

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.



SERIES ON THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH

The 4-part series on the Fathers of the Church HAS BEGUN. The times are the same as Bible Study (Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to noon and 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) The next three parts are on Dec. 3, 10, and 17. The series is being given by Chrysostomus. Join us to learn more about the Church Fathers who, after the Holy Apostles, are the foundation stones upon which Orthodox theology and spirituality are built.

FIFTY PLUS On December 9th meeting at 11:30am in the Founder’s Hall the club will have its annual Christmas pot luck lunch and celebration. A special treat by Achilles and friend will entertain us with live Greek music. Hope to see everyone there and, please, bring your favorite dish. If there are any questions, please call Maria Kopsidas 301-493-5789.

FEED THE HUNGRY is in need of drivers and cooks to deliver and prepare food for the local shelters **THE NEXT FEED THE HUNGRY SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 20th.** Contact is Peggy Hackman * 301-340-6027 * or email her at hackmans@comcast.net

JOY/HOPE Our next meeting will be on Friday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Founder’s Hall. We hope that you can make it.



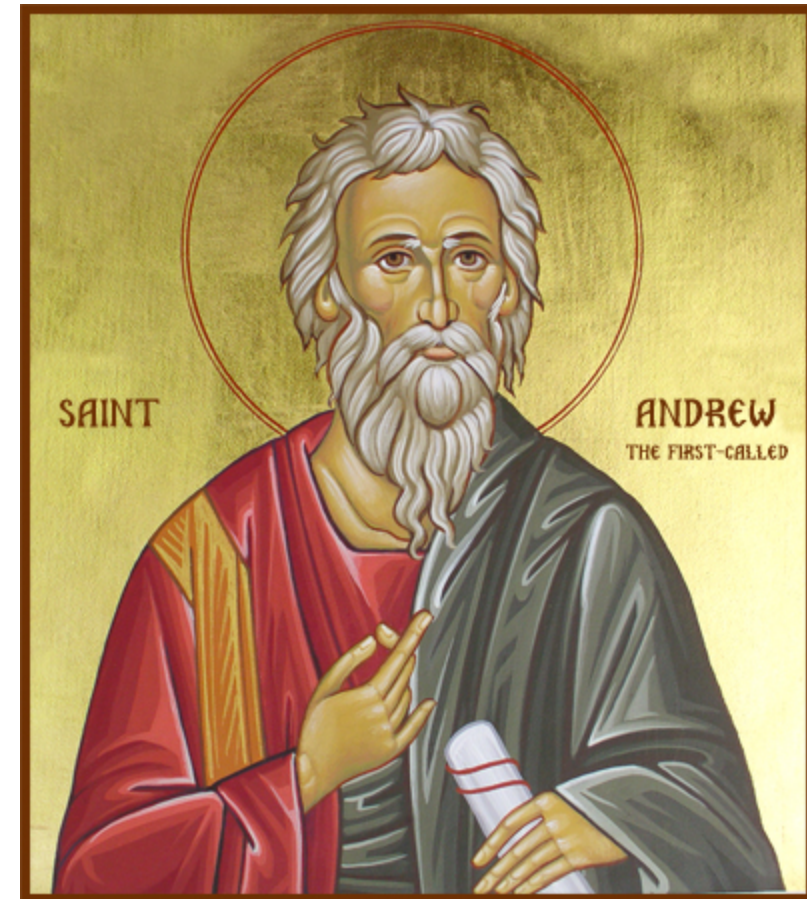
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND POT-LUCK SUPPER On Friday, December 11, we will have our 4th Annual Tree Lighting and Lenten Pot-Luck Supper beginning at 6:30 a.m. The entire community is invited to celebrate this special evening. Our choir will lead us in song opening our festive season. The supper entrée will be provided. Families A to L are asked to bring salads; Families M to S are asked to bring desserts; and Families T through Z are asked to bring beverages. Christmas caroling will begin in Church followed by the tree lighting. Please RSVP to George Karayianis at 301-299-6838. (gk6skcna@yahoo.com) Even if you don’t RSVP you are most welcome to join us!

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2009, in Founders’ Hall from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM. We will fill nine (9) vacancies for the period of January 2010 through December 2011. A letter with more detailed information has been mailed to all parishioners.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

NOVEMBER 29, 2009



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30
FEAST OF SAINT ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED**

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE

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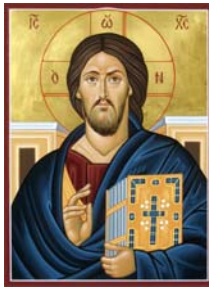
Proistamenos: Rev. Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas

Email: FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

Rev. Fr. George Khitiri

Email: FrGeorge@stgeorge.org

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides, Emeritus



Today's Gospel passage confronts us with one of those hard questions in Orthodox faith: **How much am I willing to give Jesus?** The rich man tells Jesus that he has kept the commandments, honored his father and mother, and lived a basically good life. Jesus tells him there is one more thing you must do if you are to be my disciple: go sell all that you have, give it to the poor, then come follow me. The Gospel tells us the man went away sad because he was of great wealth. The message is less about money on one level than about how seriously we take discipleship. How far are we willing to go to follow Christ? What is that one thing we hold back from Him — our lifestyle, our material goods, our money, our habits, the comfort of living an unexamined life? What does Jesus ask US to give him and what is OUR response? If we are holding back, if we are hanging tightly on to something that keeps us from FULLY living out our Orthodox Christian faith, if there is something or someone who is between us and Christ — what are we called to do? It may be personal, a moral failure, laziness in changing our lives, the complacency of the culture around us — no matter what it is, Jesus is wants it from us. But he leaves us to freely make that choice. Discipleship is not forced. The question today for each one of us is: what answer will you make to Jesus? How fully will YOU live your Orthodox faith?



EPISTLE Ephesians 4:1-7

BRETHREN, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

TODAY'S READER: MANOLI ANAGNOSTIADES

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."

NOVEMBER 30 IS THE FEAST OF ST. ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED ORTHROS AT 8:30 A.M. DIVINE LITURGY AT 9:30 A.M.

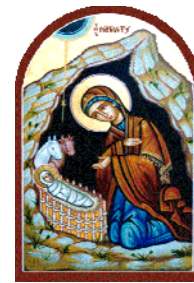
APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANDREW

As first of the Apostles to be called, O Andrew, brother of him (Peter) who was foremost, beseech the Master of all to grant the world peace and our souls great mercy.



KONTAKION OF ST. ANDREW

Let us praise the namesake of bravery, the divinely eloquent and first to be called of the Disciples of Christ, the kinsman of Peter. As he called out to him in days of old, so now he calls to us, "Come, we have found Him for whom we yearned."



PREPARING FOR THE NATIVITY: FINDING JOY IN OUR FAITH

One of the most devastating accusations that can be made against Christians is that they have no joy. Joyless Christians are a contradiction in terms. People who are bitter, complaining, condemning, accusing, dissatisfied and depressed are certainly not Christians. They can only be people whose life is untouched by grace, people whose existence is confined to the suffocating limitations of "this world" whose "ruler" is the devil and whose "form... is passing away" (Jn 12:31; 1 Cor 7:31). They cannot possibly be those who belong to Christ and the kingdom of God. For Christians by definition have Christ's "joy fulfilled in themselves" (Jn 17:13). They are people whose joy, which no one can take away, is literally full and complete (Jn 15:11; 16:22, 24). In his famous book *For the Life of the World*, Father Alexander Schmemmann speaks about the joy of Christians. "From its very beginning," he says: "Christianity has been the proclamation of joy, of the only possible joy on earth. It rendered impossible all the joy we usually think of as possible. But within this impossibility, at the very bottom of this darkness, it announced and conveyed a new all-embracing joy, and with this joy it transformed the End into a Beginning. Without the proclamation of this joy, Christianity is incomprehensible. It is only as joy that the Church was victorious in the world, and it lost the world when it lost that joy, and ceased to be a credible witness to it. Of all the accusations against Christians, the most terrible one was uttered by Nietzsche when he said that Christians had no joy. Father Alexander goes on to say that before Christians can do anything else with all of their "programs and missions, projects and techniques," they "must recover the meaning of this great joy." he says that joy "is not something one can define or analyze. One enters into joy. 'Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord' (Mt 25:21)." And one enters into this joy

this exceeding great joy, he insists, only by entering into the liturgical, eucharistic life of the Church herself. here, and only here, as in the celebration of the Nativity of Christ and His Epiphany in the world, can a person partake of that joyful reality for which the world itself was created in the beginning.

MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Kostas (6 Years) and Christina (2 Years) Vellios**, requested by Christos and Yiota Vellios, and Lakis and Yioulla Vellios and his grandchildren. May the Lord make his memory eternal!



A PRAYER SAID DURING THE NATIVITY FAST

O God, our fasting and prayers are imperfect because we are weak. However, graciously accept them because we are created in Your image and are Your handiwork. If You were compassionate to send Your only begotten Son to be incarnate, You are indeed gracious to forgive our imperfections and absolve our sins. Before the great ocean of Your compassion, our sins are like a drop of mud. O God, make us worthy to receive Your compassion and to be forgiven that we may praise and glorify You along with the angels on the great feast of the Nativity of Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. May we be granted to witness the miracle together with the shepherds and to discern Your love for us. All glory, honor and worship are your, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

“GOD WAS MADE MAN SO THAT MAN MIGHT BECOME GOD.”

SAINT ATHANASIUS THE GREAT
(De Incarnatione, 54:3)

PRAYER LIST: Antonia “Nitsa” Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaivos, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Joseph Saxton, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Georgia Loukas, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Thomas Jenkins, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Artie Constantinides, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Lt. Mikael Johnson, Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy.