

## SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY

December 21, 2014

**Saints Commemorated today:** St. Juliana of Nicomedia & her 630 Companion Martyrs and St. Themistocles the Martyr of Myra

### EPISTLE READING

**Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40**

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

### GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 1:1-25**

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

### ENTRANCE HYMN: 3RD TONE

(Page 45 in "The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom")

Let the Heavens rejoice, and let the Earth be glad, for the Lord hath shown strength with His arm: by death He hath trampled upon Death and became the First-Born of the dead; He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, and to the world hath granted the Great Mercy



## **CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE**

The Christmas Divine Liturgy scheduled on December 25th has been changed. Instead we will have a Vespertal Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, December 24 at 6:00 pm. A Vespertal Divine Liturgy is composed of Great Vespers followed by the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great. Our Holy Orthodox Tradition states that the day changes at Sunset, and therefore, although it seems that the service is conducted on Christmas Eve, it is actually Christmas Day. I believe that by having our divine services as described above it makes it more possible for the families of our parish to attend and participate sacramentally. There will be a Christmas reception immediately following the Vespertal Liturgy.

## **CATECHETICAL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND LUNCHEON**

We would like to express our most profound gratitude to our two coordinators of our Catechetical School, Mrs. Cindy Katris and Billie Limperopoulos, the Chairperson of the pageant, Mrs. Elenie Owens, her assistant Mrs. Isabel Gibbons, Mr. Tony Karamitsos for DJ-ing, Mr. & Mrs. George Limberopoulos for providing salad and pasta, Mr. & Mrs. Chris Katris for providing the bread, Cindy Katris for decorating, but most of all, to all our Church School teachers and all of our wonderful students who performed so beautifully. The Christmas pageant this year was one of the best pageants ever. Every person present truly felt the true Christmas spirit and brought the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ much closer to all of us. God has, and continues to bless our parish with numerous talented people who love Him and love the Church. It should, therefore, be our pleasure and joy to openly express our thanks to these volunteers and support everything they undertake for the advancement, benefit, and progress of our church.

## **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS**

Congratulations to the newly elected parish council members: Tina Assimos, Vasilios Giannakakis, Alex Himonas, John Madias, and Mary Jo Tirikos. We also thank those who had the desire to serve the parish on the council but were not elected: Dina Blatter and Irene Walsh Thank you.

## **BULLETIN FLYERS**

We will no longer be including flyers in the weekly bulletin. They are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. This week there are flyers for: the Catechetical School Newsletter. Please take what you need.

## **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. Just a reminder that all monies donated during Coffee Hour throughout the school year go towards buying school supplies (curriculum books, paper, pencils, etc). This is currently our only fundraising. The Coffee Hour supplies (cups, napkins, coffee, creamer, sugar, plates, silverware, etc) are donated throughout the year. By having a host or hostess for each Sunday, we do not have to pay for snacks out of the school supply budget. Thank you for your support!

## **RED VIGIL LIGHTS**

The suggested donation for the red vigil lights is \$7 per candle and \$40 per case. 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, 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 from 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*: Nick Avgerinos, Nick Limberopoulos (home) and Chris Magrames (home).

*In nursing homes or home bound*: Nick Avgerinos (Wellbrooke), Phyllis Leonakis (Wellbrooke), Chris Bouris (home), Mary Manos (home), Bill 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, George Mighion, Chris Strafford, Pete Arvan, Mike Chronopoulos. If you are not serving in the pangari today, you should join everyone in the Sanctuary. Thank you.

Today's **Epistle Lesson** will be read by **an Altar Boy**.

**Ted Poledor** prepared the Prosforo for this morning. May our God grant you spiritual joy always.

**The Coffee Hour** was lovingly prepared for our entire community by . We thank you for your love and generosity.

**MEMORIAL**: A 40-day Memorial for **George Procopi** is offered this morning by his loving daughter, Joanne Christodoulides and family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL**

### THIS WEEK

Monday, December 22	Orthros 9am Vespers 4:30pm
Tuesday, December 23	Orthros 9am Vespers 4:30pm
<b>Wednesday, December 24</b>	<b>Vesperal Divine Liturgy 6pm</b>
Thursday, December 25	Office Closed
Friday, December 26	Office Closed
Saturday, December 27	St. Stephen, First Martyr 9:00 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy Great Vespers 5pm
Sunday, December 28	Sunday after Nativity 9:00 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy

### LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, December 29	14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) 9:00 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, December 30	Orthros 9am Vespers 4:30p
Wednesday, December 31	Paraklesis to Nektarios 9a Vespers 4:30p
Thursday, January 1 Office Closed	St. Basil the Great Circumcision of Christ 9:00 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy
Fri, Jan 2 Office Closed	Paraklesis to Theotokos 9am Vespers 4:30pm

Saturday, January 3

Great Vespers 5pm

Sunday, January 4

Sunday Before Theophany

9:00 Orthros

10:00 Divine Liturgy

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

June 12-14, 2015

Grecian Festival

### **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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**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

**St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church**

**52455 Ironwood Rd South Bend, IN 46635**

**(574) 277-4688**

December 9, 2014

Dear friends:

I urge you to take a moment to read this letter detailing the sobering news it contains about our financial situation. Without your help, we fear the future of our church is in jeopardy.

As of date, we have received **\$133,867** in Stewardship Pledges. Our general account balance is currently - **\$5,552.03** and we owe the following:

- National Ministries monthly contributions (we owe for 3 months): **\$9,150.75**
- Payroll to the end of the end of year : **\$7,777.50**
- Gas, Electric, Phone, Trash, Heating, and Pension is approximately: **\$3300**
- Red Vigil Lights:**\$1200**

That is at least an additional **\$21,000** of expenses that we currently do not have the funds to cover.

**Unfortunately, even if everyone who pledged gave exactly what they promised, we would still be \$8,000-\$9,000 short of our current major liabilities. It is crucial that we all fulfill our pledge amount and if at all possible, send additional monies before the end of the year. We cannot stress enough how imperative this is; we must realize the urgent nature of our finances and work diligently to resolve it.**

It is a heart breaking thought that something we treasure so much, our beloved church, could be lost due to financial insolvency. Saint Andrew's was passed on to us by those who came before and we must preserve it for those who come after. You can help ensure that our tradition will live on and enrich and bless all those who seek it. May our Lord and our patron Saint guide our hearts in making our financial commitment for our church, and may they bestow upon our community and our families their many blessings.

In Christ's Love,

+Father George

The Stewardship Committee: Amy Nolan, Christos Kirgios, Chris Katris, Jonathan Swarts, Esther Arvanitis

## BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP ANALYSIS 2009-2014

The recent parish records show Stewardship Committees with members besides the Parish Council President and/or Treasurer for 2004 and 2007. It doesn't appear they were very active. All other recent records show that any appeals made have come from the Priest along with the president and/or treasurer. So there have been no goals set, other than the budget, or any active pursuit of meeting the budgeted amount.

BUDGETS approved by the General Assembly 2009-2014:

	<b>Budgeted Income:</b>	<b>Budgeted Expense</b>	<b>Budgeted Net Income</b>
2009:	\$359,800.00	\$351,420.00	\$8,380.00
2010:	\$375,600.00	\$372,900.04	\$2,699.96
2011:	\$371,020.00	\$371,452.55	(\$432.55)
2012:	\$387,400.00	\$389,875.08	(\$2,475.08)
2013:	\$401,100.00	\$400,894.08	\$205.92
2014:	\$393,200.00	\$382,854.00	\$10,346.00

In 2013, the Parish Council voted to remove the Festival from the budget to better emphasize that we rely too heavily on the festival to meet operating costs. Without the festival included **all** the budgets approved by the Parish Assembly from 2009 through 2014 would have been deficit budgets:

	<b>Budgeted Income:</b>	<b>Budgeted Expense</b>	<b>Budgeted Net Income</b>
2009:	\$267,600.00	\$303,420.00	(\$35,820.00)
2010:	\$278,600.00	\$325,900.04	(\$47,300.04)
2011:	\$273,520.00	\$317,002.55	(\$43,482.55)
2012:	\$271,400.00	\$331,475.08	(\$59,775.08)
2013:	\$266,600.00	\$335,094.08	(\$68,494.08)
2014:	\$262,200.00	\$316,654.00	(\$54,554.00)

The 2015 budget is the first time they have approved a positive budget without the festival included: \$347,200/318,304 with a net income of \$28,896.

**(HISTORICAL NOTE:** Until October 2002, the festival and hall rental income/expense line items were not a part of the General Fund. The parish had four main and separate accounts: General Fund, Cultural Center Fund, Bookstore Fund and Memorial Fund. In October 2002 all parish funds were consolidated into one bank account. The bank accounts were separated again in 2005, but the festival and hall incomes line items were not removed from the General Fund.)

The ACTUAL income and expense numbers with and without the festival are even more revealing.

**With** the festival:

	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Actual Expense</b>	<b>Actual Net Income</b>
2009:	\$367,810.37	\$362,987.38	\$4,822.99
2010:	\$412,922.03	\$410,534.17	\$2,378.86
2011:	\$370,510.15	\$383,013.85	(\$12,503.70)
2012:	\$542,077.24	\$539,704.01	\$2,373.23
2013:	\$397,896.84	\$393,160.16	\$4,736.68
2014:	\$372,645.06	\$380,110.56	(\$8,110.56)--through 12-12-14

**Without** the Festival:

	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Actual Expense</b>	<b>Actual Net Income</b>
2009:	\$270,597.37	\$316,681.50	(\$46,084.13)
2010:	\$307,642.53	\$354,043.87	(\$46,401.34)
2011:	\$246,324.90	\$318,047.61	(\$71,722.71)
2012:	\$398,623.64	\$473,969.12	(\$75,345.48)
2013:	\$265,476.83	\$325,037.77	(\$59,560.94)
2014:	\$237,944.57	\$308,885.01	(\$70,940.44)--through 12-12-14

Stewardship Amounts budgeted, pledged and received for those years:

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b>Number Pledged</b>	<b>Received</b>
2009:	\$178,000.00	\$147,878.00	162	\$170,429.39
2010:	\$190,000.00	\$152,450.00	151	\$177,389.00*
2011:	\$175,000.00	\$129,971.00	149	\$155,074.00
2012:	\$175,000.00	\$124,109.00	136	\$151,104.00
2013:	\$175,000.00	\$125,596.00	134	\$153,114.00
2014:	\$175,000.00	\$121,731.00	124	\$133,967.00

There were 29 pledged in 2009 that did not pledge in 2010; of those:  
11 gave;

- 3 moved out of the parish;
- 3 passed away;
- 1 still attends and doesn't give;
- 7 pledged to be able to participate in a Sacrament;
- 4 had never pledged before or since.

There were 25 pledged in 2010 that did not pledge in 2011; of those:

- 16 gave;
- 3 passed away (\*these account for the large drop in pledged and received amounts from 2010 to 2011);
- 4 pledged to be able to participate in a Sacrament;
- 1 left the Orthodox Church;
- 1 divorced, neither spouse attends.

There were 30 pledged in 2011 that did not pledge in 2012; of those:

- 21 gave;
- 1 passed away;
- 3 pledged to be able to participate in a Sacrament;
- 5 had never pledged before or since.

There were 34 pledged in 2012 that did not pledge in 2013; of those:

- 23 gave;
- 4 passed away;
- 2 attend and don't give;
- 1 moved out of the parish;
- 4 had never pledged before or since.

There were 37 pledged in 2013 that did not pledge in 2014; of those:

- 23 gave or may yet give;
- 2 passed away;
- 3 moved out of the parish;
- 3 pledged to be able to participate in a Sacrament;
- 1 divorced, neither spouse attends;
- 5 had not pledged before or since.



