

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS TODAY

The elections to the 2011 Parish Council will take place after Divine Liturgy **TODAY**. All members in good standing are eligible to vote. This is an important part of being a member of a parish — choosing those who will be our leaders. Please make every effort to vote today!

SERIES ON THE DIVINE LITURGY FINISHES ON DEC. 16

The series on The Divine Liturgy will be held this Thursday, December 16. In the final session, we will discuss Holy Communion and the ending of the Divine Liturgy.

50 PLUS

Our annual Pot Luck Party was held on December 8th and was a great success. Over 100 people attended and we would like to thank you all for coming to this great event. Achilles Papaefthimiou provided the music for the singing and dancing, of which there was a lot. Thanks to all all of you who brought food and desserts which were complimented by everyone there. In the spirit of the Christmas Season, we collected \$416 which will be given to the church to help the needy. Our next meeting is January 12th. Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all.

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Our Christmas Social is Tuesday, December 14th. Please mark your calendars; additional information will be forthcoming. Lastly, our traditional Christmas Bake Sale will take place on December 19th following the Divine Liturgy.

GREEK SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

The Friday Greek School will have their Christmas program this coming Friday, Dec. 17 at 4:30 p.m. and the Saturday Greek School will have theirs on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 10:30 a.m.

JOY/HOPE MEETING

Joy/Hope will have a meeting on Friday, Dec. 17, at 7:00 p.m.

PARATHOSI DANCE TROUPE

Parathosi Junior dance troupe practice will be held **TODAY** in the Founder's Hall from 12:15pm - 1:15pm for youth in grades 3rd - 6th. Our next practice will be held on December 19, 2010. If you have any questions, please email Olga Kasakeris at arisolga5@gmail.com or Evy Vlahos at ek4818@me.com

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY

- Dec. 24:** Royal Hours/Liturgy of St. Basil 9:00 a.m.
Evening Divine Liturgy of the Nativity /Pageant 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 25:** FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
- Dec. 26:** Sunday After the Nativity Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
- Dec. 27:** Feast of St. Stephen the Protomartyr Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
- Jan. 1:** FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION/ST. BASIL Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
- Jan. 2:** Sunday Before the Theophany Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
- Jan. 5:** EVE OF THEOPHANY Orthros/Royal Hours 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Agiasmos 9:30 a.m.
- Jan. 6:** FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters 9:30 a.m.
- Jan. 7:** SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER

DECEMBER 12, 2010



**OUR HOLY FATHER
ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER
BISHOP OF TRIMYTHOUS**

O Father, God-bearer, Spyridon, you were proven a champion and Wonder Worker of the First Ecumenical Council. You spoke to the girl in the grave and turned the serpent to gold. And, when chanting your prayers, most sacred One, angels ministered with you. Glory to Him who glorified you; glory to Him who crowned you; glory to Him who, through you, works healing for all.

Της Συνόδου της πρώτης ανεδείχθης υπέρμαχος, και θαυματουργός Θεοφόρε Σπυρίδων πατήρ ημών, διο νεκρά συ εν τάφω προσφωνείς και όφιν εις χρυσούν μετέβαλες και εν τω μέλπειν τας αγίας σου ευχάς. Αγγέλους έσχες συλλειτουργούντας σοι, Ιερώτατε. Δόξα τω σε δοξάσαντι, δόξα τω σε τεφανώσαντι, δόξα τω ενεργούντι δια σου πάσιν ιάματα.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

Seasonal Kontakion

On this day the Virgin cometh 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.

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Emeritus

EPISTLE Ephesians 5:8-19

WALK AS CHILDREN of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

TODAY'S READER: MICHAEL KITSOULIS

GOSPEL 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.'"

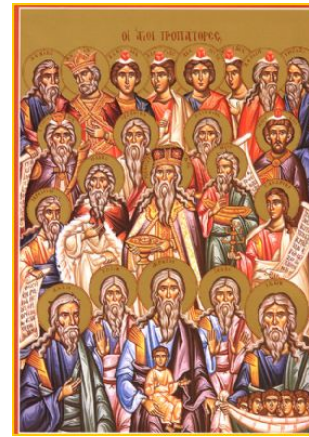


FROM A HYMN ON THE NATIVITY BY ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

This night belongs to the sweet One; bitter or harsh be in it none! In this night that is the meek One's, high or haughty be in it none! In this day of pardoning let us not exact trespasses! In this day of gladness let us not spread sadnesses! In this day so sweet, let us not be harsh! In this day of peaceful rest, let us not be wrathful in it! In this day in which there came the Lord of all unto the servants, let masters too condescend to their servants lovingly! In this day in which the Rich became poor for our sakes, let the rich man make the poor man share with him at his table. On this day to us came forth the Gift, although we asked it not! Let us therefore bestow alms on them that cry and beg of us. Today the Lord of nature was against His nature changed; let it not to us be irksome to turn our evil wills. Today Godhead sealed itself upon Manhood, that so with the Godhead's stamp Manhood might be adorned.



Our father among the saints **Spyridon of Trimythous the Wonderworker** (Greek: Σπυρίδων ca. 270-348) was a fourth century bishop who was present at the First Ecumenical Council. He is also commonly referred to in Corfu as *Keeper of the City* (Greek: ο πολιούχος), since he is also the patron saint of that island (this is where his relics are located and venerated). He is commemorated by the church on December 12. Spyridon was born in the village of Ashia (*askia* - "without shade"), Cyprus (270 AD) and died in Trimythous, Cyprus (348 AD). He was a peasant farmer and shepherd and was not educated. Spyridon was married and had a daughter, Irene. After his wife died, he and his daughter both entered into monasticism. He later became the Bishop of Trimythous (during the reign of Constantine the Great) and continued in piety for which he was greatly known. During the Maximilian persecutions (295 AD) he was arrested and exiled. In 325 AD, he was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea where he astonished many with his simple explanations of the Orthodox Faith.



SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS: THE HERITAGE OF THE LORD

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law. Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

PRAYER LIST: Artie Constantinides, Stephen Alfieris, Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, George Virvan, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Milton Kayafas, Mary Agis, Maureen Shriver, Tiffany Keiker, Mary O'Hara, William Coulopoulos, Matina Mantis, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios, Private Louis Tiches, EG Robert Stock, and PFC Brett Hughes.

CHALLENGE LITURGY

SATURDAY, December 18, 9:30 a.m.
followed by fellowship.

MEMORIAL SERVICES



Today, we offer a Memorial Service for **His Eminence Metropolitan Silas of New Jersey** who reposed in the Lord 10 years ago. May the Lord grant this Archpastor a place where the Saints and the Just repose. May his memory be eternal! Also remember today are **Nick Harry (30 Years)**, requested by

his wife Maria and his daughters, Eva (Bill) Nychis, and Nomy (Ted) Koumas and their families; for **Stanley M. Santorios (40 Days)**, requested by his sister Maria (George) Demas, and his children Elaina (Constantine) Pergantis and Michael (Ann) Santorios; and for **Dr. Michael Soteriades (40 Days)**, requested by his family and friends. May their memories be eternal!

40-DAY BLESSING

A 40-Day Blessing will be given to the child of God **Nicholas**, son of Pandora and James Keffler. God grant him many years!



GIVE A SPIRITUAL GIFT!

Why not consider giving a religious gift this year? Our book store has books and icons that would make excellent gifts to celebrate the Lord's Nativity. Stop by and see if there isn't something that would be appropriate for a member of your family or a friend. Besides being a good gift, it would keep the spiritual focus of the season. Christmas is about the Incarnate Word of God who came to tell us that the love of God for us is everlasting.