

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, March 17, 2013

Coming Up!

- ✦ OUR PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES WILL BEGIN THIS WEDNESDAY EVENING beginning with the 9th Hour Prayers at 5:30; followed by the Liturgy at 6:00pm. Then join us for a Lenten dinner afterward provided this week by the ladies of Philoptochos.
- ✦ SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH IS THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY! PARENTS, PLEASE REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR CHILDREN BRING THEIR ICONS WITH THEM TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY FOR THE PROCESSION OF ICONS. Following the Liturgy we will also have a beautiful program by our Greek school students; and a delicious fish luncheon sponsored by AHEPA
- ✦ MONDAY, MARCH 25 IS THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION. PLEASE JOIN US FOR ORTHROS AT 9:00AM, AND DIVINE LITURGY AT 10:00AM

Today we celebrate the feast of St. Patrick

A very special "Happy Name Day" is wished today, to our Philoptochos President and Parish Council member, Pat Mitchell; and to Tricia Korioth, Patrice Stamatis, Patrice Shotwell, and Pat Gatlin! With great love and thanks from your parish priest, Fr. Vasileios, and everyone of Transfiguration.

BOOKSTORE NEWS

We have many new resources to guide you through your Great Lent journey! Stop by our special Lenten table to see the many new Bibles (even some leather-bound), books, service books, cards, incense and CD's in stock.

GOLF (Greek Orthodox Ladies Fellowship)

Join us as we continue our study of [In Thy Presence](#) by Lev Gillet on **Tuesday, March 19!**
Contact Whitney Papadatos: wpapadatos@hotmail.com for more information

Philoptochos News

The Koliva and Prospora class scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd has been postponed. We will let you know when we have the new date set.

Do you shop at Coldwater Creek? The Great Lakes Scrip program is offering, for a limited time, a 10% rebate! Contact Liz Strong if you would like to order some \$25 gift cards to Coldwater Creek. Remember, purchasing these cards helps Philoptochos provide assistance to various families in need and many charities!

Thank you to today's Coffee Hour Sponsors:

Athanasiou, Ackerman, Angelo, Appling, Bakiris, Bakiris

Thank you to last week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:

Ambrose, Apostolakis, Arnold, Bell

Next week's Luncheon Sponsors are:

AHEPA

Thank you to today's ushers:

Tom Gouris, Jerry Burks, Brian Holland, Liz Strong

Thank you to last week's ushers:

Mary Georgantonis, Harry Stamatis, Mary Beth Gradziel, Maria Miller

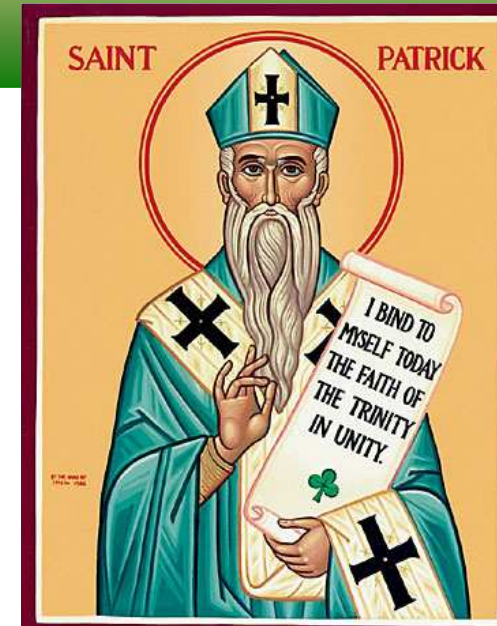
Next week's ushers are:

Vaios Athanasiou, David Horwedel, Chrissie Spiropoulos

SUNDAY BULLETIN

MARCH 17, 2013

**SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS
CHEESEFARE SUNDAY**



**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

Resurrection Hymn (4th Plagal Tone)

“Ex ipsus katitthes o efsplagnos tafin katethexo triimeros ina imas eleftherosis ton pathon i Zoi ke i anastasis imon Kirie thoxasi”

“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 the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

“Metemorfothis en to ori, Christe o Theos, dixas tis mathites Sou tin doxan Sou, kathos idynando 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. By the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.”

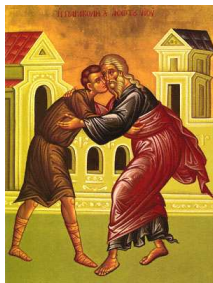
Kontakion for Forgiveness Sunday

“O Thou Guide unto wisdom, Bestower of prudence, Instructor of the foolish, and Defender of the poor: establish and grant understanding unto my heart, O Master. Grant me speech, O Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying unto Thee: Have mercy, O Merciful One, on me who has fallen.”

FORGIVENESS VESPERS

This evening, March 17, we will have the Forgiveness Vespers at 5:00pm
Plan to join us for this beautiful service to begin Great Lent.

FATHER VASILEIOS WILL CONTINUE HOUSE BLESSINGS THROUGHOUT GREAT LENT.
HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE NO HOUSE BLESSINGS OR CONFESSIONS DURING HOLY WEEK!



Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephraim of Syria

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, 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

SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, March 18- *Clean Monday (Great Lent begins) - Great Compline at 6:00pm*
Wednesday, March 20: *9th Hour Prayers- 5:30pm; Presanctified Liturgy- 6:00pm*
Friday, March 22: *Salutations to the Theotokos- 7:00pm*
Saturday, March 23- *Saturday of Souls- Orthros - 8:30am; Divine Liturgy - 10:00am*
Saturday, March 23: *Great Vespers - 5:00pm*

Transfiguration Children’s Lenten Handbook

Our Sunday School children have been working on a new project, the *Lenten Handbook!* This season is about refocusing ourselves on God, and on our lifelong struggles to be more prayerful, more generous, more obedient to God's will. So the children have produced this Lenten handbook to help families explore all aspects of what it means to *fast* in the Orthodox Church. All proceeds will benefit Hogar Rafael Ayau, an Orthodox orphanage creating a loving home for orphans who might otherwise find themselves living on the streets of Guatemala. **The kids will be selling the handbook at Coffee Hour beginning TODAY.** Please purchase a few copies to help them in their charitable good works!

GOYA EVENTS

- **Today**, after church, GOYA is having a day outdoors, with a picnic, games and kite flying at Zilker Park. Please speak with Elissa Bjeletich or Sonia Phocas to find out about meeting time and place.
- On **Saturday, April 6th** Our GOYANs are hosting an even better and funner babysitting night at a new venue: **O. Henry Middle School. 2610 West 10th St. Austin, TX 78703.** All proceeds will go towards buying new basketball uniforms.

GOYA LENTEN RETREAT INFORMATION

Registration for the 2013 Southern Region GOYA Lenten Retreat at SKY RANCH is now open online at, www.youth.denver.goarch.org

This year the retreat will be held April 19-21, 2013 at the Sky Ranch retreat center in Van, Texas.

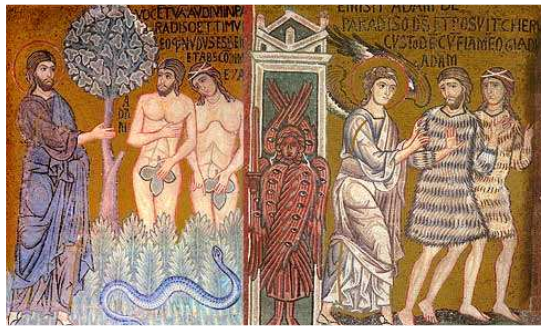
GOYANs, ages 11-18, are invited to retreat away from every day challenges for a weekend of growth and fellowship. There is limited space availability, so act fast!

Registration will close at midnight in the Mountain Time Zone on April 5, 2013.

CAMP EMMANUEL

Registration for GOYA Summer Camp Emmanuel is now open at www.denver.goarch.org.

The Junior GOYA week for all middle school aged youth is June 9-15, and the Senior GOYA week for all high school students is June 16-22.



The Fourth Sunday of the Triodion Period: Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)

The Sunday of Forgiveness, the last of the preparatory Sundays before Great Lent, has two themes: it commemorates Adam's expulsion from Paradise, and it accentuates our need for forgiveness. There are obvious reasons why these two things should be brought to our attention as we stand on the threshold of Great Lent. One of the primary images in the

Triodion is that of the return to Paradise. Lent is a time when we weep with Adam and Eve before the closed gate of Eden, repenting with them for the sins that have deprived us of our free communion with God. But Lent is also a time when we are preparing to celebrate the saving event of Christ's death and rising, which has reopened Paradise to us once more (Luke 23:43). So sorrow for our exile in sin is tempered by hope of our re-entry into Paradise.

The second theme, that of forgiveness, is emphasized in the Gospel reading for this Sunday (Matthew 6:14-21) and in the special ceremony of mutual forgiveness at the end of the Vespers on Sunday evening. Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons. We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family. Our asceticism and fasting should not separate us from others, but should link us to them with ever-stronger bonds.

The Sunday of Forgiveness also directs us to see that Great Lent is a journey of liberation from our enslavement to sin. The Gospel lesson sets the conditions for this liberation. The first one is fasting—the refusal to accept the desires and urges of our fallen nature as normal, the effort to free ourselves from the dictatorship of the flesh and matter over the spirit. To be effective, however, our fast must not be hypocritical, a “showing off.” We must “appear not unto men to fast but to our Father who is in secret” (vv. 16-18).

The second condition is forgiveness—“If you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you” (vv. 14-15). The triumph of sin, the main sign of its rule over the world, is division, opposition, separation, hatred. Therefore, the first break through this fortress of sin is forgiveness—the return to unity, solidarity, love. To forgive is to put between me and my “enemy” the radiant forgiveness of God Himself. To forgive is to reject the hopeless “dead-ends” of human relations and to refer them to Christ. Forgiveness is truly a “breakthrough” of the Kingdom into this sinful and fallen world.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SEASON OF GREAT LENT, WITH LOADS OF RECOMMENDED READINGS
AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES, GO TO: LENT.GOARCH.ORG**

And also this, knowing the time, that it is an hour now to be awakened out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we believed. The night is advanced, and the day hath drawn near. Let us therefore put away from ourselves the works of darkness, and let us put on the weapons of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in revelings and drunkenness, not in acts of unlawful intercourse and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and cease taking forethought for the flesh, in regard to the lusts thereof.

Now the one who is weak in the faith, be taking to yourselves, but not for passing judgments upon his opinions. One, on the one hand, hath faith to eat all things; but one, on the other hand, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not the one who eateth despise him who eateth not, and let not the one who eateth not judge him who eateth; for God hath taken him to Himself. Who art thou who judgeth Another's household slave? To his own Lord he standeth or falleth; but he shall be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Ἀδελφοί, νῦν ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἢ σωτηρία ἢ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν. Ἡ νύξ προέκοψεν, ἡ δὲ ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν· ἀποθώμεθα οὖν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ σκότους, καὶ ἐνδυσώμεθα τὰ ὄπλα τοῦ φωτός. Ὡς ἐν ἡμέρᾳ, εὐσχημόνως περιπατήσωμεν, μὴ κόμοις καὶ μέθαις, μὴ κοίταις καὶ ἀσελγείαις, μὴ ἔριδι καὶ ζήλῳ. Ἄλλ' ἐνδύσασθε τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ τῆς σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν μὴ ποιήσθε, εἰς ἐπιθυμίας. Τὸν δὲ ἀσθενοῦντα τῇ πίστει προσλαμβάνεσθε, μὴ εἰς διακρίσεις διαλογισμῶν. Ὅς μὲν πιστεύει φαγεῖν πάντα, ὁ δὲ ἀσθενῶν λάχανα ἐσθίει. Ὁ ἐσθίων τὸν μὴ ἐσθιοντα μὴ ἐξουθενεῖτω, καὶ ὁ μὴ ἐσθίων τὸν ἐσθιοντα μὴ κρινέτω· ὁ θεὸς γὰρ αὐτὸν προσελάβετο. Σὺ τίς εἶ ὁ κρίνων ἀλλότριον οἰκέτην; Τῷ ἰδίῳ κυρίῳ στήκει ἢ πίπτει. Σταθήσεται δέ· δυνατὸς γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ θεὸς στήσαι αὐτόν.

March 17, 2013 - Forgiveness Sunday

Gospel - St. Matthew 6: 14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ἐὰν γὰρ ἀφήτε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, ἀφήσει καὶ ὑμῖν ὁ πατήρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος· ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ἀφήτε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, οὐδὲ ὁ πατήρ ὑμῶν ἀφήσει τὰ παραπτώματα ὑμῶν. Ὅταν δὲ νηστεύητε, μὴ γίνεσθε ὡσπερ οἱ ὑποκριταὶ σκυθρωποὶ· ἀφανίζουσι γὰρ τὰ πρόσωπα αὐτῶν ὅπως φανῶσι τοῖς ἀνθρώποις νηστεύοντες· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἀπέχουσι τὸν μισθὸν αὐτῶν· σὺ δὲ νηστεύων ἀλειψαί σου τὴν κεφαλὴν καὶ τὸ πρόσωπόν σου νίψαι, ὅπως μὴ φανῆς τοῖς ἀνθρώποις νηστεύων, ἀλλὰ τῷ πατρὶ σου τῷ ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ, καὶ ὁ πατήρ σου ὁ βλέπων ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ ἀποδώσει σοι ἐν τῷ φανερῷ. Μὴ θησαυρίζετε ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ὅπου σῆς καὶ βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου κλέπται διορύσσουσι καὶ κλέπτουσι· θησαυρίζετε δὲ ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐν οὐρανῷ, ὅπου οὔτε σῆς οὔτε βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου κλέπται οὐ διορύσσουσιν οὐδὲ κλέπτουσιν· ὅπου γὰρ ἔστιν ὁ θησαυρὸς ὑμῶν, ἐκεῖ ἔστι καὶ ἡ καρδιά ὑμῶν.

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.
We hope that you will return often to worship with us and grow in Christ!*

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 Antidoro (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.*

Sunday School Classes are in session!

Please allow the Church School children and teachers to receive 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

Arlena, Cindy, Philip, W.C., Glenna, Nicole, Michael, the nun Elizabeth, Wanda, John, Lili, Archie, Paul, Michael, Petra, Luke, Matthew, Elizabeth, Cecilia, Venton, John, Julia, Ricky, Wayne, Sarah, Christopher, John, Arsinoi, Konstandinos, Jan, Marie, Chris, MaryAnn, Cliff, Maggie, Lou, Thomas, Kathy, Kathryn, Greg, Bill, Christopher, Steve, Maggie, Nakis, Martha, George, Richard Simeon, Terri, Nicole, Mark, Madeleine, Sophie, Maria, Nassos, Maria, Amy, Christina, Ana, Dolly, Fr. Ambrose, Vickie, Gonzalo, Pat, Bill, Linda, Mindy, Jenny, Rosemary, Fr. Andreas, Emmanuel, Alkmene, Maree, Constanze, Jennifer, Timothy, Andrea, Janis Mae, Andreas, Luke, Zlata, Andrea, Albert, Dorothy, Presbyteria Krissy, Malamo, Larry, Jane, Argiro, Koula, Boyd, Wilma, Ted, Nicolette, Alexandra, Fr. Damaskinos, Emmanuel, Eleni, Thomas, Maria, Zoe, Kalliopi, Aikaterini, Garyfalia, Danae, Ioannis, Konstantinos, Nikolaos, Evangelia, Aikaterini, Eleni, Eirini, Dimitrios, Antigoni, Sharon, Elaine, Georgia, Chrysoula, Michael, Dimitra, Carol, Frank, Suzanne, Fotini, Max, Sienna, Petros, Kirsten, Yvette, Kimberlin, Alvin, Eric, Alison, Emily, Olga, Anastasios-Tahseen, Athanasios, Tristen, Damon, Fran, Melanie, Betty (Mary Elizabeth), Gabriel, Theone, Angie, Zoe, Themis

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

SGT Jennifer D. Atkinson, SSG John Atkinson, COL Dave Romine, CPT James Alfaro, SSG Deane Anderson, CPT William Willett, MAJ Timothy Ullman, MAJ Chris Chase, Cadet Mindy Keys, SPC Andrew Bentzel, MAJ Scot Thornhill, CPT Christopher Gilbert, Capt. Alexander Stathos, 1st LT Angela Bahlatzis