

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or “shut-ins,” so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

SUPPORT THE CHRISTIANS OF THE HOLY LAND

NEXT SUNDAY, December 5, 2010 and after the Divine Liturgy representatives of the Christians of the Holy Land, and we will be hosting in the Founders Hall a nice display of handmade olivewood religious articles from Bethlehem and Jerusalem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angelss and many other religious crafts that can make nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, and mainly Christmas gifts. These carvings are handmade by Christian families in Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread, and who, in greater numbers are fleeing the Holy Land under persecution. The website showing the crafts is www.holylandesc.com

SERIES ON THE DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES

The series on the Divine Liturgy continues this Thursday, December 2, at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. This week we will discuss the Liturgy of the Catechumens and the dialogical nature of the Liturgy as Word and Response.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

We congratulate and thanks the Sunday School for collecting more than 1,300 pounds of food for Manna Food Bank. This important donation will assist the Bank in feeding the many people who come to them this holiday season. Thanks too, to those who loaded the vans and delivered the food. God bless you all!

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Our annual and fun Lunch with Santa is Sunday, December 5th. Please RSVP to Desiree Drakakis at ddrakis@verizon.net by November 28th -- **DON'T WAIT: NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!** Please join us on November 30th at 7:30 p.m. to help decorate our Church and Halls for the holiday season that is fast approaching. All hands are welcome and needed! 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. Thank you for your love and support!

50 PLUS

Our Annual Pot Luck Party will be on December 8th. Achilles Papaefthimiou will again entertain us with his music. There will be singing and dancing to celebrate the Christmas Season. All are welcome. We would like to thank everyone who helped make our Annual Bake Sale such a success. Without the participation of everyone who worked so hard, donated money, and brought pastries from home, this sale would not of been a such success. But most of all we would like to thank each of you who brought our pastries.

PARATHOSI JUNIOR DANCE TROUPE

Our next practice will be held on December 12, 2010. If you have any questions, please email Olga Kasakeris at arisolga5@gmail.com or Evy Vlahos at ek4818@me.com

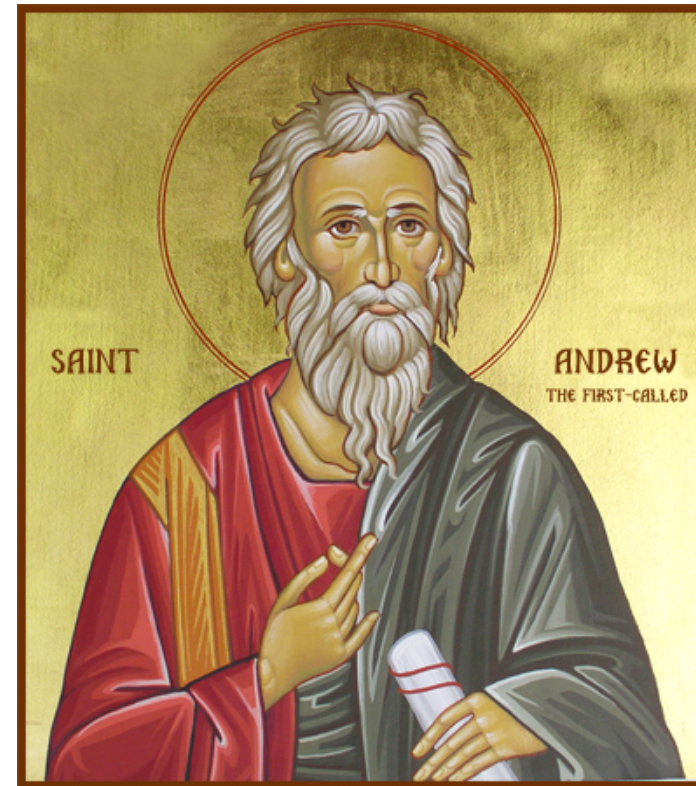
Remember, this is Stewardship season. We are asking you to pledge for the 2011 year (January through December). We need the support of every member if we are to sustain our ministries, deal with facility issues, and see to it that the poor, hungry, homeless, and needy are cared for — in other words, do the work of the Church.

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN

13TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

ST. STEPHEN THE NEW

NOVEMBER 28, 2010



ST. ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED

TUESDAY, NOV. 30, 2010

ORTHROS 8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 A.M.



Apolytikion

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Kontakion

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.

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EPISTLE Ephesians 6:10-17

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

TODAY'S READER: GEORGE COMINOS

GOSPEL Luke 18:18-27

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

THE NATIVITY FAST AS PREPARATION



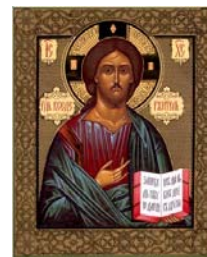
The Church journeys toward the birth of Christ God, steered by the ship that is the Nativity fast. She does so with the knowledge that unless she struggles up the mountain that is desperately too steep for her to climb, she will never know the breadth of the gift that is the mountain's levelling by the hand of God. Resurrection unto life is the ultimate gift of the Incarnation, but unless a man understands that he is dead, he will never know the meaning of resurrection. The fast is a holy and blessed tool that brings us closer to such self awareness. It reveals to us who we are, perhaps more importantly who we are not, and makes us more consciously aware of that for which we stand in need. Then and only then, with eyes opened -- even only partially -- by the ascetic endeavour, we will truly know the life-giving light of the Nativity of Christ. We are called to arise, then, during the fast that is the journey into this Feast. *'O blessed Lord who seest all, raise us up far above sin, and establish Thy singers firm and unshaken upon the foundation of the faith'*.⁵ The faithful take up this call through the abandonment of those things which bind, rather than free, in order that a focus on God as 'all in all' might become ever more real and central to daily life.

MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Michael Melas (40 Days)** requested by his wife, Persa, and family; and for **Peter Ernest Panarites (1 Year)** requested by his wife Helen and family; and for **Lambros (5 Years) and Mary (20 Years) Hatzilambrou**, requested by their daughter, Niki (Bruce) Falnders, and Yianni abd Maria their grandchildren. May their memories be eternal!



ST. BARBARA
Saturday, December 4, is the FEAST OF THE GREAT MARTYR ST. BARBARA. Orthros at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.



SURRENDERING THAT ONE LAST THING....

Most of us live decent lives. We believe ourselves to behave well, to treat others with kindness, to follow the teachings of Christ and His Church with a general fidelity. *That is what the rich man in today's Gospel passage thought!* He comes to Jesus, and in so many words, asks Him how he gets to heaven — how can he inherit eternal life. Jesus responds by giving him the basic commandments that one must follow to be chosen of God. He tells Jesus that he as followed these since his youth. Then Jesus hits him with “the kicker”: *One thing you still lack — go sell al that you have, give it to the poor, and come follow me.* That’s the last thing the rich young man wanted to hear. It is recorded that he became sad and walked away from the Lord. While the lesson is partly about riches and material things taking over our lives and becoming an obstacle to a relationship with Jesus, it is likewise about *anything that keeps our souls from union with God.* We may keep the commandments, follow the Church’s teachings, and do what we feel is right — yet there may STILL be something in each of our lives that *holds us back from complete union with the Divine Indwelling of God.* Jesus makes it clear: without eliminating that “holdout” we cannot see the Heavenly Kingdom. For the rich man, it was his wealth and the comfort he derived from it. For us, it may be material things and our tendency to acquire and acquire. It may be an uncontrolled tongue that criticizes, judges, and wounds others. It could be some sort of addiction that has enslaved us. Perhaps it is a laziness that keeps us from greater involvement in God’s Church. For us it could be the temptation to elevate our ethnic or cultural identity *OVER our Orthodox spirituality.* It may be that we are

comfortable with GOSSIP and are not willing to avert that sin. Whatever it is, it is something that holds us back from making that one last commitment to Jesus the Lord of Life. It creates a fear of commitment in us, one that suggests to us that giving ourselves **TOTALLY** and **COMPLETELY** to Jesus will cost us. It will cost us time, energy, material resources, a change of lifestyle, and create risk — the risk of being and appearing **DIFFERENT** in and to the world or society around us. Yet that is precisely what Jesus asks in today’s Gospel: *Go, sell all your wealth and give it to the poor, then come and follow me.* Give up what keeps you from me. Let go of that one last thing that blinds you to my presence in your heart. Surrender whatever it is that you are substituting in your soul for my love, my grace, my life. The come follow me through the gates of Eternal Life in the Heavenly Kingdom. *Are you willing to give up what keeps YOU from total communion with Christ God?*



“.....for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.... [We] put on the whole armour of God...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.” (Ephesians)

The Spiritual Warfare is real. The powers and influences we fight are all around us. Let us ask God for the strength to witness the Holy Faith in every situation we encounter.

40-DAY BLESSING

A 40-Day Blessing will be given to **Andreas Kyriako**, son of Panagiota and Kyriako Chrysostomou. May God grant him many years!

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.