

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

11TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Tone

From on high did You descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days have You submitted that You might free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to You.

Apolytikion for the Forefathers in the Second Tone

By faith did You justify the Forefathers, when through them You did betroth Yourself aforetime to the Church from among the nations. The Saints boast in glory that from their seed there is a glorious fruit, even she that bore You seedlessly. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Hymn of the Annunciation in the First Tone

Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before the Ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the great grace. Therefore, with him let us cry out unto the Theotokos, "Hail, Rejoice, O highly favored one; the Lord is with you."

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος μυστηρίου ἢ φανέρωσις· ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Tone

On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

THIS WEEK'S SERVERS

Epistle Reader: Maria Moore

Prosfora: Enosis Touliatos

Usher Duty Team 1: Maria Moore, Bill Joyner & Pete Ruby

Greeters: Athena Jameson & Anastasia Terranova

Parish Assembly & Parish Council Elections following Divine Liturgy



**ANNUNCIATION GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

573 North Highland Street, Memphis, TN 38122

Phone: (901) 327-8177 † FAX: (901) 327-4440

www.goann.net † annunciationmemphis@gmail.com

Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

We welcome you to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and are blessed that you have come to our worship service. We hope that this worship experience is both enlightening and inspirational. Each Sunday is the day in which we commemorate the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Christian Orthodox Church is the Church of the Resurrection and we rejoice in the Lord's triumph over death.

If you are a visitor to our Parish we encourage you to follow the Divine Liturgy book to assist you in following the Liturgy. Please understand that the Christian Orthodox Church does not practice inter-communion with other Christian denominations. Though we may share a common belief in the Holy Trinity, our churches are not yet one in faith and practice. We believe that Holy Communion is not the means to Christian unity but it is in fact the fullest expression of that unity. We fervently pray for this unity as noted in every divine service of the Orthodox Church. Please do not approach for Holy Communion if you are not a baptized/chrismated Orthodox Christian. Feel free to contact Father Simon if you desire to learn more about the Christian Orthodox Church, the Church of the New Testament.

We would like to remind all Orthodox Christians to be spiritually prepared and in proper canonical standing with the Church in order to partake of the Holy Eucharist.

THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

On this the 4th day of the month of December, we commemorate the 11th Sunday of Luke, Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople, Luke the new Stylite of Chalcedon, Holy Martyrs Ascepsia and Aethal, Holy Martyrs Miraculus and Barsabas, Leontios the Righteous of Monemvasia and the Glorious King Nikephoros Phokas.

By their holy intercessions, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Epistle Reading - Colossians 3:4-11

Prokeimenon. Fourth Tone. Daniel 3.26,27.
Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

BRETHREN, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel Reading - Luke 14:16-24

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.'"

VISITATION COMMITTEE

The following parishioners have requested visitation. Please contact them directly to schedule visitations. For address &/or contact information please check your parish directory or contact the office.

Alec Collis
Pat Bacopulos Cooper - contact Marianthe Pilcher for visiting arrangements
Edna Nichopoulos
Zoe Nickas
Presvytera Bess Vieron

Visitation Committee Volunteers for 2016-2017

December: Anastasia Terranova & Athena Jameson
January: Nancy Tashie, Jan Futris & Tina Liollo
February: Vicki Hoover & family
March: Linda Nichols & Anne Schmitt
April: Cary Chiungos & Mary Katherine Taras
May: Demie Bitinis, Tricia Grantham & Emily Love
June: Despina Karas/Angela Tobias
July: Maria Moore & Diane Kavelaras
August: Stephanie Poplos & friend
September: Susanna Peters, Maria Apalodimas & Cathe Skefos
October: Sophie Theodore & Kristine Wagner
November: Connie Cotros, Loretta Taras & Tasia Vergos

Please contact Kristine Wagner if you would like to volunteer to be on the visitation committee.

FASTING THIS WEEK

This week, during the Nativity Fast, fish is allowed on Sunday; wine & oil are allowed on Monday, Thursday and Saturday and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday we follow a strict fast.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 11 Eleventh Sunday of Luke

- ◆ **Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy immediately following**
- ◆ **Nursery Available 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon**
- ◆ **Sunday School 11:00 am**
- ◆ **Parish Assembly & Parish Council Elections 12:00 Noon**
- ◆ **Athenian Dance Troupe Practice (Seniors) 12:00 Noon**

Tuesday, December 13

- ◆ **Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon 11:30 am**
- ◆ **Bible Study 6:30 pm**

Saturday, December 17

- ◆ **Blessing of the Animals 10:00 am**
- ◆ **Sunday School Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 11:00 am**

Sunday, December 18

- ◆ **Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy immediately following**
- ◆ **Nursery Available 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon**
- ◆ **Sunday School Christmas Pageant 11:30 am**
- ◆ **DOP Christmas Bake Sale 12:00 in Cotros Hall**
- ◆ **GOYA Meeting 12:00 Noon**
- ◆ **JOY & GOYA Christmas Caroling 2:45 pm**
- ◆ **More Than A Meal - Service Team (Blessing Bags) 3:00 pm**

Monday, December 19

- ◆ **Parish Council Meeting 6:15 pm**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Sunday School Giving Project** - For this Christmas season, we are encouraging the students to bring paper products (towels, plates, napkins) and kitchen supplies to help "Forgiveness House" – a men's Center at Summer/Highland. A box will be located upstairs until Dec. 18th to place your donations.
- ◆ **Parish Assembly & Parish Council Elections**, Sunday December 11 in Cotros Hall immediately following Divine Liturgy
- ◆ **Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon**, Tuesday, December 13 at 11:30 am at Chickasaw Country Club
- ◆ **Blessing of the Pets**, Saturday December 17 at 10:00 am in the Parking Lot
- ◆ **Sunday School Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal**, Saturday, December 17 at 11:00 am
- ◆ **Sunday School Christmas Pageant**, Sunday, December 18 following Divine Liturgy
- ◆ **DOP Christmas Bake Sale**, Sunday, December 18 in Cotros Hall following Christmas Pageant
- ◆ **JOY & GOYA Christmas Caroling**, Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 pm - meet in Parking Lot at 2:45 pm
- ◆ **Christmas Carols at St. Paul Skete, Monday, December 26 at 10:00 am** - Mother Nektaria invites everyone to St. Paul Skete in Grand Junction to celebrate the Second Day of Christmas, the Synaxis of the Theotokos, on Monday, December 26th. Fr. Philip from St. John will serve Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m., followed by a potluck meal – bring some Christmas "overabundance" (foods that don't need heating) – and the singing of Christmas carols. Please try to let Mother Nektaria know by Wednesday, December 21st, if you plan to come so she can better prepare for the day.
- ◆ **GOYA at Memphis Grizzlies**, Thursday, December 29 at 5:00 pm
- ◆ **New Year's Eve Party**, December 31st in Cotros Hall at 8:00 pm immediately following Great Vespers - RSVP on Sundays in Cotros Hall after Divine Liturgy - RSVP on Sundays in Cotros Hall or in the office during the week. Reservation Forms can be found in the Epistle - online and in print, on our Facebook page, on the website or in the office.