

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, March 18, 2012

Sunday School News!

We have embarked on a Journey through Great Lent! As in any journey (travel), you need a passport, and you collect postcards along the way! The teachers have given each student a passport that explains the various Lenten services, and have asked them to mark the services they attend.

Every Sunday during Lent, the ushers will offer a postcard (as they did last Sunday and today) for that particular Sunday to the students along with their bulletin. The postcards have the day's icon on the front, and a short activity on the back. Students should fill out the activity questions and turn their cards in to their teacher. There will be a Post-Lent Wrap Up before we break for Pascha!

GOYA

Attention all GOYAns- the deadline for the GOYA 2012 Southern Region Lenten Retreat is **TOMORROW, Monday, March 19th!** Fr. Vasileios will be leading this wonderful retreat at the beautiful Mo-Ranch, so don't miss out! You can register on-line at:

<http://youth.denver.goarch.org/events/2012-events/2012-southern-region-lenten-retreat>

YAL/OYA

Bible study will be held on Monday, March 19 at 6:30 pm, in Mt. Tabor Hall. Father Vasileios will lead us on our continuing study of I Corinthians. If you wish, please bring a Lenten snack to share.

 The young adults will be having a "lovey" collection, where kids can donate a stuffed animal or toy to a child in need through Austin's Center of Child Protection. To continue this spirit of giving during the Lenten season, we are asking for the help of our Transfiguration parish to consider donating to this worthy cause. Boxes will be set up in Mt. Tabor Hall over the next few weeks for our own children to give a plush toy if they desire. You can also visit the Center for Child Protection's website at <http://www.centerforchildprotection.org/>.
 Thank you all so much.

OCF (Orthodox College Fellowship)

OCF will meet on Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30pm at the University of Texas. Contact Blagoje Djordjevic at zdjordje@gmail.com.

GOLF (Greek Orthodox Ladies Fellowship)

The next GOLF meeting will be on Thursday, March 22 at 10:00am to continue their study of Path to Sanity.

BOOKSTORE NEWS

We now have Lenten books and Easter Holy Week books available in limited supply. We also have beautiful Easter cards that you will not be able to find at any store! Stop by and see them!

Thank you to today's Coffee Hour Sponsors: Lerman, Levendakes, Meador, Missetzis, Mitchell

Thank you to last week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:
 Nicolaou, Nikas, Norman, O'Brien, Omer

Next Week's Luncheon Sponsors:
 AHEPA

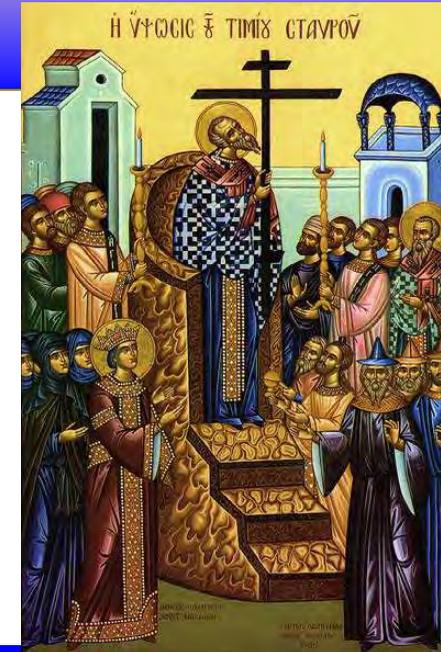
Thank you to today's ushers:
 Shelley Ebeling, Chrissie Spiropoulos

Thank you to last week's ushers:
 Marko Bjeletich, Allen Wynn, Liz Strong

The ushers for next Sunday are:
 John Chronis, Harry Stamatis, Mary Beth Gradziel

SUNDAY BULLETIN
 MARCH 18, 2012

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



**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

Hymns for Today

Hymn for the Holy Cross

“Soson Kirie ton laon Su ke evlogison tin klironomian Su nikas tis vasilefsi kata varvaron thorumenos ke to Son filaton thia tu Stavv Su politevma.”

“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.”

Resurrection Hymn (Baris Tone)

“Katelisas to Stavro Su ton thanaton ineoxas to listi ton parathison ton Miroforon ton thrinon metevalues ke tis.

Sis apostolis kirittin epetaxas oti anestis Christe o Theos parehon to kosmo to mega eleos.”

“O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death, and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The apostles did preach the Good News at Your command, that You had risen from the dead O Christ Our God, bestowing mercy upon the world evermore.”

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 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 anymfepte.”

“O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.”

Hymn in place of the Trisagios Hymn

“Ton Stavron Su proskinumen Thespota ke tin again Su Anastasin thoxazomen.”

“O Your Cross do we venerate O Lord, and do we glorify Your Holy resurrection we glorify.”

Hymn in Place of Axion Estin

“All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace; the assembly of angels and the human race. You are a sanctified temple and a spiritual paradise, the glory from whom God was incarnate and become a child our God existing before all ages. He made your womb a throne, and your body more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace. Glory to you.”

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.”

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, March 18, 2012

Services for this week:

Monday, March 19th: Great Compline - 6:00pm

Wednesday, March 21st: *Presanctified Liturgy* - 6:00pm; followed by a POT-LUCK DINNER

Friday, March 23rd: *Salutations to the Theotokos* - 6:00pm

Saturday, March 24: *Great Vespers* - 6:00pm

Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church Parish General Assembly is TODAY!

It is important to be a part of your church community. Please grab some coffee and snacks after the Liturgy and plan to stay for this first assembly of the year 2012.



ORATORICAL FESTIVAL– NEXT WEEKEND!

The parish community is invited to join
His Eminence Metropolitan ISAAH
for The 2012 Metropolitan of Denver
St. John Chrysostom ORATORICAL FESTIVAL,
Saturday, March 24.

Oratorical Festival Speeches begin at 9:30 am; Vespers at 6:00 pm; and the Awards Banquet at 7:00 pm

The Festival is free. Please come by to support the students.

Tickets to the Awards Banquet may be purchased for \$15 TODAY at Coffee Hour.

Philoptochos News

- Thank you to everyone who helped with the delicious Pre-Sanctified Dinners provided to our community over the past three weeks. During this time of Lent it is wonderful to have fellowship together and even better over a great meal!
- Our tray for disaster relief to Greece was a wonderful success. We will be submitting our check to the National Office this week. If you were not here for the second tray last Sunday and would like to give to this worthy cause, please stop by the Philoptochos table and we will be happy to receive your check/cash. Thank you all for your generosity.
- Don't forget to stop by the Philoptochos table and purchase your gift cards! We have lots of cards for HEB, Randall's, Sprouts, Whole Foods, Starbucks, and many more!

GLIMPSES INTO OUR GALA

Another wonderful Gala is being planned for the 27th anniversary of our community!

Several generous and talented members of our TGOC family have volunteered to be team leaders for this event.

We still need more helpers to assist on the various committees being formed.

Please consider joining us for our next informational meeting on

Thursday, March 29th at 6:00pm in Mt. Tabor Hall.

If you have a suggestion for the theme of the 2012 Gala, kindly phone the Gala Chairperson, Judith Kountoupis at 512-983-5839; or send an email to judy@kountoupis.com as soon as possible.

Mid-Lent: The Holy Cross

The Following is an excerpt from Great Lent, by Alexander Schmemmann
From Chapter 4: The Lenten Journey



The third Sunday of Lent is called "The Veneration of the Cross." At the Vigil of that day, after the Great Doxology, the Cross is brought in a solemn procession to the center of the church and remains there for the entire week-- with a special rite of veneration following each service. It is noteworthy that the theme of the Cross which dominates the hymnology of that Sunday is developed in terms not of suffering but of victory and joy.

More than that, the theme-songs (hirmoi) of the Sunday Canon are taken from the Paschal Service-- "The Day of the Resurrection"-- and the Canon is a paraphrase of the Easter Canon.

The meaning of all this is clear. We are in Mid-Lent. One the one hand, the physical and spiritual effort, if it is serious and consistent, begins to be felt, its burden becomes more burdensome, our fatigue more evident. We need help and encouragement. On the other hand, having endured this fatigue, having climbed the mountain up to this point, we begin to see the end of our pilgrimage, and the rays of Easter grow in their intensity. Lent is our self-crucifixion, our experience, limited as it is, of Christ's commandment heard in the Gospel lesson of that Sunday: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). But we cannot take up our cross and follow Christ unless we have His Cross which He took up in order to save us. It is His Cross, not ours, that saves us. It is His Cross that gives not only meaning but also power to others. This is explained to us in the synaxarion of the Sunday of the Cross:

On this Sunday, the third Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the veneration of the honorable and Life-Giving Cross, and for this reason: inasmuch as in the forty days of fasting we in a way crucify ourselves.... and become bitter and despondent and failing, the Life-Giving Cross is presented to us for refreshment and assurance, for remembrance of our Lord's Passion, and for comfort.... We are like those following a long and cruel path, who become tired, see a beautiful tree with many leaves, sit in its shadow and rest for a while and then, as if rejuvenated, continue their journey; likewise today, in the time of fasting and difficult journey and effort, the Life-Giving Cross was planted in our midst by the holy fathers to give us rest and refreshment, to make us light and courageous for the remaining task.... Or, to give another example: when a king is coming, at first his banner and symbols appear, then he himself comes glad and rejoicing about his victory and filling with joy those under him; likewise, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is about to show us His victory over death, and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection Day, is sending us in advance His scepter, the royal symbol-- the Life-Giving Cross-- and it fills us with joy and makes us ready to meet, inasmuch as it is possible for us, the King Himself, and to render glory to His victory.... All this in the midst of Lent which is like a bitter source because of its tears, because also of its efforts and despondency.... but Christ comforts us who are as it were in a desert until he shall lead us up to the spiritual Jerusalem by His Resurrection.... for the Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is the tree that was planted in Paradise, and for this reason our fathers have planted it in the midst of Holy Lent, remembering both Adams bliss and how he was deprived of it, remembering also that partaking of this Tree we no longer die but are kept alive....

March 18, 2012 - Sunday of the Holy Cross

Epistle - Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 1-6

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 οὐρανούς, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ θεοῦ, κρατῶμεν τῆς ὁμολογίας. Οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ἀρχιερέα μὴ δυνάμενον συμπαθεῖσαι ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν, πεπειραμένον δὲ κατὰ πάντα καθ' ὁμοίτητα, χωρὶς ἁμαρτίας. Προσερχώμεθα οὖν μετὰ παρρησίας τῷ θρόνῳ τῆς χάριτος, ἵνα λάβωμεν ἔλεον, καὶ χάριν εὐρωμεν 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 περὶκεῖται 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 Ἀαρῶν. Οὕτως καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτὸν ἐδόξασεν γεννηθῆναι ἀρχιερέα, ἀλλ' ὁ λαλήσας πρὸς αὐτόν, Υἱός μου εἶ σύ, ἐγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά σε. Καθὼς καὶ ἐν ἑτέρῳ λέγει, Σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

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."



Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἔλθειν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθεῖτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλη 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 ἐπαισχυθῇ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυθήσεται 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 ἐσθηκῶν, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.

The Prayer of St. Ephraim

O Lord and Master of my life, deliver me from the spirit of laziness and meddling, the lust for power and gossip.

Rather, grant the spirit of wisdom, humility, patience, and love to me Your servant.

Yes, O Lord and King, grant that I may see my own faults and not judge my brother; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Κύριε καὶ δέσποτα τῆς ζωῆς μου, πνεῦμα ἀργίας, περιεργίας, φιλαρχίας καὶ ἀργολογίας μὴ μοι δῶς.

Πνεῦμα δὲ σωφροσύνης, ταπεινοφροσύνης, ὑπομονῆς καὶ ἀγάπης, χάρισαί μοι τῷ Σῶ δούλω.

Ναί, Κύριε, βασιλεῦ, δώρησαί μοι τοῦ ὄραν τὰ ἐμὰ πταίσματα καὶ μὴ κατακρίνειν τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, ὅτι εὐλογητὸς εἶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Memorial Service

The 1 year memorial service today is for Dr. James Kountoupis, beloved husband of Judith Kountoupis, and the loving father of George, Tony, Chris & Asilyn Kountoupis and grandfather of Aidan and Clara Kountoupis.

May his memory be eternal

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, 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, Romeo, Konstandinos, Elia, Rose Marie, Bilyana, Maria, Susan, Jane, 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, 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, Arsinoi, Sultana, Boyd, Argyre, Carol, Susie, Soultana, John, Iliana, John, Dimitrios, John, Nick, Cecilia, George, Ricky, Mackenzie, Leah, Cynthia, Georgia, Eudoxia, Mark, infant James, Ben

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Sgt. Jennifer D. Atkinson, Staff Sgt. John Atkinson, Col. Dave Romine, Capt. James Alfaro, Staff Sgt. Deane Anderson, Captain William Willett, Maj. Timothy Ullman, Major Chris Chase, Cadet Mindy Keys, Specialist Andrew Bentzel

Memory Eternal

Sharon Iliadis, an early member of the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church and a loving servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, entered her eternal rest on February 23, in Athens, Greece. She was preceded in death by her only son, Stephen.

Sharon was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. She was an English teacher at Lanier High School and St. Michael's Academy in Austin and continued in the teaching profession after moving to Athens, Greece.

Sharon was our Church School Director for many years.

A plaque placed on a tree planted on the church property commemorating her son, Stephen, has the following inscription: I will " Sing to the Lord a new song" : Psalm 96:1

We pray that Sharon and Stephen are in our Lord's vineyard singing to the Lord a new song together.

May her memory be eternal.