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Sunday, November 23rd, 2014

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

9th Sunday of Luke

# THANK GOD for YOU

Thank God for you, good friend of mine,  
Seldom is friendship such as thine;  
How very much I wish to be  
As helpful as you've been to me.  
Thank God for you.

When I recall from time to time  
How you inspired this heart of mine,  
I find myself inclined to pray,  
"God bless my friend this very day."  
Thank God for you.

Of many prayer requests, one thou art  
On whom I ask God to impart  
Rich blessings from His storehouse rare,  
And grant to you His gracious care.  
Thank God for you.

So often at the throne of grace,  
There comes a picture of your face,  
And then instinctively I pray  
That God may guide you all the way.  
Thank God for you.

Some day I hope with you to stand  
Before the throne at God's right hand,  
And say to you at journey's end,  
You have been to me a faithful friend.  
Thank God for you.

## **HOLY COMMUNION REMINDER— Please follow Ushers Instructions**

We welcome those visiting with us today and ask that only Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Women are kindly asked to remove their lipstick prior to receiving Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread from the Priest at the end of the Divine Liturgy and to join us for fellowship in our hall. We ask that everyone please dress appropriately for church.

**Visitors: we ask that you fill out a yellow welcome card & give it to an usher.**

## COMING UP...

- ♦ *Ladies Philoptochos:*  
**TODAY Following Liturgy Bake Sale**
- ♦ **GOYA: TODAY following Liturgy Shopping for Food Bank**
- ♦ *Ladies Philoptochos:*  
**Mon. Nov. 24th 10:30AM General Meeting**
- ♦ **NO Bible Study: Mon. Nov. 24th**
- ♦ **Vespers at St. Katherine, Naples Mon. Nov. 24th 6PM**
- ♦ **St. Katherine: Tues. Nov. 25th Orthos 9AM Divine Lit. 10AM**
- ♦ **HAPPY THANKSGIVING: Thurs. Nov. 27th OFFICE CLOSED**
- ♦ **OFFICE CLOSED: Fri. Nov. 28th**
- ♦ **St. Nicholas: Sat. Dec. 6th Orthos 9AM Divine Lit. 10AM**

### EPISTLE READING

#### **St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22**

BRETHREN, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

### GOSPEL READING

#### **The Gospel of Luke 12:16-21**

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION: HYMNS AND WHERE THEY CAN BE FOUND

Hymns of Divine Liturgy insert can be found in the pews to allow you to follow along. The hymns in the bulletin will be the variable ones specific to that week or change from the common hymns that you will find in the insert located in the pews.

#### Resurrectional Apolytikion

Thou hath destroyed Death by Thy Cross;  
Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, (Page 46)

#### Apolytikion for the Feast

Today is the prelude of God's good pleasure, and the proclamation of humanity's salvation. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and in herself she announces Christ to all. Let us, then, with a great voice cry aloud to her: "Rejoice, you are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

Σήμερον τῆς εὐδοκίας Θεοῦ τὸ προοίμιον, καὶ τῆς τῶν ἀνθρώπων σωτηρίας ἢ προκήρυξις. Ἐν Ναῶ τοῦ Θεοῦ τρανῶς ἡ Παρθένος δείκνυται, καὶ τὸν Χριστὸν τοῖς πᾶσι προκαταγγέλλεται. Αὐτῇ καὶ ἡμεῖς μεγαλοφώνως

βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε τῆς οἰκονομίας τοῦ Κτίστου ἢ ἐκπλήρωσις.

#### Kontakion

The very purest abode of the Savior, the most priceless Bridal Chamber and Virgin, the most sacred treasury of the glory of God, today is led inside of, the house of the Lord, bringing in the grace with her, of Holy Spirit. She is the one God's Angel's sing in praise: She is in truth, a tabernacle heavenly.

Ὁ καθαρῶτατος ναὸς τοῦ Σωτῆρος, ἡ πολυτίμητος παστάς καὶ Παρθένος, τό ιερὸν θησαύρισμα τῆς δόξης τοῦ Θεοῦ, σήμερον εἰσάγεται, ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ Κυρίου, τὴν χάριν σθνεισάγουσα, τὴν ἐν Πνεύματι Θείῳ. Ἦν ἀνυμνοῦσιν Ἄγγελοι Θεοῦ. Αὕτη ὑπάρχει, σκηνὴ ἐπουράνιος.

### 2ND TRAY CONTRIBUTIONS

Our Church passes 2 offering trays. The 1st goes towards our Operating Budget, the 2nd tray will continue for the NEW Education Building Fund until paid in Full. In order to receive credit for your donation, for income tax purposes, make sure to put your cash donation in an envelope with your name on it or pay by check.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are 11 months into 2014. Please pray and offer your time and talent sheet. Submit your pledge card or ask an usher for a new one. We are currently at \$136,882 and our goal is \$200,000 for 2014!

Everyone please pledge!

### Give Thanks at Liturgy

Thanksgiving Day in America annually falls on the final Thursday of November. Thanksgiving Day in the Orthodox Church falls on every day that the Divine Liturgy is celebrated. That this is so is attested to by one of the names of the Liturgy; namely, the Service of Eucharist. Eucharist comes from the Greek word "eucharistia" which translated is "thanksgiving."

Giving thanks to God on Thanksgiving Day and on days of the Liturgy it is not an option. It is a prerogative mandated by God Himself. This mandate finds expression in Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonian Christians. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul says "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of Christ Jesus in you." Though a prerogative, I have discovered that one of the things many Orthodox Christians (not all) fail to do at Divine Liturgy is to give thanks. It's sad enough when some choose to whisper, talk, laugh and greet people while they are coming up to receive the Sacrament of Communion, also called the Sacrament of Eucharist. But it is doubly sad when many of these same people and others return to their pews, or worse yet, leave the church early to go to home or to coffee hour, without giving thanks to God.

In a life-long attempt to preclude such sadness from enveloping my own life at Liturgy, I was taught many years ago by parents, Sunday School teachers and priests on the importance of prayerfully giving thanks after Communion. What were the lessons I was taught? They were simple ones! I share them with you.

1. Stay in church after Communion has been offered.
2. Read the prayers of Thanksgiving that are found in the red Liturgical books that are in the pews.
3. Continue to pray, sing and worship God until Liturgy is dismissed.
4. Read Luke 17:11-19

*"Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was*

*that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." (Luke 17 :11-19)*

At Liturgy, let us not be like unto the nine who are cleansed but fail to give thanks. Instead, let us be like the foreigner who returned to give glory to God and thanksgiving, knowing that by so doing we are acting in a way God would have us act. By so doing we will render honor, glory and worship to our Heavenly Father, together with His beloved Son and the All-Holy Spirit, not only on Thanksgiving Day, but on every day the Divine Liturgy is celebrated.

*Fr. Paul Costopoulos*

### THE CHRISTMAS (NATIVITY) FAST

Begins every year on November 15th. Our preparation for celebrating the Birth (Nativity) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is practiced around the world. This is a very special time for us, as well as a time of great struggle. It becomes a struggle because we see our non Orthodox friends celebrating in the totally opposite way in which we do. We can overcome this struggle, if we try. We Orthodox are called upon to PREPARE ourselves by practicing the spiritual exercises prescribed by the Faith. They are **prayer, reading the Holy Scriptures and other Spiritual books, participating in Holy Confession and Holy Communion, increasing our giving of our Time, Talents and Treasures, fasting from certain foods.** We encourage you and your family to KEEP THE FAITH and THE FAST, stand firm, and look to your reward in the Kingdom of Heaven. If you wish to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Confession, please contact Fr. Dean and make an appointment. Enjoy the blessed Holy Season by following the teachings of our Orthodox Faith!

### SAINTS COMMEMORATED TODAY, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23rd

- Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium
- Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum
- Ischyron, Bishop of Egypt

## MEMORIAL

Today we offer a 40 day Memorial for the servant of God, Fr. Nick Spirakis, sponsored by Joan & John Simon, Tom & Marlene Haley and Marianthi Kazakos. May his memory be eternal.

Today we offer a 15 year Memorial for the servant of God, James Karras and a 12 year Memorial for the servant of God, Mary Karras, the parents of Nick Karras and Catherine Rubinski. May their memories be eternal.

## LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Coffee Hours hostesses for the month of NOVEMBER are Maria Mourgis, Fran Drakos & Ginny Amend. Thanks to them, and please give them a helping hand by cleaning off your table and dispensing of trash. This is greatly appreciated.

### TODAY - Following Liturgy - Bake Sale

**Mon. Nov. 24th** - General Meeting 10:30 AM in the Fr. Kontinos Community Center - all members are welcome, please try to attend.

**Thurs. Nov. 27th**—HAPPY THANKSGIVING

**Sat. Dec. 6th** Silver Tea - See Pam Strikes for Tickets. Cost \$25 per person.

**Mon. Dec. 15th** Christmas Luncheon at University Grill at **11:30 AM**. Spouses are welcome. Seating is limited. See Carol Palatine for reservations and choosing your meal. Cost of Luncheon is \$25.00 per person tax and tip included. Limited seating.

*Also, don't forget to bring an unwrapped new toy for the children of Guardian at Lightem. Boys or Girls toys 10 years and under. Pat Kemp will be collecting toys for these children.*

## HELLENIC-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB:

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Members only. December 9th, 5:30 p.m. Marker 92 at Tarpon Point, Cape Coral. Reservations required. \$18 per person. Entrée choices: Chicken, Salmon or Seasoned Steak. Included are soup/salad, veggie, potato/rice and dessert. See Phyllis Mino for reservations. Pre-payment for reservations required.

**SINGING CHRISTMAS TREES:** A day trip to Orlando area to enjoy this wonderful concert is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th. Departure from the church parking lot, and will stop along the way for a meal before curtain time - 3:00 p.m. Departure time will be announced. \$33 per person for concert admission and transportation. Please see Phyllis Mino for more information and reservations. Payment is now due.

## GOYA

PAINT BALL AT Extreme Rage, Sunday Nov. 23rd after Pageant Practice and Greek dance meeting with Christina Generales, Katerina Hernandez, Gabby Kubiak. Come challenge FR. Dean.

## 2014 SILVER TEA

The 2014 "Silver Tea" is fast approaching. We are in need of NEW donation items. Please contact Lanette Howard at 239.470.4100 or Marianthi Kazakos at 239. 275.5401.

## \$AY YES TO THE FEST!

Watch your mail for a chance to play. Rewards are priceless.

## GREEK DANCE

First Parent/Dancer Meeting following church TODAY

### Topics;

\$50 enrollment fee to include dancer tee shirt & costume cleaning fees

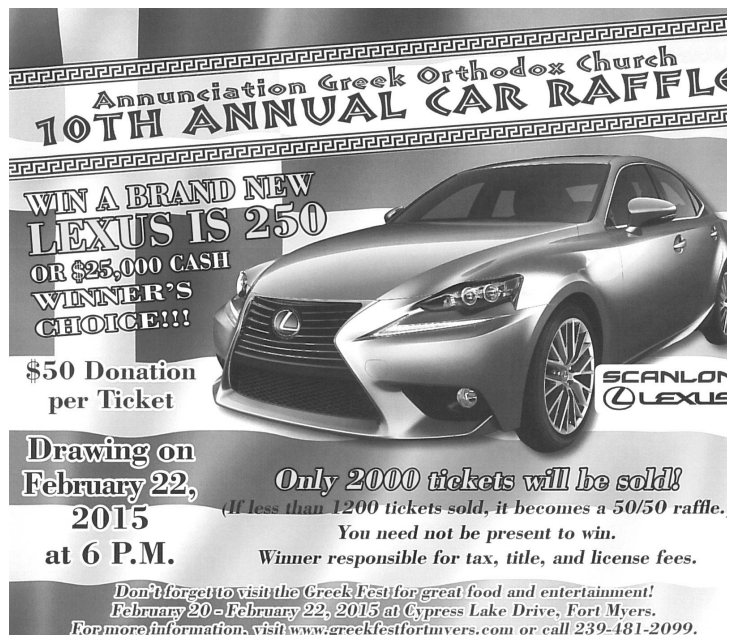
Dance director; Georgia Kline, fellow instructors; Cassandra DiStefano, Alaina Todd & Kalianna Karras (*when available*).

**Name of Troupe:** HARA TIS ELLADAS - JOY OF GREECE

**Practice Times;** First practice Monday, 11/24

Agape "Love" (preK - Grade 2). Sun. after church 45-60 min.  
Kardia "Heart" (Grades 3-6). Monday & Thursday 5:30-6:30  
Thiname "Strength" (Grades 7-12). Mon. & Thurs. 6:30-8:00

**Please note:** After the New Year all groups will practice on Sundays additionally. You will receive notifications or modifications if any occur in the future.



Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church  
**10TH ANNUAL CAR RAFFLE**

WIN A BRAND NEW  
**LEXUS IS 250**  
OR \$25,000 CASH  
WINNER'S CHOICE!!!

\$50 Donation  
per Ticket

Drawing on  
**February 22,**  
**2015**  
**at 6 P.M.**

**Only 2000 tickets will be sold!**  
*(If less than 1200 tickets sold, it becomes a 50/50 raffle.)*  
You need not be present to win.  
Winner responsible for tax, title, and license fees.

Don't forget to visit the Greek Fest for great food and entertainment!  
February 20 - February 22, 2015 at Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers.  
For more information, visit [www.greekfestfortmyers.com](http://www.greekfestfortmyers.com) or call 239-481-2099.

## **Praying for You**

We offer prayers for health and the needs for the servants of God for Maria Mourgis, Effie Kapetan, Macy Magas, Kostantia Tsolakakis, Eugenia Loughney, Terry Kalogridis, Louis Eftim, Sophia Katsaris, Doug and Tina Kucera, Mary Spiropoulos, Lanette Howard, Spero Stergiotis, Jonathan Finley, Michael and Ann Conidaros, John Kontinos & Penelope Kontinos.

*Please notify the office if there is someone that needs to be added to the prayer list. 239-481-2099*

