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REV. FR. DEAN NASTOS, PROISTAMENOS

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Sunday, January 25th, 2015

## Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church 15th Sunday of Luke

### A LESSON FROM THE GULLS:

Some time ago in the Reader's Digest there was a short article about a group of sea gulls that was starving to death in St. Augustine. They were not starving because of a food shortage but because they had forgotten how to fish. For years they had depended on the shrimp fleet operating out of the harbor to toss them scraps from the nets. When the shrimp fleet moved, they began to starve. They had lost their natural ability to fish because they had not been using it.

It is natural for us to worship God. But if this desire is not exercised, it will become calloused and we will become insensitive. Satan will provide enough scraps to allure you and ease the conscience. But, as with these gulls, there will be a day of reckoning, when the scraps of this world will be taken away. Let us serve, worship and minister now!

### **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 Society:*  
**Mon. Jan. 26th**  
GENERAL MEETING
- ♦ Three Hierarchs  
**Fri. Jan. 30th**  
**Orthos 9AM**  
**Div. Lit. 10AM**
- ♦ GODPARENT SUNDAY:  
**Sun. Feb. 1st**
- ♦ **GOYA: Sun. Feb. 1st**  
**following Div. Lit.**  
MEETING
- ♦ Tridion Begins:  
**Mon. Feb. 2nd**
- ♦ PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD  
**Mon. Feb. 2nd**  
**Orthos 9AM**  
**Div. Lit. 10AM**
- ♦ *Hellenic-American Social Club: Thurs.*  
**Feb. 5th 11:30-3PM**  
OUR GREEK PICNIC
- ♦ *Ladies Philoptochos Society:*  
**Mon. Feb. 9th**  
BOARD MEETING
- ♦ St. Haralambos  
**Tues. Feb. 10th**  
**Orthos 9AM**  
**Divine Lit. 10AM**
- ♦ *Hellenic-American:*  
**Tues. Feb. 10th 7PM**  
MEETING

## 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.

### EPISTLE READING

#### **St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2**

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

### GOSPEL READING

#### **The Gospel of Luke 19:1-10**

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named

### Resurrectional Apolytikion

Thou didst descend from on High,  
Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ εὐσπλαγχνος, Δυνάμεις (Page 46).

πολέμοις το πολίτευμα, και κραταίωσον βασιλείς, ους ηγάπησας, ο μόνος φιλόανθρωπος.

### Kontakion

You who sanctified by your birth a virgin womb, and blessed the hands of Symeon as was appropriate, did come, indeed, O Christ our God, and saved us all. But bring peace to the commonwealth in the time of war, and secure in strength the rulers you truly loved, as the only one who love mankind.

Ο μήτραν παρθενικήν αγιάσας τω τόκω σου, και χείρας του Συμεών ευλογήσας, ως έπρεπε, προφθάσας και νυν, έσωσας ημάς, Χριστέ ο Θεός. Αλλ' ειρήνευσον εν

## SAINTS COMMEMORATED

### TODAY, SUNDAY JANUARY 25th

- Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople
- The Synaxis of the New Martyrs of Russia

### 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.

## The Relation between Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit: The Persons of the Trinity (Part II)

*(This is the second article in a series that will discuss this relation particularly as it relates to the Pauline Epistles)*

The consideration of those Scriptures which name the Holy Spirit conjointly with the Father and Son leads to the same conclusion. The command is given to baptize in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Father and Son are Persons and the same must be true of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus did not command His disciples to baptize in the Name of two persons and an abstract influence. The inspired benediction, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14), makes it equally clear that just as the Father is a Person and the Son a Person, so also is the Holy Spirit a Person. Romans 8:27 and 34 demonstrate the fact that two persons intercede for us which is consistent with the fact that we have two Advocates (John 14:16; Romans 8:26). Jesus and the Holy Spirit are both involved in various activities such as raising the dead (Romans 8:9-11), dwelling in the believer (2 Corinthians 13:5; Colossians 1:27), interceding for the believer (Romans 8:26; Hebrews 7:25), and sanctifying believers (Ephesians 5:26; 1 Peter 1:2). These works prove that the two persons are both God, but not that Jesus is the Holy Spirit.

And God, the true God, is the God we see in Jesus of Nazareth, the Lord, and in the Spirit, which He sends. Paul wrote that if you want to know who the real God is, as opposed to the gods of paganism, you must think in terms of the God who, to fulfill His plan to rescue the

world, sent first his Son and then the Spirit of His Son (Galatians 4:4-7). Although the church's official 'Doctrine of the Trinity' was not fully formulated for another three or four centuries, Paul speaks of the Trinity in his epistles.

The Spirit: (1) **is eternal**, "*how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God*" (Hebrews 9:14); (2) **gives new life**, "*for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death*" (Romans 8:2); (3) **has God's power and authority**, "*and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead*" (Romans 1:4); (4) **and reveals divine truth**, "*eye has not seen, nor ear heard... the things which God has prepared for those who love Him...but God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, and the deep things of God. The thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God*" (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

The God who has revealed Himself in this way is the God who "sent forth His Son" (Galatians 4:4) and then "sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts" (4:6). In these passages we have, within thirty years of Jesus' death, a developing Christology. The logic of the passage is that the Galatians must either learn to know the one true God in terms of distinct persons and in terms of Jesus and the Spirit or they will be in effect turning back to the principalities and powers to which they were formerly subject.

*By Deacon John*

*To be Continued...*

# GREEK FEST 2015

Friday, February 20th, Saturday, February 21st & Sunday, February 22nd  
**Please sign up to volunteer ASAP! We need EVERYONES help!!!**

## HELLENIC-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB:

Don't miss our 3rd Annual PANIGIRI – Greek Picnic – on February 5, 11:30 a.m., Lakes Park, Pavilion C-1. Music, dancing, fun and great food including Pastichio, Kabobs, Salad, soft drinks, many sides and yummy desserts. \$12 per person and Children 12 and under – Free. MOST IMPORTANTLY: A major portion of net proceeds are earmarked for our Annunciation GOC new School Building. This will be a very special event that each of us should want to attend, have a fun day and help our church. Please see Pat Kemp or Barbara Dionysopoulos to make your reservation and pre-payment in order to assure that we don't run short of servings.

## DANCE TROUPE

\$50 enrollment fee to include dancer tee shirt & costume cleaning fees. **Dance director; Georgia Kline, 239-898-3138**

**(gpeach725@aol.com) fellow instructor; Alaina Todd.**

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

**Practice Times;** 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:** All groups will practice on Sundays additionally. You will receive notifications or modifications if any occur in the future.

## GODPARENT, GODCHILD SUNDAY

Feb. 1st is Godparent/Godchild Sunday. Pray & Prepare to receive Holy Communion together. Candles will be on sale TODAY, Jan.

25th for the service. See Penny Churchman or Maria Mason in the courtyard following Liturgy.

## RELIGIOUS ED

Students in all Religious Ed Classes OTHER than the Teen Class, will worship in Church at 10am and then go to the Fellowship Hall for Classes from 10:15am until Communion time.

The Teen Class students should begin with worship in Church at 10am until Communion time, and then proceed to the Fellowship Hall after Holy Communion for their classes until 11:30am. This will continue for at least 4 weeks. Please be prompt as to not interrupt valuable class time.

## THE LITTLE BOOKSTORE

Visit our Little Bookstore at the A.G.O.C. You will find icons, prayer ropes, incense, charcoal, Orthodox CD's, key chains, as well as books on the Orthodox Church, theology, prayer, sacraments, catechism, monasticism, and the lives of the saints. We also have children's books, Bibles & Lenten cookbooks. There is something to please everyone!!!

## 10th ANNUAL CAR RAFFLE 2015



Don't forget to Win Big by making your donation for a \$50 Car Raffle ticket. 2014 WINNERS pictured here with Stella Karras, Chairwoman and Rev. Constantine Nastos. It could be U in this picture in less than 40 days. Proceeds benefit the Office Complex Building Fund. Get yours in the Church Hall today or see any Parish Council Member.

## DOLLAR \$\$ CASH RAFFLE TICKETS

Spend \$5 Bucks & Test Your Luck!!

\$5 for a book of 6 tickets

**\$\$\$ CASH PRIZES \$\$\$**

\$1000--1st Prize • \$500 -2nd Prize • \$250-3rd & 4th Prizes

**Winners drawn on Feb. 22, at the Festival. Our Mission? Sell out 7,000 like last year. Let's Do This!!**

**Help Sell by Calling John Troutman 239-275-0365 or Tina Kucera 239-980-1520.**

## 2015 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

On Sunday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> the 2015 Parish Council members received their Oath of Office. Following the Divine Liturgy under the supervision of Fr. Dean the members elected the Officers for 2015. We congratulate all of our Parish Council members for offering their Stewardship and pray the Lord will continue to bless them as they serve our Parish for the benefit of all members. The 2015 Officers are:

**President: Mr. Nick Karras**

**Vice-President: Mrs. Maria Mourgis**

**Secretary: Mrs. Heidi Kubiak**

**Treasurer: Mrs. Virginia Headley**

**Asst. Treasurer: Mr. Michael Peceri**



## **Praying for You**

We offer prayers for health and the needs for the servants of God for Kostantia Tsolakakis, Eugenia Loughney, Terry Kalogridis, Louis Eftim, Sophia Katsaris, Doug and Tina Kucera, Jonathan Finley, John Kontinos & Penelope Kontinos.

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