February 25, 2024

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee:
Triodion Begins Today

Orthros 8:45/Liturgy 9:30 AM.

Epistle Reading

Gospel Reading
The Reading is from Luke 18:10-14.

Memorial
40 day – George Delyani
40 day – John Dinopoulos
3 year - Stanley Metaxas
7 year - Presbytera Penelope Metaxas
13 year - +Fr. Emmanuel Metaxas

Trisagion
Konstantina & Konstantinos Patsiocostas
George & Efterpi Soffronas

May their memory be eternal. Αιώνια η Μνήμη!

WEEKDAY SERVICES - Καθημερινές Λειτουργίες:
Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoipikoos - Every Thursday at 6 PM.
HYMNS OF THE DAY

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Mode

O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own will He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death, to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν έκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ὁμοιόμορφον πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ηὐδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθὲν ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ, καὶ βάναυσον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγεῖρῃ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Αναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Mode

Let us flee from the boasting of the Pharisee and learn through our own sighs of sorrow the humility of the Publican. Let us cry out to the Savior, "Have mercy on us, for through You alone are we reconciled."

Φαρισαίου φύγωμεν ψυχογορίαν, καὶ Τελώνου μάθουμεν, τὸ ταπεινὸν ἐν στεναγμοῖς, πρὸς τὸν Σωτῆρα κραυγάζοντες· Ἰλαθὶ μόνε ἡμῖν εὐδιάλλακτε.

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.
**Epistle Reading**

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.
Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

The reading is from St. Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15.

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

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**Epistle Reading**

Προκείμενον. Plagal First Mode. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 11.7,1.
Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς.
Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκλέλοιπεν ὅσιος.

τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β’ 3:10-15.

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, παρηκολούθηκας μου τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ, τῇ ἀγωγῇ, τῇ προβέβησίᾳ, τῇ πίστει, τῇ μακροθυμίᾳ, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ ὑπομονῇ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς παθήμασι, οἷα μοι ἐγένετο ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ, ἐν Ἰκονίῳ, ἐν Λύστροις, οίς δίωχες ὑπήνεγκα· καὶ ἐκ πάντων με ἐρρύσατο ὁ Κύριος. Καὶ πάντες δὲ οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῇν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται. Πονηροὶ δὲ ἃγνωμον καὶ γόητες προκύψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χεῖρον, πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. Σὺ δὲ μένε ἐν ὧς ἐμαθές καὶ ἐπιστᾶς, ἐδώς παρὰ τίνος ἐμαθές, καὶ ὡς ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ ἱερά γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ δυνάμενά σε σοφίσαι εἰς σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.
The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."
Saints and Feasts

February 25

Sunday of the Publican & Parisee: Triodon Begins Today

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness. Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights. All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.

February 26

The Holy Great Martyr Photine, the Samaritan Women

Saint Photini lived in 1st century Palestine and was the woman that Christ met at Jacob's Well in Samaria as recorded in the Gospel according to John (4:4-26). After her encounter with Christ, she and her whole family were baptized by the Apostles and became evangelists of the early Church. Photini and her children eventually were summoned before the emperor Nero and instructed to renounce their faith in Christ. They refused to do so, accepting rather to suffer various tortures. After many efforts to force her to surrender to idolatry, the emperor ordered that she be thrown down a well. Photini gave up her life in the year 66. St. Photini is commemorated on three occasions during the year: February 26 (Greek tradition), March 20 (Slavic tradition), and the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman on the 5th Sunday of Pascha.
SERMON SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

In an Orthodox sermon on the Gospel of the Publican and the Pharisee with quotes from the Holy Fathers, we can draw wisdom from the teachings of the Church Fathers to deepen the understanding of this profound parable.

Beloved in Christ,

Today, we meditate on the powerful message conveyed in the Gospel of the Publican and the Pharisee—a message that resonates through the ages, guiding us towards humility, repentance, and true righteousness. The venerable St. Ephraim the Syrian teaches us, "The true fast is for those who, as the Publican, tremble at the sight of their sins. To ridicule the opponents of the Faith is not a serious matter; let us fast, brethren, not only our bodies but also our tongues." These words remind us that humility is the bedrock of spiritual growth. The Pharisee, consumed by pride, stands self-assured before God, while the Publican, aware of his unworthiness, is moved to repentance. As St. John Chrysostom beautifully articulates, "It is better to be humbled with the truth than exalted with falsehood."

The great St. Gregory Palamas instructs us, "God does not desire sacrifices and observances from us. What He seeks is a broken and contrite heart, humility, love, and thanksgiving." The Pharisee's external displays of piety pale in comparison to the sincere contrition of the Publican.

Let us heed the timeless words of St. Isaac the Syrian, who reminds us, "Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the Angel who guards you will honor your patience."

In conclusion, the Gospel of the Publican and the Pharisee, illuminated by the wisdom of the Holy Fathers, beckons us towards a profound spiritual truth. Let us embrace humility, cultivate repentance, and seek true righteousness in the presence of our merciful God.

May we learn from the humility of the Publican, shun the pride of the Pharisee, and strive for a contrite heart that finds favor in the eyes of the Lord. Amen.

May this sermon inspire reflection and transformative growth in the hearts of those who hear.
We Welcome all who worship with us today.

Memorials

40 day – George Delyani
40 day – John Dinopoulos
3 year - Stanley Metaxas
7 year - Presbytera Penelope Metaxas
13 year—Fr. Emmanuel Metaxas

Trisagion

Konstantina & Konstantinos Patsiocostas
George & Efterpi Soffronas

May their memory be eternal. Αιώνια η Μνήμη!

Coffee Fellowship is sponsored by the Delyani family and the Dinopoulos family in memory of their loved one.

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

Announcements

The National Hellenic Society's Heritage Greece Program is a complementary, 2-week cultural immersion odyssey for accomplished Greek American college students who share their experiences with a peer group of exceptional students from the American College of Greece (ACG) in Athens, Greece or the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) in Thessaloniki, Greece. The Heritage Greece Program® goal is to connect the participants with their faith, heritage, roots, and Greek identity. For more information visit: National Hellenic Society | Heritage Greece
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.
Purchas Your Tickets on our Website.
Use the drop down “Menu”, purchase in Taxiarchae Store.
DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS EXTENDED TO
FEBRUARY 29th!!!

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: S60
Kids 12 and under - free
MUST RSVP by February 24, 2024
Taxiarchae 25 Bigelow Ave, Watertown, MA 02472
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.

Family Ministries
A Family Friendly Event

PAINTING PARTY
FRIDAY, MARCH 15TH
5-7 PM

This Spring we will be participating in Watertown Yard Art
Please bring a good sized rock to paint.

Pizza and a treat will be provided.

You must R.S.V.P by 3/8 to cKourkoulis@goarchangels.org 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.

JOIN THOUSANDS OF YOUTH ACROSS THE NATION AND SHARE YOUR FAITH!

2024 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL
Junior Division (Grades 7-9) | Senior Division (Grades 10-12)

AWARDS
National finalists are eligible to receive the following
- St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Scholarship: $500 to $2000
- FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism: to be announced

SCHOLARSHIPS
Finalists at any level are eligible to receive the following
- Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College: $2,500 up to $30,000 per year

LOCAL INFORMATION
Parish Festival Date & Time: ____________________________
Parish Chairperson: ____________________________
Contact Information: ____________________________

Find topics, tips, manual, & award info at
www.religiated.goarch.org
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Department of Religious Education (DRE)
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

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PLEASE SUPPORT TATXARCHAE GREEK SCHOOL

50/50 RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Tickets can be purchased during fellowship from 2/17 to 3/24 or via Venmo for

5 for $5

Contact Ckourkoulis@goarchangels.org 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!
Watertown Savings Bank

Customer Choice Awards

Please vote Taxiarchae as your favorite Local Non-profit!

With your help, we can receive $100,000.

WSB is now doing all the voting online. (No more paper ballots).

If you need help voting, please go to any WSB Branch and they will guide you through the process.
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/NEJMPS2024046

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.

FINEX HOUSE
+Finex House
PO Box 300670
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
https://www.finexhouse.org
MAIDS OF ATHENA
ALPHA EPSILON ALPHA

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

THE 3RD ANNUAL
SPRING SEMI FORMAL

WHEN:
Saturday April 6th,
7 pm - 11 pm

WHERE:
Hellenic
Cultural Center
of Watertown
25 Bigelow Ave

MUSIC BY:
The
Salonica
Boys

OPEN TO ALL:
Highschool &
College Students

$20 ENTRY FEE
Taxiarchae Hellenic Cultural Center

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.