



Holy Cross-Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

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Bulletin for Sunday, February 11, 2024

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Third Mode. Psalm 46.6,1.

Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

Verse: Clap your hands, all you nations.

**The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the
Corinthians 6:1-10.**

Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor,

yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Reading

16th Sunday of Matthew

The Reading is from Matthew 25:14-30

The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have

been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'" 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 Third Mode

Let the heavens rejoice; let the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He trampled down death by death and became the firstborn of the dead. From the depths of Hades, He delivered us and granted to the world great mercy.

Apolytikion for Hieromartyr Blaise in the Fourth Mode

As a sharer of the ways and a successor to the throne of the Apostles, O inspired of God, thou foundest discipline to be a means of ascent to divine vision. Wherefore, having rightly divided the word of truth, thou didst also contest for the Faith even unto blood, O Hieromartyr Blaise. Intercede with Christ our God that our souls be saved.

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.

Services and Events

Parish Calendar

February 11 to February 25, 2024

Sunday, February 11

9:00AM Orthros

10:00AM Divine Liturgy with Father Paul

Wednesday, February 14

6:30PM Readers' Vespers

Thursday, February 15

6:30PM Catechism Class via ZOOM

Saturday, February 17

5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 18

9:00AM Orthros

10:00AM Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, February 21

6:30PM Vespers

7:00PM Orthodox Study

Thursday, February 22

7:00AM Mens Fellowship

10:15AM Bible Study

6:30PM Catechism Class

Saturday, February 24

5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, February 25

9:00AM Orthros

10:00AM Divine Liturgy

News and Announcements

Parish News:

Please welcome Father Paul this Sunday. He will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy for our Parish.

Souper Sunday- Philoptochos, in conjunction with our youth ministry, will be collecting canned food and non-perishable food items for the hungry in North Alabama on February 11th, 2023. Please bring your canned good and non-perishable food items for the needy. All children participating in Scouts are encourage to wear their uniforms and help with the collection.

We welcome Martin Wallace, our newest Catechumen.

Sunday March 17th is the last day to bless houses, please see attached form. There are also forms in the Parish Hall.

Mark Your Calendars!

February 10th 3:30 in the Parish Hall- Prosforo Baking Class with Rachel Royce

March 9th - International Night 6:00 in the Parish Hall

March 17th is the last day to bless houses, please see attached form.

March 16th - Saturday of Souls

March 17th - Last day to receive a house blessing

Prayer List:

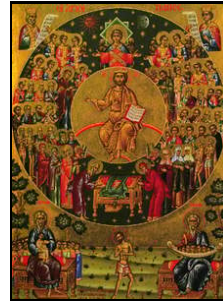
If you know anyone who is sick, in the hospital, nursing home, rehab center, or shut in, and needs a visit from Father Timothy, please let him know.

In our prayers: Pam and Tom Amlin (sister and brother-in-law of Fr. Timothy), Dee and Harvey Mixon, Rick Pappas, Matthew (nephew of Staci Jones), Jackie Burbules, Doug "Rosey" Rosenburg, Eugene and Joan (parents of Laura Samaras), Nathan Sterrett, Ray Hale, Constance Kersch, James Likis (father of Angela Leak), George Gray, Maria Diminova,

Pavlos Honderich, David Shular.

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

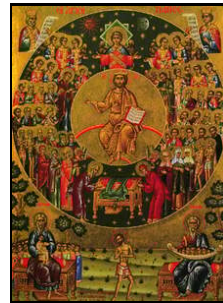
Saints and Feasts



February 13

Symeon the Myrrhbearer of Serbia

Saint Symeon (in the world, the ruler Stephen Nemanja), after capably governing Serbia in piety, wisdom, and justice for many years during the second half of the twelfth century, renounced all rule and earthly glory to become a monk, to struggle in fasting and prayer. Thereafter he went to the Holy Mountain Athos where, together with his son Saint Sabbas (see Jan. 14), he founded the Monastery of Hilandar. After his death, a fragrant and healing myrrh came forth from his holy relics. When Stephen Nemanja put on the monastic habit with the name of Symeon, his wife Anna followed his example, receiving the monastic name of Anastasia; she is commemorated as a Saint on June 21.



February 13

Martinianos the Righteous

Saint Martinian, who was from Caesarea of Palestine, flourished about the beginning of the fifth century. He struggled in the wilderness from his youth. After he had passed twenty-five years in asceticism, the devil brought a temptation upon him through a harlot, who when she heard the Saint praised for his virtue, determined to try his virtue, or rather, to undo it. Coming to his cell by night as it rained, and saying she had lost her way, she begged with pitiful cries to be admitted in for the night, lest she fall prey to wild beasts. Moved with compassion, and not wishing to be guilty of her death should anything befall her, he allowed her to enter. When she began to seduce him, and the fire of desire began to burn in his heart, he kindled a fire and stepped into

it, burning his body, but saving his soul from the fire of Gehenna. And she, brought to her senses by this, repented, and, following his counsel, went to Bethlehem to a certain virgin named Paula, with whom she lived in fasting and prayer; before her death, she was deemed worthy of the gift of wonder-working. Saint Martinian, when he recovered from the burning, resolved to go to some more solitary place, and took a ship to a certain island, where he struggled in solitude for a number of years. Then a young maiden who had suffered a shipwreck came ashore on his island. Not wishing to fall into temptation again, he departed, and passed his remaining time as a wanderer, coming to the end of his life in Athens.

Wisdom of the Fathers

There is an old saying: 'Excesses meet.' Too much fasting and too much eating come to the same end. Keeping too long a vigil brings the same disastrous cost as ... sluggishness... Too much self-denial brings weakness and induces the same condition as carelessness. Often I have seen men who would not be snared by gluttony fall, nevertheless, through immoderate fasting and tumble in weakness into the very urge which they had overcome. Unmeasured vigils and foolish denial of rest overcame those whom sleep could not overcome. Therefore, 'fortified to right and to left in the armor of justice,' as the apostle says (2 Cor. 6:7), life must be lived with due measure and, with discernment for a guide, the road must be traveled between the two kinds of excess so that in the end we may not allow ourselves to be diverted from the pathway of restraint which has been laid down for us nor fall through dangerous carelessness into the urgings of gluttony and self-indulgence.

St. John Cassian

Conferences, Conference Two: On Discernment no. 16; Paulist Press pg. 76, 5th century