

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS for December 4, 2011 continued

Services for this week:

Feast of St. Nicholas: Tuesday, December 6
Orthros - 8:30am; Liturgy - 9:30am

Paraklesis - Wednesday, December 7 - 6:00pm

Feast of the Conception of the Theotokos: Friday, December 9
Orthros - 8:30am; Liturgy - 9:30am

Great Vespers— Saturday, December 10 - 5:00pm

Nativity Pageant



Save the date! Plan to attend the Nativity Pageant presented by the Agape Choir.

December 11th at 5:00 p.m. at Tabor Hall

A small reception will follow, and there will be a visit from a very special someone!

Nativity Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

December 4th 9:30 a.m. (Speaking Parts Only) & After Sunday School (ALL)

December 10th 2-4 p.m. – Dress Rehearsal (ALL)

Thank you to today's Coffee Hour Sponsors:

Drimalas, Draina, Eagle, Ebeling, Edwards, Edgell

Thank you to last week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:

Delvizis, Demetriadis, DeRossi, Dietz, Dow

Next week's Luncheon Sponsors:

The Bakiris Family

Thank you to today's usher:

Elizabeth George

Thank you to last week's usher:

Sophia Khan

The Usher for next Sunday is:

Peter Kangos

SUNDAY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 4, 2011

TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

**ST. BARBARA THE GREAT MARTYR
 & ST. JOHN THE RIGHTEOUS OF DAMASCUS**



TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

414 ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL ROAD

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

(512) 329-6363 WEBSITE - WWW.TRANSFIGURATION.ORG

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

Reverend Fr. Vasileios Flegas, Proistamenos

574-1972

Epistle - Galatians 3: 23-4: 5

But before faith came, we were being guarded under the law, having been closed up to the faith about to be revealed. Therefore the law hath become our tutor until Christ, in order that we might be justified by faith. But faith having come, we are no longer under a tutor. For all are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many as were baptized into Christ, ye put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male and female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye are Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to promise.

Now I say, as long as the heir is an infant, he differeth nothing from a slave, though he is lord of all; but he is under guardians and stewards until the appointed time of the father. So we also, when we were infants, were enslaved under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order that He might redeem those under the law, that we might receive what is our due, the adoption as sons.

Ἀδελφοί, πρὸ τοῦ δὲ ἐλθεῖν τὴν πίστιν, ὑπὸ νόμον ἐφρουρούμεθα, συγκεκλεισμένοι εἰς τὴν μέλλουσαν πίστιν ἀποκαλυφθῆναι. Ὡστε ὁ νόμος παιδαγωγὸς ἡμῶν γέγονεν εἰς χριστόν, ἵνα ἐκ πίστεως δικαιωθῶμεν. Ἐλθούσης δὲ τῆς πίστεως, οὐκέτι ὑπὸ παιδαγωγόν ἐσμεν. Πάντες γὰρ υἱοὶ θεοῦ ἐστε διὰ τῆς πίστεως ἐν χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Ὅσοι γὰρ εἰς χριστόν ἐβαπτίσθητε, χριστόν ἐνεδύσασθε. Οὐκ ἔνι Ἰουδαῖος οὐδὲ Ἕλληνας, οὐκ ἔνι δούλος οὐδὲ ἐλεύθερος, οὐκ ἔνι ἄρσεν καὶ θῆλυ· πάντες γὰρ ὑμεῖς εἰς ἐστε ἐν χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Εἰ δὲ ὑμεῖς χριστοῦ, ἄρα τοῦ Ἀβραάμ σπέρμα ἐστέ, καὶ κατ' ἐπαγγελίαν κληρονόμοι. Λέγω δέ, ἐφ' ὅσον χρόνον ὁ κληρονόμος νήπιός ἐστιν, οὐδὲν διαφέρει δούλου, κύριος πάντων ὢν· ἀλλὰ ὑπὸ ἐπιτρόπους ἐστὶν καὶ οἰκονόμους, ἄχρι τῆς προθεσμίας τοῦ πατρὸς. Οὕτως καὶ ἡμεῖς, ὅτε ἤμεν νήπιοι, ὑπὸ τὰ στοιχεῖα τοῦ κόσμου ἤμεν δεδουλωμένοι· ὅτε δὲ ἦλθεν τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ, γενόμενον ἐκ γυναικός, γενόμενον ὑπὸ νόμον, ἵνα τοὺς ὑπὸ νόμον ἐξαγοράσῃ, ἵνα τὴν υἰοθεσίαν ἀπολάβωμεν.

Stewardship Sunday will be on Sunday, December 11th!
Please prayerfully consider the commitment of your time, talents, and treasures to support the work of the Church.

2012 Parish Council Elections

Elections for our new Parish Council will be held during the coffee hour on Sunday, December 11th!

The candidates are:

1. Rod Ambrose
2. Stephen Dow
3. Judy Eagle
4. Anita Jones
5. Tricia Koriath
6. Pat Mitchell
7. Ioannis Ousaklidis

You must be a current Steward of the church to be eligible to vote.

Absentee voting is available. Contact the church office for more information.

HOPE/JOY

Our HOPE/ JOY children will be visiting a **Living Nativity at Bethany United Methodist Church** (10010 Anderson Mill Rd.) on **Friday, Dec. 9th at 6:00pm**. They will begin with a tailgating party in the back parking lot, and then attend the Nativity scene.

Please bring non-perishable food or toiletry items to donate to Hill Country Community Ministries.

Lost and Found

Several sweaters, umbrellas, and other various items have been found around our church area. We will have them out on a table in the fellowship hall for **one more day** and then we will give them to Safe House. Thank you!

Report on Tanzania

After church services on **Sunday, Dec. 4th**, our Maria Miller, who has just returned from two weeks in Tanzania, Africa, will be sharing her many experiences as part of an Orthodox Medical Mission Team.

Her moving presentation will enlighten and inspire you.

Please plan to be here on that Sunday for some fascinating information!

GOLF (Greek Orthodox Ladies Fellowship)

GOLF will meet on Thursday, December 8th at 10:00am.

All women are invited to join them in their study of 1 Corinthians led by Fr. Vasileios. Children are welcome!

Men's Fellowship Lunch

The men's monthly fellowship lunch will be on Thursday, Dec. 15th at Chipotle in the Arborwalk- 11:45

BOOKSTORE NEWS

We have lots of new books, icons, items, and stocking stuffers available. Please browse our bookstore!

Barbara the Great Martyr

She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron too. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.

John the Righteous of Damascus

Saint John was born in Damascus about the year 675, the son of wealthy and pious parents, of the family of Mansur. He was reared together with Saint Cosmas (see Oct. 14), who had been adopted by John's father Sergius, a man of high rank in the service of the Caliph of Damascus. Both of these young men were instructed by a certain monk, also named Cosmas, who had been taken captive in Italy by the Arabs and later ransomed by John's Father. Saint John became a great philosopher and enlightener of the age in which he lived, and was honoured by the Caliph with the dignity of counselor.

When Emperor Leo the Isaurian (reigned 717-741) began his war on the holy icons, John wrote epistles defending their veneration. Since the Saint, being under the Caliph of Damascus, was beyond Leo's power, the Iconoclast Emperor had a letter forged in John's handwriting which invited Leo to attack Damascus, saying the city guard was then weak; Leo then sent this letter to the Caliph, who in his fury punished John's supposed treason with the severing of his right hand. The Saint obtained the Caliph's Permission to have his severed hand again, and that night prayed fervently to the most holy Theotokos before her icon. She appeared to him in a dream and healed his hand, which, when he awoke, he found to be healed in truth. This Miracle convinced the Caliph of his innocence, and he restored John to his office as counselor. The Saint, however, with many pleadings obtained his permission to withdraw from the world to become a monk. He assumed the monastic habit in the Monastery of Saint Sabbas. Then he had as elder a very simple and austere monk who commanded him neither to write to anyone, nor to speak of the worldly knowledge he had acquired, and John faithfully obeyed. A monk grieving over his brother's death, however, after insisting vehemently, prevailed upon John to write a funeral hymn to console him for his brother's death. When John's elder learned of his transgression of the rule he had given him, he cast him out of his cell, and would only accept him back after John had humbly, with much self-condemnation and without murmuring consented to clean all the latrines in the lavra. After his elder had received him back, our Lady appeared to the elder and sternly charged him not to hinder John any longer from his writings and composition of hymns.

In his writings he fought courageously against the Iconoclasts Leo the Isaurian and his son Constantine Copronymus. He was also the first to write a refutation of Islam. The time he had spent as a counselor in the courts of the Moslems of Damascus had given him opportunity to learn their teachings at first hand, and he wrote against their errors with a sound understanding of their essence. Saint John was surnamed Chrysorroas ("Golden-stream") because of the eloquence of his rhetorical style and the great abundance of his writings; this name - Chrysorroas was also the name of the river that flows by Damascus. In his writings he set forth the Orthodox Faith with exactness and order. In his old age, after his foster-brother Cosmas had been made Bishop of Maiuma, John also was ordained presbyter by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Having lived eighty-four years, he reposed in peace in 760. In addition to his theological writings, he adorned the Church of Christ with metrical and prose hymns and composed many of the prosomia used as the models for the melodies of the Church's liturgical chant; he also composed many of the sacred hymns for the feasts of the Lord Saviour and the Theotokos. The life of Saint John of Damascus was written by John, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

December 4, 2011 - 10th Sunday of Luke

Gospel - Luke 13: 10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, Ἦν δὲ διδάσκων ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦψαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἐξ ἡμέρας εἰσὶν ἐν αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει τὸν βοῦν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραάμ οὖσαν, ἦν ἔδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

Hymns for Today

Resurrection Hymn (4th Plagal Tone)

“To fedron tis anastaseos kirigma ek tu angelumathuse e tu kiriu mathitrie ke tin progonikin apofasin aporrepsase tis Apostolis kafhomena elegon eskilefte o thanatos I gerthi Christos o Theos thorumenos to kosmo to mega eleos.”

“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 for St. Barbara the Great Martyr

Let us honour Saint Barb'ra, for she hath broken the snares of the enemy; and like a sparrow, she, the all modest maiden, was delivered out of them by the help and weapon of the Cross.

Hymn for Saint John of Damascus

Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness, luminary of the world, God - inspired adornment of monastics, O wise John, by thy teachings thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the Spirit. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Hymn for the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

“Metemorfothis en to ori, Christe o Theos, dixas tis mathites Sou tin doxan Sou, kathos i dynando Lampson ke imin tis amartolis to fos Sou to aidion, presvies tis Theotokou Fotodota 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, vouthénta epofthine, pedíon néon, ton pro eónon Theón.”

“On this day the Virgin comes, to a cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy oh 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.”

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, Malone, Tracy, Richard, Lilly, Kimberly, Dion, Jamil, Dimitrios, Lisa, Maggie, Mindy, Joan, Nakis, Micky, Kiane, Lari, Ed, Sally, Mariana, Brian, Kaeley, Tristan, Matt, Jeff, Sophia, Angela, Jennifer, Konstandinos, Elia, Rose Marie, Bilyana, Maria, Susan, Jane, Romeo, Clara, Costa, Cindy, Philip, Trey, Barbara, Evangia, Michael, Jeffrey, Victoria, Nicole, Anastasia, Katie, Suzanne, Katie, Stella, Michael, Nicole, George, Katherine, Fr. Peter, Venton, Nick, Tatiana, Sandy, Caleb, Pete, Wendy, Lorraine, Tina, Anna, Michael, Anna, Pamela, Shawn, Anthoula, Megan, Leo, Lili, Christy, Glenn, Philip, Katelyn, Joshua, Jason, John, Julia, Nick, Maria, Carolyn, Betty, Ruth, Nicholas, Joyce, Connie, Deacon George, Ralph, Vana, Andreas, the Nun Elizabeth, Alexandra

WELCOME VISITORS!

We welcome all new visitors who worshipped with us this morning. We are pleased to have you with us! 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 Transfiguration. You are invited to complete the information form below and either put it in the collection plate, or mail it back to us. We hope that you will return often to worship with us and grow in Christ!

NAME(S)- _____

ADDRESS- _____
(street, city, zip)

PHONE- _____; EMAIL- _____

Please check the following areas that apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am visiting the area | <input type="checkbox"/> I recently moved into the area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to learn more about Orthodoxy | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in becoming Orthodox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me new member information | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to speak with a Priest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place me/us on the parish mailing list | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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 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 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, Major Chris Chase, Cadet Mindy Keys, Army Ranger Specialist Andrew Bentzel