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Bulletin for Sunday, October 16, 2022

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Fourth Mode. Daniel 3.26,27.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15.

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those

who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Gospel Reading

**Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council
The Reading is from Luke 8:5-15**

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares

and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

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 kingdom! * Glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind!"

Apolytikion for Sun. of the 7th Ecumenical Council in the Eighth Mode

Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You

Apolytikia for the Church in the First Mode

Save O Lord, Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by your cross protecting your common wealth.

Tou Stavrou' Sou ton ti'pon en ourano' theasa'menos ke os o Pa'vlos tin kli'sin ouk ex anthro'pon dexa'menos, o en vasilev'sin Apo'stolos Sou Ki'rie vasile'vousan po'lin ti hiri' Sou pare'theto, in peri'soze dia pantos' en iri'ni, presvi'es tis Theoto'kou mo'ne philan'thrope.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Mode

O Protection of Christians that never fails, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.

News and Announcements

Parish News:

This Sunday we will welcome Michael Davis to the Orthodox Faith. This will be at 9:00 a.m. in lieu of Orthos. Diana Dehelean will be his sponsor.

The Philoptochos Society will pass a special tray on Sunday, October 16 for Hurricane Ian victims. Please note that checks should be payable to Philoptochos. We will write one check payable to the Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos.

We had a tremendous turnout this week and have finished the koulourakia. Emails have gone out to the community and flyers are available in the church and parish hall. We are taking orders now! If you want to make a donation to support the sale, we are still in need of aluminum foil cups. There will be no baking next week.

Challenge to Payoff Parish Hall Renovation Debt By Year-End As some of you think about donations and tax deductions for 2022, we are asking Parishioners to help us retire the Parish Hall renovation loan. Please note if you make a contribution it should be in addition to your pledge or commitment to the church to support our annual operating budget. As we approach the end of 2022, please email the office or let our Treasurer, Joe Moquin, know if you have any questions about your pledge commitment to date.

Based upon a construction budget of approximately \$234,000, we raised funds and originally borrowed \$100,000 in the Spring of 2020, which was reduced to \$65,000 in June, 2021. Principal payments have been accelerated, in addition to monthly payments. The current balance is approximately \$20,000 and, based upon our payment amortization schedule, the balance should be \$16,500 by the end of December.

You may recall our last General Assembly, when we shared plans to retire this debt by year-end. While we have reserves sufficient to retire the balance, our preference is to retain our savings

if possible. Economic and inflationary trends are unpredictable. Please consider making a charitable, tax deductible contribution to help us meet this challenge.

Many thanks and blessings. Your financial support has enabled the Church to manage and substantially reduce this debt in a relatively short period of time. Many have contributed, led by the generosity of the Kattos family and others.

Please consider supporting this "last challenge" to payoff the loan this year. Checks can be made payable to Holy Cross GOC, and notate Parish Hall loan.

Your Parish Council

Mark Your Calendars!

October 13-15th - Greek Food Festival Holy Trinity Holy Cross Birmingham, AL

October 18-21 - Fr. Timothy will attend the Metropolis Clergy Retreat

October 22nd - 10:30 a.m. Parish Hall - Philoptochos brunch meeting

November 18th-20th - Young Adult Fall Retreat at the Diakonia Center

December 27-30 Winter Youth Rally for teenagers in the Atlanta Metroplis, Atlanta, GA

January 13-16th 2023 Hellenic Dance Festival, Atlanta, GA

June 9-11 2023 National St. John Crystostom Oratorical Festival, New Jerseyd

Philoptochos News

October: Philoptochos will provide a breakfast for Rose of Sharon. Please contact Phyllis Trachiotis to see how you can help.

October: Manna House is collecting gently used purses and scarves. See Margaret Watson for details.

November: Marina Brooks will collect food items and household goods for Share House. Share House provides assistance to residence in the Laceys Spring area.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, October 22, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - Brunch and General Meeting

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 2-4 p.m. - Christmas Tea at the home of Chris Kattos (for the benefit of Hope Place)

Prayer List:

If you know anyone who is sick, in the hospital, nursing home, rehab center, or shut in, and needs a visit from Father Timothy, please let him know.

In our prayers: Nathan Sterrett, Ray Hale, Constance Kersch, James Likis (father of Angela Leak), Dimocho Dimov (father of Gergana), George Gray, Matthew Stoval, Debbie Tsahakis, Maria Diminova, Pavlos Honderich, David Shular, Vickie Kendall.

Father Timothy is available to meet with you at the Church office, discussing any questions or just for fellowship. You can contact him by text at 706-627-9257 or by email at dr.cremeens@ggsm.us

Saints and Feasts



October 16

Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we chant the Service to the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, which gathered in Nicaea in

787 under the holy Patriarch Tarasius and during the reign of the Empress Irene and her son, Constantine Porphyrogenitus, to refute the Iconoclast heresy, which had received imperial support beginning with the Edict issued in 726 by Emperor Leo the Isaurian. Many of the holy Fathers who condemned Iconoclasm at this holy Council later died as Confessors and Martyrs for the holy Icons during the second assault of Iconoclasm in the ninth

century, especially during the reigns of Leo the Armenian and Theophilus.

Wisdom of the Fathers

When you see life's pleasures, beware that they might not distract you, for they conceal death's snares. Likewise a fisherman casts not his hook to no purpose. As bait for his hook, the enemy uses the delusion of sensuality to arouse desire, that he might thereby catch men's souls and subject them to himself. A soul which has been caught to serve the enemy's will then serves as a snare for other souls, for it conceals the grief of sin with its apparent delight.

St. Ephraim the Syrian

A Spiritual Psalter no 43, pg. 74, 4th century

Since there are certain people who find great fault with us for adoring and honoring both the image of the Savior and that of our Lady, as well as those of the rest of the saints and servants of Christ, let them hear how from the beginning God made man to His own image. For what reason, then, do we adore one another, except because we have been made to the image of God? As the inspired Basil, who is deeply learned in theology, says: "the honor paid to the image conveys to the original.," and the original is the thing imaged from which the copy is made.

St. John of Damascus

The Orthodox Faith, 4.16. Catholic University of America Press in Washington D.C. Translated by Frederic H. Chase, Jr. volume 37, page 370., 8th Century