

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

December 15, 2013

Saints Commemorated today: St. Eleutherios the Holy Martyr; Bishop Illyria and his mother, Anthia; and the Martyr Susannah the Deaconess

EPISTLE READING

II Timothy 1:8-18

Brethren, Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me - may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesos.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 14:26-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

ENTRANCE HYMN: 4TH PLAGAL TONE

(Page 46 in "The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom")

Thou dist descend from on High, O Merciful Savior, and dist endure the grave for three days, that Thou mightest free us from anguish. Glory to Thee, O Lord, our Life and our Resurrection.



PARISH COUNCIL

Congratulations to 2014/2015 Parish Council. New members: Esther Arvanitis and Mike Chronopoulos. Returning Members: Panos Arvanitis, Tina Assimos, Bill Giannakakis, Nick Giannakakis, Alex Himonas, Hristos Kirgios, John Madias, George Mighon, Kelly Popyk, Chris Strafford and Mary Jo Tirikos. Thank you to our outgoing members, Tom Limberopoulos and Pete Mattheos for their service and dedication to our parish. May God bless you always.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT/LUNCHEON

The Christmas pageant/luncheon is today following the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the Good Samaritans Cultural Center for a beautiful celebration by our Sunday School students.

ST. ANDREW AND CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation towards the flowers for Saint Andrew Feastday or Christmas, please contact the office. Nativity Icon Frame (\$70). Thank you.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS/HOSTESSES

We are in need of Coffee Hour hosts/hostesses for many Sundays throughout the year. Please take a minute to sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. All parishioners of Saint Andrew are welcome to sign up. Thank you.

FREE WI-FI IS NOW AVAILABLE

Wi-fi is now available. Please see Father George, a Council Member, the church office or Joseph for access information.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Please remember to check the ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR when scheduling activities. They should ***not*** be scheduled during service times. This is disrespectful to God and unacceptable. Thank you.

PROSFORO COMMITTEE

We are in need of Prosforo bakers, please contact the office to sign up!!!

Please note that without the Prosforo, Divine Liturgy cannot be conducted. Recently, we have had several members of this committee that are unable to continue to be a part of the committee. If you would be willing to sign up to make Prosforo twice a year (once every six months), please contact the office or Artemis Hoke. If you are currently a member of the committee and unable to provide it on your scheduled Sunday please contact the office, so that we may make arrangements. Thank you.

Current Members: Maria Angelos, Arlene Batalis, Marina Carlin, Cindy Crawford, Maria Giannakakis, Artemis Hoke, Athina Kamiotis, Anthoula Kanalos, Pres. Elaine, Mary Koucouthakis, Ted Poledor, Penny Poulos, Joan Prathaftakis, Nick Proicou, Rose Rorres, Sigrid Thanos, Mary Jo Tirikos, Neovi Karakatsanis, Ioanna Bilonis and Janice Lampos.

REMINDER FOR PARISHIONERS

There should be NO talking in the Narthex during the Divine Liturgy. (No one should be congregating in the hallways or Fellowship Hall). It is completely disrespectful to God and to the worship service of our Church.

REMINDER FOR PARENTS

The Little Lamb bags, located in the coat room, are available for your child(ren) to use during church service. Please, follow the instructions. Thank you. **Please** keep the numbered books in the correct bags. We also have had a few books destroyed. Let's try to be gentle.

For the convenience of parents with crying children, a "cry room" is located off the Narthex for your use. ATTENTION PARENTS: PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE NOT WANDERING AROUND THE CHURCH DURING SERVICES. THIS IS VERY DISRUPTIVE TO EVERYONE. THANK YOU!

PARKING

PLEASE NOTE: Many people are parking in the 'No Parking' and 'Handicap' parking areas. We have many parishioners who have a legitimate need to park there. Please do not use the handicap spaces unless you have a tag or plate. Please **do not** park in the **NO PARKING AREAS** at all. We appreciate your cooperation in this. Thank you.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Please remember to dress appropriately and modestly for church services. There is no chewing gum, talking or crossing your legs in church. Everyone should arrive on time for the Liturgy. Do not leave trash (bulletins, paper, etc) in the pews. It is considered disrespectful for anyone attending Orthodox Christian services to cross their legs during service, chew gum or come in late. Also women who are planning on taking Communion should not wear lipstick or should remove it before going up for Communion. **TURN OFF CELL PHONES**. Thank you.

A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

People of different religious affiliation or tradition who behave in a respectful manner are always welcome at the liturgical services of our Holy Orthodox Church but **ONLY MEMBERS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH who share a common faith and practice a specific spiritual discipline may participate in the Church's sacraments and receive Holy Communion at the Orthodox Divine Liturgy. The Greek Orthodox Church has a closed communion and no intercommunion**

with any other Christian body. We are blessed by your presence with us and thank you for your understanding. May God bless you always.

A NOTE TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS PLEASE NOTE: The proper preparation for receiving Holy Communion is: 1) prayer; 2) keeping the fast throughout the year (Wednesdays, Fridays, Great Lent, fast of the Holy Apostles, fast of the Dormition and the Christmas Fast, etc); and 3) most important, participating in the Sacrament of Holy Confession and Repentance. **ALSO follow these guidelines as you approach for Holy Communion: Take the red cloth from the person before you and place it under your chin. Say your baptismal name. Open your mouth wide and receive the Holy Spoon in your mouth, lower your lips on the Holy Communion spoon and carefully remove the Holy Eucharist so that there is nothing left. After partaking of the Sacrament blot your lips and hand the red cloth to the person behind you. Receive one piece of antidoron, return to your seat and read the post communion prayer. Lipstick, lip gloss, lip balm, etc, should be removed prior to approaching the chalice. Receiving the precious Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ should not be treated like a fast food service. You should come on time for the Divine Liturgy (that means at the beginning) and not leave until the completion of the service.** *This means that every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. It follows that if anyone eats the Lord’s bread or drinks from his cup in a way that dishonors him, he is guilty of sin against the Lord’s body and blood. So then, everyone should examine himself first, and then eat the bread and drink from the cup. For if he does not recognize the meaning of the Lord’s body when he eats the bread and drinks form the cup, he brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks. That is why many of you are sick and weak, and several have died. If we would examine ourselves first, we would not come under God’s judgment. But we are judged and punished by the Lord, so that we shall not be condemned together with the world. (1 Corinthians 11:26-32).*

At the time of communion, please allow families with infants to approach first, followed by the children and then the adults. Thank you.

The Communion Prayer is located in the Divine Liturgy Books on page 40 (old edition) and 66 (new edition). Everyone is encouraged to participate in the reciting of the Communion Prayer together.

YOUR PRAYERS HELP...

“...I was sick and you visited Me...” St. Matthew 25:36. “Holy Father, Physician of our souls and bodies have mercy, forgive and heal thy servants.” The following brothers and sisters in Christ need your constant prayers and love, *recovering at home or ill at home/hospital:* Mary Verongos (St. Joseph Rehab), and John Magrames (home).

In nursing homes or home bound: Esther Magrames (St. Joseph Nursing home), Mary Manos (home), Bill and Betty Kanalos (Hearth at Juday Creek), Amelia Morris (Miller's Merry Manor, Walkerton), Joan Rekos (Signature), Helen Kaldis, Mary Rudhman (home), and Telesila Yustwan (Home).

Today's **Ushers** are: Andy Manos, Manolis Anagnostou, Terry Karaszewski, Leon Andrews, Bruno Zovich, Nick Giannakakis. If you are not serving in the pangari today, you should join everyone in the Sanctuary. Thank you.

THIS WEEK

Monday, December 16 th	Orthros 9am Vespers 4:30pm
Tuesday, December 17 th	St. Daniel & the Three Holy Youths 9:00 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy Vespers 4:30pm
Wednesday, December 18 th	Paraklesis St. Nektarios 9a Vespers 4:30pm
Friday, December 20 th	Paraklesis to Theotokos 9a at Holy Dormition Chapel Vespers 4:30pm
Saturday, December 21 st	Great Vespers 4:30pm

Sunday, December 22nd

Sunday Before Nativity
9:00 Orthros
10:00 Divine Liturgy

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, December 23rd

Orthros 9am
Vespers 4:30pm

Tuesday, December 24th

Holy Service of the Great Hours 9am
Great Vespers 7pm
Office Closed

Wednesday, December 25th

Holy Nativity
9:00 Orthros
10:00 Divine Liturgy
Office Closed

Friday, December 27th

St. Stephen, First Martyr
9:00 Orthros
10:00 Divine Liturgy
Vespers 4:30pm

Saturday, December 28th

Great Vespers 5pm

Sunday, December 29th

Sunday after Nativity
9:00 Orthros
10:00 Divine Liturgy

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 22, 2014

Apokreatiko Glendi

June 6-8-, 2014

Grecian Festival

June 12-14, 2015

Grecian Festival

2013 Financial Report

Dec 13 Income	Dec 13 Expenses	Monthly Balance	Dec 12 Income	Dec 12 Expenses	Dec 12 Balance
\$8,272.50	\$23,958.58	--\$15,686.08	\$26,949.57	\$38,278.60	--\$11,329.03

YTD Income	YTD Expense	YTD Balance	12 YTD Inc	12 YTD Ex	12 YTD Bal
\$378,355.70	\$381,823.33	--\$3,467.63	\$542,990.24	\$539,704.01	\$3,286.23

Stewardship Report

Dec Pledge Income	Dec Pledge Goal	Difference goal/income	YTD Pledge Inc	YTD Pledge Goal	Difference goal/income
\$5,439.00	\$16,500.00	--\$11,061.00	\$138,647.00	\$175,000.00	--\$36,353.00

*Year-to-date as of Dec 13, 2013

Our monthly stewardship goal in December is \$16,500.00; we have received \$5,439.00

Our current bank balance is \$4,196.31 (As of 12-13-13).

OUR HOLY MISSION

St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church of South Bend, IN is a Christian Community committed to serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, and united in faith and in love with God, and called to make that love real to others through...

- **WORSHIP** (the Divine Liturgy) and the reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion by which we achieve union with Jesus Christ and with each other.
- **PHILANTHROPIC DIAKONIA** (service) to those people in need of our love and compassion. In teaching His disciples the Lord said, "...as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)
- **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES** which enable Orthodox Christians to grow in Christ and be faithful disciples and prepares them to strengthen their personal commitment to our Lord, His Church and the holy Gospel.
- **NATIONAL AND PARISH MINISTRIES** of our Holy Orthodox Church which provide opportunities for Parish Outreach and to live as an integral and vital part of the community. The prime objective is to encourage a greater participation in the life of the Church and the world.
- **TEACHING** the commandment of the New Life, imparting a clear knowledge of the doctrines, traditions, canons and disciplines of the Church and guiding the growth, progress and enlightenment
- of all Orthodox Christians.

Rev. Father George Konstantopoulos, Protopresbyter

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St. Andrew's Philoptochos Food Drive

The thanksgiving and Christmas season is upon us. It is time to open our hearts and give to those in need. Giving to those in need is just like giving to Christ.

Matthew 25:35 *"for I was hungry and you gave Me food..."*

Matthew 25:40 *"and the King will answer them, truly, I say to you as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me"*

Each year, Philoptochos and those willing to help have assembled baskets of food and other necessities to give to families in need in the name of St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church.

We are changing the way we collect for the food drive. Rather than purchase the food items, we have decided to give grocery store gift certificates, that way the recipients can choose the food items that they like and that meet their dietary needs.

Please consider giving a generous monetary contribution that can be used by the Ladies Philoptochos Society to purchase grocery store gift certificates. Monetary contributions can be given to Kelly Popyk (Philoptochos treasurer) or to the Parish office marked food drive. Any donation will be accepted.

And as always, if you know of anyone who could use a grocery store gift certificate please notify Philoptochos or the Church office secretary. Please, let us know how many are in the family that could use a gift of food for Christmas. We will also give to the local food bank, so please give generously.

With sincere gratitude,

St. Andrew Ladies Philoptochos