

**EPISTLE Romans 2:10-16**

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

**GOSPEL Matthew 4:18-23**

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.



Icon of Some Saints of Mt. Athos

On the Sunday after All Saints Sunday, it is customary to venerate the Saints who have shown forth on Mount Athos. This holy mountain has produced some of the Church's most revered holy men. It is the cradle of the Orthodox faith and continues to give the Church holy men, true spiritual fathers, to help guide us to God through the ascetic struggle. O Holy Fathers of Mount Athos, pray to God that our souls may be saved!

**IKOS FROM THE CANON OF THE SAINTS OF MT. ATHOS**

How good is our union, Fathers wise in God! How sweet and delightful, this your common feast, on which all you Saints who have shone forth on this Mountain, those whose names are known, those who are not, whose fame is one, as brothers in spirit, now take your pleasure! like myrrh poured upon Aaron's head, and running down upon his beard, and as the dew of Hermon. For it was necessary, it was necessary that those who have been well-pleasing to the Lord should be feasted together on one day. Therefore we also, solitaries and cenobites have come together and as is fitting call you blessed; the young, the old; the sons, the fathers; the sinful, the holy, as we cry aloud with one accord, 'Keep this place, which you chose for your dwelling, safe from every evil. O multitude of Saints, boast of Athos!'



**FROM ST. NIKODEMOS OF MOUNT ATHOS**

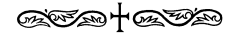
"You must learn that perfection consists in nothing but coming near to God and union with Him, as was said in the beginning. With this is connected a heartfelt realization of the goodness and greatness of God, together with the consciousness of our own nothingness and our proneness to every evil .... This is the law of love, inscribed by the finger of God Himself in the hearts of His true servants ! This is the renunciation of ourselves that God demands of us! This is the blessed yoke of Jesus Christ and His burden that is light! This is the submission to God's will, which our Redeemer and Teacher demands from us both by His word and by His example "Do you now see what all this means, brother? I presume that you are longing to reach the height of such perfection. Blessed be your zeal! But prepare yourself also for labor, sweat and struggle from your first steps on the path. You must sacrifice everything to God and do only His will. Yet you will meet in yourself as many wills as you have powers and wants. Therefore, to reach your desired aim, it is first of all necessary to stifle your own wills and finally to extinguish and kill them altogether. And in order to succeed in this, you must constantly oppose all evil in yourself and urge yourself towards good. In other words, you must ceaselessly fight against yourself and against everything that panders to your own wills, that incites and supports them. So prepare yourself for this struggle and this warfare and know that the crown--attainment of your desired aim--is given to none except to the valiant among

warriors and wrestlers."You must know that progress on the path of spiritual life differs greatly from an ordinary journey on earth. If a traveler stops on his ordinary journey, he loses nothing of the way already covered; but if a traveler on the path of virtue stops in his spiritual progress, he loses much of the virtues previously acquired .... In an ordinary journey, the further the traveler proceeds, the more tired he becomes; but on the way of spiritual life the longer a man travels, reaching forth unto those things which are before, the greater the strength and power he acquires."



**APOLYTIKION OF THE TIKHVIN ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS**

"Today, like the eternal sun, / Your Icon appears in the sky, O Theotokos. / With rays of mercy it enlightens the world. / This land accepts the heavenly gift from above, / Honoring You as the Mother of God. / We praise Christ our Lord who was born of You. / Pray to Him, O Queen and sovereign virgin / That all Christian cities and lands be guarded in safety, And that He save those who kneel to His divine, and Your holy image, O unwedded bride."



**40-DAY BLESSING**

A 40-Day Blessing will be given to **Liam Matthew**, son of Ryan and Angela Harper. God grant him many years!

**PRAYER LIST:** Virginia Demitral, Sandi Treer, Constantina Speris, Spiro Gianniotis, Ralph Vallone, Christopher Bacas, Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, George Virvan, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, the child Joseph Saxton, Francine Bruggeman, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Milton Kayafas, Maureen Shriver, Tiffany Keiker, Mary O'Hara, William Coulopoulos, Matina Mantis, Anna Wakefield, Nate Cekay, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** LCDR. Rick Fisher, 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 Lance Corporal Brett Hughes, and Lt. Cmdr. Michael Starsiak

## GREEK SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOLERS

has a few openings in each class for the 2011-2012 school year. Please visit the <http://www.stgeorge.org/education/greek-preschool> for applications, forms and more information, or contact [paula.spiliotopoulos@verizon.net](mailto:paula.spiliotopoulos@verizon.net) or [dsamiosferat@gmail.com](mailto:dsamiosferat@gmail.com).

## LITTLE ANGELS

is in the process of planning for next year, let us know what would work best for you and your little ones through our survey at this link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5NJDQRG> We look forward to your feedback.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS AT ST. KATHERINE IN FALLS CHURCH

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA is sponsoring two summer programs. The first is a Pre-School Camp for children ages 2 to five years old; from July 5 through August 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The second is a Vacation Bible School from June 27 through July 1, for ages 4 through high school age. For more information call St. Katherine at 703-671-1515.

## CHURCH SCHOOL AT ST. MARK'S

Saint Mark Orthodox Church on River Road in Bethesda, is holding a Vacation Church School from July 18 through 22 at the Church. The program is for ages 3 to those entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the Fall. Enrollment is limited to the first 50 students. For more information or to obtain a registration form, contact Ann Prentice at 703-865-3036, or by email at [prentice@comcast.net](mailto:prentice@comcast.net)



## THE TIKHVIN ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS (JUNE 26)

This is one of the most highly venerated icons in Orthodoxy. According to Church tradition, it was brought from Byzantium where it had been kept at the Great Church in Blachernae (which was built to house the icon) in Constantinople. It disappeared on numerous occasions, leaving the local inhabitants to wallow in sin, and then reappeared again. In the 14th century, following another disappearance, it unexpectedly emerged in Rus where it remained after-wards. Numerous copies of the icon were made and later on made famous by numerous miracles. Particularly famous among them is a copy known as the Tikhvin Opolchennaya (of the Volunteer

Corps) Icon of the Mother of God, which participated in the Patriotic War of 1812 and in the Crimean War of 1855-1856. The fame of this icon was so great that icons of other types were sometimes called by its name. Thus, at the St. Athanasios Convent in the town of Mologa (Yaroslavl Gubernia) an icon of the Mother of God brought to the cloister six years before the appearance of the miracle-working Tikhvin Icon became famous. Although it was somewhat different in composition, it was also called the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God. The original icon was returned from Chicago (USA) to Russia in 2004. Revered by both the Greek and Russian churches, the icon has great spiritual power.

In response to continued inquiries regarding church financials, the Church is publishing year-to-date operating income and expenses in the Sunday bulletin. God bless you and thank you for your support.

**January 1 through June 21, 2011**

**Income \$668,868.01\***

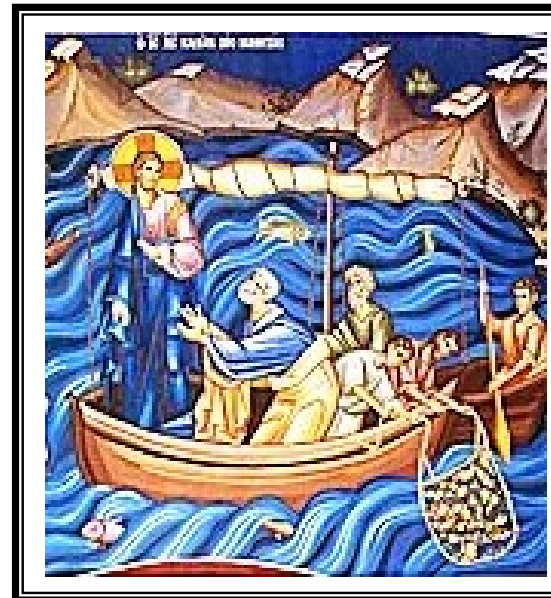
**Expenses \$667,808.15\*\***

\* - Includes any income (funds received) from Stewardship, Candles, Trays, Donations, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, Fall Fundraiser, Greek School, Pre-School Program, Other Income and Harbor School Rent.

\*\* - Includes expenses incurred (funds disbursed) for Administrative Items, Candles, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, Fall Fundraiser, Greek School, Pre-School Program, Archdiocese Stewardship, For Those Who Serve, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, Liturgical, Maintenance, Mortgage Interest, Program Expenses, Taxes & Insurance, Utilities and Transfer to Reserves

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW THE ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS OF TIKHVIN

**JUNE 26, 2011**



## THE CALLING OF ANDREW AND PETER

In today's Gospel passage, we witness the call of the Apostles—chiefly Andrew and Peter. The process was amazing for it's simplicity: Jesus came upon them as they were plying their trade of fishing. He said "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately abandoned their nets and their livelihood and followed Jesus. What trust! What a risk! No questions asked they changed their entire lives to begin their Apostolic ministry. What is our response to Jesus when he calls us to follow Him? "Too hard, Lord", "Have a lot of things to do Lord," "I can't totally reorient my life Lord, I have a family, a job, responsibilities." "Lord, that stuff is for monks and nuns and priests." Think about it. Jesus is calling you everyday TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD AND FOLLOW HIM. What response do you make?

## Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Tone

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; glory to Your eternal rule; glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

## Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Second Tone

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

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