February 11, 2024

16th Sunday of Matthew

Orthros 8:45/Liturgy 9:30 AM.

Epistle Reading

Gospel Reading
The Reading is from Matthew 25:14-30.

Memorial
40 day - George Chakalis

Trisagion
7 year - Evangelia Chakalis
8 year - Katerina Chakalis
13 years – Edward Novitsky

May their memory be eternal. Αἰωνία ἡ Μνήμη!

WEEKDAY SERVICES - Καθημερινές Λειτουργίες:

Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoipikoos - Every Thursday at 6 PM.
HYMNS OF THE DAY

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord by His Might, has created a Dominion. He has conquered death by death, and become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades, and has granted the world great mercy.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπέτρεπε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ὄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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.

Καί τρόπων μέτοχος, καί θρόνων διάδοχος, τῶν Αποστόλων γενόμενος, τὴν πράξιν εὑρεσιν θεόπνευστε, εἰς θεωρίας επίβασιν, διὰ τούτο τὸν λόγον τῆς αληθείας ὁρθοτομών, καὶ τῇ πίστει ενηθήνασι μέχρις αἵματος, Ιερομάρτυς Βλάσιε, πρέσβευε Χριστώ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθήναι τὰς ψυχάς ἡμῶν.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Mode
The protection of Christians unshameable, intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering, do not turn from the prayerful cries of those who are in sin; instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: Hasten to intercession and speed now to supplication as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε. Μὴ παρίδῃς ἁμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ώς ἀγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγάζοντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς προσβείαν, καὶ σπεύσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα ἡ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμῶντων σέ.

Receiving Holy Communion - We welcome to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy those Christians who are from other Christian Denominations and who are not fully united with us. Sadly, it is a consequence of the divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend to you an invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is the work or action of the celebrating Community signifying a oneness of faith, life, and worship of the believing Community. Reception of Holy Communion by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must pray. However, all present are welcome to partake of the Antidoro (blessed bread) which is distributed at the end of the Liturgy.
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.

Epistle Reading

Προκείμενον. Third Mode. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 46.6,1.

Ψάλτε τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν, ψάλτα. Στίχ. Πάντα τὰ ἔθνη κροτήσατε χεῖρας.

τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα Πρὸς Κορινθίους β’ 6:1-10.

Αδελφοί, συνεργούντες δε καὶ παρακαλούμεν μὴ εἰς κενὸν τὴν χάριν τοῦ θεοῦ δέξασθαι ὑμᾶς - λέγει γάρ, Καιρὶ δεκτῷ ἐπῆκουσά σοι, καὶ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ σωτηρίας ἐβοήθησά σοι' ἵδο, νῦν καὶ τοὺς εὑρόδεκτος, ἵδο, νῦν ἡμέρα σωτηρίας - μηδεμίαν ἐν μηδενὶ διδόντες προσκοπήν, ἴνα μὴ μομηθῇ η διακονία· ἀλλ’ ἐν παντὶ συνιστώντες ἑαυτοὺς ὡς θεοῦ διάκονοι, ἐν ὑπομονῇ πολλῇ, ἐν θλίψει, ἐν ἀνάγκαις, ἐν ἀγάπαις, ἐν φυλακαῖς, ἐν ἀκαταστασίαις, ἐν κόποις, ἐν ἀργυρίαις, ἐν ἡρασίαις, ἐν ἀγνόσει, ἐν μακροθυμίᾳ, ἐν ἀγγελία, ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίω, ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἀνυποκρίτῳ, ἐν λόγῳ ἀληθείας, ἐν δυνάμει θεοῦ, διὰ τῶν ὀπλῶν τῆς δικαιοσύνης τῶν δεξιῶν καὶ ἀριστερῶν, διὰ δόξης καὶ ἐπιτύμβων, διὰ δικαίωμας καὶ εὐφημίας· ὡς πλανοὶ καὶ ἀληθείς· ὡς ἀγνοοῦμενοι, καὶ ἐπιγνωσκόμενοι· ὡς ἀποθησάκοντες, καὶ ἴδο, ἐμὲ· ὡς παρειδωλύμενοι, καὶ μὴ θανατούμενοι· ὡς λυποῦμενοι, ἀεὶ δὲ χαίροντες· ὡς πτωχοὶ, πολλοὺς δὲ πλουτίζοντες· ὡς μηδὲν ἔχοντες, καὶ πάντα κατέχοντες.
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!"
February 11

Theodora the Empress

As for the renowned Empress Theodora, she was from Paphlagonia and was the daughter of a certain Marinus, the commander of a military regiment. While being the wife of the Emperor Theophilus, the last of the Iconoclasts, she adorned the royal diadem with her virtue and piety; as long as her husband Theophilus lived, she privately venerated icons, despite his displeasure. After his death, she restored the holy icons to public veneration; this is commemorated on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, the First Sunday of the Great Fast. She governed the Empire wisely for fifteen years, since her son Michael was not yet of age. But in 857 she forsook her royal power and entered a certain convent in Constantinople called Gastria, where she finished the course of her life in holiness and reposed in the Lord. Her sacred incorrupt remains are found in Corfu, in the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos of the Cave, in the capital city of the island (see also Dec. 12).

February 11

Blaise the Hieromartyr of Sebastia

Saint Blaise was Bishop of Sebastia. Divine grace, through which he healed the diseases of men and beasts, and especially of infants, made his name famous. He contested for the Faith under Licinius in the year 316. Saint Blaise is invoked for the healing of throat ailments.
TALENT, THE WEALTH OF CHRISTIANS

Talents or talents are words that we are all interested in order to acquire them. As Christ assures us in today's gospel passage, talents are not the acquisition of only privileged people or saints, but they were given and are given to all people in proportion with the powers, the abilities that everyone has to utilize and multiply them. The Lord is generous to all of us; however, He awaits our own participation and response.

However, immediately after reading the parable, a question is born in us: What purpose do the talents and abilities that God gives us, serve? We see how some people are cultivated by them spiritually, and others are harmed by them.

The Value of Talents

Today we live in a society where the talents that God gives, lead most people to the acquisition of wealth, power and publicity. This multiplication of talents leads them to spiritual death through arrogance and conceit. Without Christ, the talents, that is, the possibilities and abilities we possess, result in vanity and an existential void. As soon as these are lost, in the first test, everyone departs, and the talented egotists are left alone and live in the misery of insecurity. Of course, it does not mean that we will not accept God's gift and we will not strive to multiply the gifts He gave us. This will be ingratitude and rashness. Let's think about the possibility of if the Holy Three Hierarchs had not cultivated their talents. If the great ascetics had remained indolent, such as Saints Anthony and Savvas. If Saints Damascene and Gregory Palamas had not written hymns and theological texts. If the great martyr Saints Demetrius and George had not endured the martyrdoms.

Talent Management

However, there is a difference in the management and exercise of the talents. The Christian uses God's gifts and multiplies them only to glorify God's name. He knows that everything is given by Him and without Christ, he can lose everything from one moment to the next. Everything belongs to God and to Him they must return. The person who believes that the talents are the gifts that were given by God, and he must manage them properly, does not seek publicity or wealth. He does not fight people in order to rise. He does not want hollow praise and applause. He cultivates the talents, to be freed from the passions, to find a solution to life's impasses, in order to glorify God and serve people.

If we do not give our talents to the ministry of our brothers, who need us, then we will be like the servant who buried the talent, in order to hand it over to his Master. We will have his course, that is, we will live in the darkness of misery. The more gifts we have, the greater our agony and our responsibility to serve our brothers.

We received the gifts for free from the Creator, and we must offer them freely to people. Then they
We Welcome all who worship with us today.

Memorial

40 day – George Chakalis

Trisagion

7 year - Evangelia Chakalis
8 year - Katerina Chakalis
13 year - Edward Novitsky

May their memory be eternal. Αιωνία η Μνήμη!

Coffee Fellowship is sponsored by the Chakalis family in memory of their loved one.

If you would like to sponsor a Coffee Fellowship, please contact the Office.

Announcements

TODAY is Godparent Sunday We ask your child(ren) to invite their Godparents to attend. They can sit in Church & receive Holy Communion together. Following Communion, Godparents are asked to attend/participate in their Godchild’s Sunday School class. If a Godparent cannot attend, yiayiades, papoudes, aunts, uncles or parents are invited.
2023-2024 Capital Improvement Campaign Fund

- $150,000
- $75,000
- $0

Church Capital Improvement Campaign update. To date we have raised $43,000 of the $150,000 we need to raise for much needed improvements to our Church. We used approved monies from the operations account for the parking lot improvement but need to repay the operations account once we have raised the money. Thank you to those that have donated! If you would like to donate please visit the Church website, click on Donate, then Capital Improvement Campaign.
The Taxiarchae Church and St. Sava Cathedral invite you to an evening of music, dance, food & fun

March 9, 2024 7 pm - 11 pm

Greek music by The Makredes Ensemble
Serbian music by - DJ
Enjoy Greek and Serbian Cuisine

Admission: $60
Kids 12 and under - free
MUST RSVP by February 24, 2024
Taxiarchae 25 Bigelow Ave, Watertown, MA 02472
RESCHEDULED
FAMILY MINISTRIES
A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT
SLIME PARTY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH 6-8 PM
PIZZA AND A TREAT
WILL BE PROVIDED
YOU MUST RSVP TO
CKOURKOULIS@GOARCHANGELS.ORG BY
FEBRUARY 9TH TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION
AND AVAILABILITY

Join us for
March Joy
Junior Orthodox Youth
Ages 5 to 12
T-shirt Decorating
FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH
5-7 PM
PIZZA AND A TREAT
WILL BE PROVIDED
You must RSVP to
ckourkoulis@goarchangels.org
by March 1st to ensure availability
and participation
Taxiarchae Oratorical Date: April 21, at the conclusion of the Liturgy
Parish Chairperson: Costas Karageorgis
Contact Information: Ckarageorgis@goarchangel.com

Please contact Costas or Fr. Nenes if interested.
Friday, March 1st
6:30 pm

GREEK MOVIE NIGHT

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3

Light refreshments will be served before the film begins

Free Will Donation

Contact Ckourkoulis@goarchangels.org to RSVP or with any questions
YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Ministries are collecting "Gently Used" Prom Dresses for the Belle Ball program! Donate Prom Dresses to Local Students in Need.

Deadline for donations - Thursday, March 28th.

Please leave your donations on the COAT RACK in the LOBBY. Thank you.

Collecting Prom Dresses ONLY!
Are you a high school junior or senior?

Fill your summer with what counts

Join one of our four sessions:
SESSION 1 | Boston June 8–18
SESSION 2 | Northern California June 18–28
SESSION 3 | Boston June 22–July 2
SESSION 4 | Chicago July 6–16

APPLICATION DEADLINES
Priority: January 16, 2024
Regular: February 20, 2024
Youth Ministry
Ongoing FOOD DRIVE - Collecting for the Watertown Food Pantry
Your donation of food items can be put on the table, located in the Lobby.
We will deliver them to the Watertown Food Pantry every Tuesday.
Thank you for helping your local community!

ESPECIALLY NEEDED - CANS OF TUNA & BREAKFAST CEREAL.
As always, the Food Pantry is still in need of school snacks.

LOVE DOES NOT HURT.
INCREASED STATISTICS ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
HTTPS://WWW.NEJM.ORG/DOI/FULL/10.1056/NEJMPO24046

A pandemic within a pandemic: There are more cases of violence in the home than ever before. This means more families living in crisis.
We are collecting for monthly drop-offs each second Monday of the month, beginning with December 14th.

Items requested are:
Sanitary napkins
Shampoo
Vaseline
Cocoa butter
Baby shampoo
Baby lotion
Deodorant
Tooth brushes
Tooth paste

With any questions, please contact Christina Kourkoulis at CKourkoulis@goarchangels.org

RECOGNIZE. REPORT. PREVENT.

FINEX HOUSE
+Finex House
PO Box 300670
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
https://www.finexhouse.org
Planning a party or reception? Our beautiful venues are now updated and ready for any & all of your event needs, up to 500 people.

For information and assistance in planning your future event, please call Irene Apostolou Cobb at the Church Office at 617-924-8182 or email: functionmanager@goarchangels.com

DREAM IT AND IT CAN COME TRUE!
YOUR EVENT CAN BE EVERYTHING YOU WISHED.