Monday, March 28, 6:00pm

**Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts**, Wednesday, March 30, 6:00 pm

**Salutations to the Theotokos**, Friday, April 1, 6:00 pm

**Saturday Great Vespers**, April 1, 6:00 pm

**Great Lent Class Series**

Make plans to join us on Wednesday evening after the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

This Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Jeffrey Macdonald will be offering classes on Patristics immediately following the Liturgy and dinner.

This Wednesday's Topic is: **Exodus and Holy Week**

**Feast of the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day Program**

Please join us after today's Liturgy for a delicious luncheon celebrating the Great Feast of the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day.

The luncheon is graciously sponsored by AHEPA.

We also invite everyone to stay for a special program presented to us by the Greek School students!

**Flower Donations**

We are asking for donations of potted Easter Lilies for the church for Palm Sunday.

If possible, please bring one or two pots of lilies to church anytime in the week before Palm Sunday (April 11 - 16).

We are also collecting contributions for all the flowers for Holy Week.

You may offer a check or cash. There is a tray in the Narthex for this purpose. Please indicate on your contribution "Flower Donation."



**Transfiguration's email address**

This is a reminder that we no longer use the flash.net account (tgocoffice@flash.net). Please send any email messages to our google account.

Fr. Vasileios' address is: [frvasileios@transfiguration.org](mailto:frvasileios@transfiguration.org)

The office's email is: [office@transfiguration.org](mailto:office@transfiguration.org)

Thank you!

**SUNDAY OF THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS  
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers "planted" on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

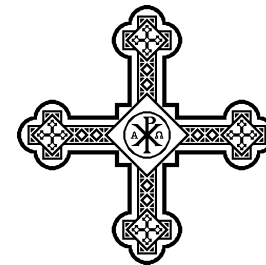
Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.

*March 27, 2011 - Sunday of the Holy Cross*

*Gospel - St. Mark 8: 34-38; 9: 1*

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν ὄχλον σὺν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ὅστις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἀκολουθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθεῖτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλῃ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι, ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσῃ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, οὗτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἂν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν ἐπαισχυνηθῇ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμούς λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἀμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυνηθήσεται αὐτὸν ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἁγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσὶ τινες τῶν ὧδε ἐστηκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.



## Hymns for Today

### **Resurrection Hymn** (Third Tone)

*“Let all things above in heav’n rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad  
With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform.  
Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He  
become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us,  
and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy”*

### **Hymn for the Holy Cross**

*“Save, O Lord, Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance;  
grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries.  
and by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.”*  
*“Soson Kirie ton laon Su ke evlogison tin klironomian Su nikas tis vasilefsi kata varvaron  
thorumenos ke to Son filaton thia tu Stavu Su politevma.”*

### **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 for the 3rd Sunday of Great Lent**

*“Ti ypermacho stratigo ta nikitiria, os litrothisa ton dinon efcharistiria, anagrafo si I polis su,  
Theotoke. Allos echusa to kratos aprosmachiton, ek pandion me kindynon eleftheroson,  
ina krazo si: Chere, nym fi anymfefite.”*

*“To You, the Champion Commander,  
I, Your City, inscribe victorious anthems of thanksgiving,  
for deliverance from sufferings, Theotokos.  
In as much as you have power unassailable, from all manner of dangers set me free;  
that I may cry out to you, Rejoice Bride unwedded.”*

### **Hymn in place of the Trisagion Hymn**

*“O Your Cross do we venerate O Lord, and do we glorify Your Holy resurrection we glorify.  
Ton Stavron Su proskinumen Thespotia ke tin again Su Anastasin thoxazomen.”*

### **Hymn in Place of Axion Estin**

*“In thee who art full of grace, all creation rejoiceth: both the congregations of angels and the  
human race. O consecrated temple and spiritual paradise, the boast of virgins,  
from thee was God incarnate and became a child, He our God Who existed before the ages;  
for He made thy womb a throne and He made and He made thee more spacious than the  
heavens. In thee who art full of grace all creation rejoiceth. Glory be to thee.*

### **Special Communion Hymn of the Cross**

*“Upon us shines the light the light of Your countenance O Lord O Lord. Alleluia.”  
“Esimiothi efimas to fos tu prosopu Su Kirie Kirie. 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 christ-  
mated 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 are not Orthodox, you are invited with everyone to receive the Antidoron  
(blessed bread) at the end of service.*

*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, Ste-  
ve, 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, Kae-  
ley, Tristan, Matt, Jeff, Sophia, Konstandinos, Angela, Jennifer, Rose Marie,  
Elia, Bilyana, Maria, Susan, Xenophon, Jane, Romeo, Clara, Costa, Cindy,  
Philip, Trey, Barbara, Evangia, Michael, Jeffrey, Victoria, Aleka, Nicole, Ana-  
stasia, Katie, Suzanne, Stella*

### **Prayers for those in our Armed Forces:**

*Sgt. Jennifer D. Atkinson , Staff Sgt. John Atkinson, Lt. Col. Dave Romine,  
Capt. James Alfaro, Staff Sgt. Deane Anderson,  
Captain William Willett, Maj. Timothy Ullman*