

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Godparent Sunday

16th Sunday of Matthew – Parable of the Talents

The Afterfeast of the Presentation of our Lord and Savior into the Temple

Parthenius Bishop of Lampsacus; Luke the Righteous of Mt. Stirion;

Theopemptos the Martyr & his Companions and George the New Martyr of Crete.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE TODAY: Orthros: 8:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.

The church will be opened to the first 200 parishioners who have phoned into the church this past week and registered to attend worship (please review church protocols). This service will be live streamed and found on our Ss. Constantine and Helen Facebook Page and You Tube Channel.

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: (Found in red hymnal book)

- # 2 – Οτε κατηλθες προς τον θανατον/When You descended to the realm of death
- # 110 – Χαϊρε Κεχαριτωμενη Θεοτοκε Παρθενε/Rejoice O Full of Grace Virgin Theotokos
- # 134 – Του Σταυρου σου τον τυπον/The sign of the Cross in the sky
- # 228 – Ο μητραν παρθενικιν/You who sanctified by Your birth the Virgin's womb

READINGS:

Orthros Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

(For further information go to Archdiocese website at: goarch.org or
The Metropolis of Chicago website at: chicago.goarch.org.)

THE NICENE CREED & LORD'S PRAYER are found on pages 52-54 and 71 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

PRE & POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS: The Pre-Communion prayers are found on pages 76-80 in your blue service book. The first four will be read in Greek and the next four in English. **Please recite them out loud as a congregation.** The Post-Communion prayers are found on pages 98-100 in Greek and pages 101-102 in English. These should be read by those who have received Holy Communion when they return to their seats.

COUNCIL DUTY: Roberta Korfiatis & ALL Parish Council members and volunteers.

MEMORIALS

40 days	Victoria Gyftakis	8 years	Antonios Yiatras
40 days	Paul (Apostolos) Diamond	10 years	Liberty (Eleftheria) Poteres
40 days	Vicki (Vasiliki) Lukawski	10 years	Ioannis Batalis
40 days	Anastasia Yiatras	27 years	Panagiotis Batalis
1 year	Ipatia Kazanas	30 years	Ekaterini Batalis
1 year	Andy (Andreas) Batalis		

All Godparents and Godchildren who have fallen asleep in the Lord

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

SERVICE SCHEDULE: Wednesday, February 10th – *Feast Day of St. Haralambos the Priest-Martyr* – Orthros: 8:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. in the Cathedral.

ΘΗΣΚΕΥΤΙΚΟΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ: Τεταρτη, 10 Φεβρουαριου – Ο Αγιος Χαραλαμπος Ιερομάρτυρος – Ορθρος: 8:00 π.μ. και Θεια Λειτουργια: 9:00 π.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

FOR PONDERING: Before Christ came, it was a period of preparation for His coming; now that He has come, it is the period of waiting until He comes again...Every time someone writes down the day and month and year, they are saying something about Jesus.

THOUGHT: We rate ability in people by what they finish, not by what they attempt.

WELCOME GODPARENTS & GODCHILDREN! Today our parish hosts Godparent Sunday to celebrate the special relationship that exists between Godchild and Godparent. Whenever a catechumen is presented at Baptism or Chrismation, the Godparent either holds or stands next to the Catechumen, pledging to be with the new Orthodox person throughout their lifetime. In fact, the first steps that an infant takes within the Church as an Orthodox Christian are actually in the arms of the Godparent as they circle around the baptismal font and sing, *“All those who have been baptized in Christ have put on Christ, Alleluia.”* Today we remember this special bond between two people in the eyes of the Church as we receive the sacrament of Holy Communion together, remembering those first days and recommitting to a renewed life in Christ and a personal relationship with one another.

Following worship services today, our Philoptochos will be selling Loukoumades in the Great Hall. All our families and visitors are welcomed to attend. Proceeds raised benefit Philoptochos' philanthropic endeavors.

USE IT OR LOSE IT: The man in the parable of today's Gospel Lesson had only one talent and was afraid to invest it. For if he lost it, he would have lost all he had. "Safety first" was his motto. But how wrong he was! We never really save our talent when we bury it. God's law for life is, "if you do not use it, you lose it." For example, perhaps we have only a little faith. Bury the little faith we have and we lose it. Use it and we increase it. Our gift of prayer may be small. Bury it and it becomes smaller. Use it, and it is enlarged. Perhaps we have only a little human understanding, compassion and kindness. Bury it, and it will disappear. Use it, and it will grow. Use it or lose it. But you can't bury it.

SAINTS OF THE DAY – ST. PARTHENUS BISHOP OF LAMPSACUS: Saint Parthenius was born in Melitopolis on the Hellespont, the son of a deacon named Christopher. Because of the miracles that he wrought even as a young man, he was ordained a priest and then Bishop of Lampsacus in the days of Saint Constantine the Great, from whom he received great gifts and authority both to overturn the altars of the idols and to raise up a church to the glory of Christ. Working many miracles throughout his life, he reposed in peace an old man full of days.

ST. LUKE THE RIGHTEOUS OF STIRION: Saint Luke was the descendant of a family from Aegina which, because of the frequent invasions of the Saracens, left Aegina and dwelt in Phocis, where the Saint was born in 896. From his earliest childhood, Luke ate neither flesh, nor cheese, nor eggs, but gave himself over with his whole soul to hardship and fasting for the love of heavenly blessings, often giving away his clothing to the poor, for which his father punished him. After his father's death, he secretly left home to become a monk, but the Lord, inclining to the fervent prayers of his mother, made him known, and he returned to her for a time to care for her. For many years, he lived as a hermit, moving from place to place; he spent the last part of his life on Mount Stirion at Phocis, where there is a city named Stiris. The grace of God that was in him made him a wonder-worker, and his tomb in the monastery of Hosios Loukas, famous for its mosaics, became a source of healings and place of pilgrimage for the faithful. According to some, he reposed in the year 946; according to others, in 953.

WISDOM OF THE FATHERS: When we pray, the ears of the Lord incline to our prayer. He is then - as He always is - as near to us as our very heart. His presence near to us is as manifest as a visible image, and therefore the image does but visibly represent how near the Lord is to us, how He looks upon us, and hears us.

-St. John of Kronstadt

**ATTENTION FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF SAINTS
CONSTANTINE AND HELEN CATHEDRAL**

**OUTLINE OF SAFETY PROTOCOLS
BEFORE ATTENDING CHURCH**

- The church (or areas used for worship) will be sanitized before each service.
- The church will only be allowed to hold as many people (200) as can maintain social distancing (6 feet distance).
- Due to the limited seating available, every person who is planning on attending worship services will need to register through the church office (219-769-2481) between 11am–1pm, Monday through Friday. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. This will allow us to ensure that we can accommodate everyone. Those who come to church without registering will not be allowed to enter.
- According to the directives of the Metropolis of Chicago, the high-risk population and those caring for them should not attend services. Our parish will be using a system of self-reporting. We will not be verifying your age or medical history at the door.
- Those who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who are in the same household as someone positive for COVID-19, or who are feeling sick should not attend services.
- Worship Services will continue to be lived streamed on our Cathedral's Facebook Page and You Tube Channel for those who cannot or may not feel safe to attend.

COMING TO CHURCH

- Every person attending worship will need to check in upon arrival at the designated area in the Exo-Narthex. There will be a brief screening process (verbal questions and a temperature check) at the sign-in table.
- Every attendee will need to wear masks (you must provide your own mask) at all times while they are in the physical area of worship, except when receiving Holy Communion. The only exception will be children under the age of 2.
- Use non-contact greetings (waving, a bowing of the head) with fellow parishioners instead of the traditional hugging, kissing or shaking of hands. Social distancing must be maintained. No walking about the church proper to greet, talk or visit with one another.

IN THE CHURCH

- There will be hand sanitizer stations at the entry of the church, at the candle stands, at the entry into the Nave, and at the Solea.
- There will be no veneration (kissing) of icons, sacred objects, or the priest's hand.
- Parish Council members will distribute candles for the faithful to light, as well as place the 3-hour votives and 5-day red votives in there designated areas of the church. After lighting candles you will be asked to sanitize your hands before entering the Nave of the church.
- No paper bulletins, monthly newsletters or other items will be distributed to those attending worship.
- Due to the need to socially distance, a Parish Council member or a designated usher will escort you to your seat. Please do not insist on sitting in "your spot," as the Parish Council's only concern will be in maintaining social distancing to maximize safety.
- Every other pew will be available for seating with six feet in between each worshiper. People living in the same household can sit together.
- There will be no liturgical books in the pews.
- At the time for Holy Communion, the Parish Council will direct people to approach the Chalice and observe social distancing. Sanitize your hands before approaching the Chalice (sanitizer stations will be available on the Solea).

- At the conclusion of services, families will depart directly from the side doors and go to their cars to return home. Please do not congregate in the parking lot.
- The church and other worship areas will be sanitized again after services conclude.

**Please remember: It is YOUR CHOICE whether to ATTEND CHURCH or not.
It is YOUR CHOICE whether to RECEIVE Holy Communion or not.
DO NOT BE JUDGMENTAL of those who do or don't.**

STEWARDSHIP - LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE: It is in our hands to shape the future of our parish and of all the men, women and children who call Ss. Constantine and Helen their spiritual home. It is our commitment of time, talent and money which, with the Lord's blessings, we shall build up our fellowship to be a worthy body of Christ, caring and nurturing each other in the spirit of Jesus.

Christ does not condemn the possession of earthly goods. But He does announce harsh words against those who use their possessions in a selfish way (read Matthew 25:14-30).

Experience has taught us that where our interests are, our money most often will be also. **"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"** (Matthew 6:21). By attaching ourselves to the treasures of the earth, we cut ourselves off from heavenly treasures. We become slaves to possessions, not free in Christ. The heart of discipleship lies in disentangling ourselves from the chains of earthly things and attaching ourselves to God, the true treasure. Yes, we have need of certain material things, but we need to use them according to God's will and purposes.

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24). It is impossible to serve earthly and heavenly things at the same time, for they both demand full allegiance.

The Church must seek to minister. The Church must reach out. The Church must respond to our Lord's great commission. If the Church of Christ is to be what our Lord envisioned, we all must be willing to give. We can never expect to become effective in the work of the Lord without the plans and commitment to do so.

If you have pledged for 2021, "Thank you!" Please stay current with your payments as this allows our parish to continue its work and meet its financial responsibilities. If you haven't done so already, please fill out your 2021 Pledge Form for your Stewardship Commitment to His Church and return it to the church office by February 28th along with a portion of your payment.

Your Stewardship Commitment represents your love for the Lord, as well as your vision and dreams for the future of our parish as children of God.

EVERY PARISHIONER of a Greek Orthodox parish, 18 years and older, single or married according to Archdiocese regulations should be a supporting member, a steward, of a parish. Everyone should contribute their fair share to the financial support to their parish. We all need to have the willingness to make a commitment of faith and to "go on record" as being a believer and a supporter of God's work through His Church. Since the Coronavirus Pandemic hit, the income of our parish has been cut by 90% (loss of revenue from worship services, especially Holy Week and Easter, no Annual Summer Greek Fest, no banquet rentals, just to name some). To make giving easier for all our faithful, we have established an online program called [Tithe.ly/give](https://tithe.ly/give). This will allow those who have internet accessibility to continue to make offerings for stewardship payments, candles, Helping Hand, Food Pantry and other donations that help cover the costs of operating our parish with just a click of your computer keys. Look below and check out the link listed. It is a profession of faith when we all work together and help our church to better plan for its various financial needs and expenditures. Thank you!

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1385847>

LOUKOUMADES SALE: Following worship services for Godparents Sunday today, our Philoptochos will sponsor a “Take Out” Loukoumades Sale in the Great Hall. The cost is \$7 per container of these mouth-watering delicacies. Proceeds raised benefit our Philoptochos’ charitable works.

PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING: The monthly meeting of our St. Helen’s Philoptochos Society will be Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the Great Hall. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all those attending must wear a mask and keep social distancing.

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study will be held via Zoom this Tuesday, February 9th, 7:00 p.m. Fr. Dimitri will lead the discussion on the topic of the Gospel according to St. John. Everyone is welcomed to tune in live and review it afterwards on Facebook or You Tube. For specific details, contact Fr. Dimitri.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE: Registration for the February Faith Box is now open. Sign up at tinyurl.com/febfaithbox.

Each month, families will have the opportunity to register to receive a box packed with activities, readings, discussion questions and games for the whole family! Families can pick up their box after church on Sunday, at the monthly Youth Night, or during the week and complete the different elements at their own pace. That way, everybody can have a few no-stress, faith-centered family nights each month focused on a particular Christian virtue. Just open the box, and the work is done! Contact Fr. Dimitri if you have any questions.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: Along with our usual needs of canned goods, boxed foods, and cleaning items, we are in need of personal hygiene products. Instead of our regular parishioner crew working the food pantry, volunteers from the Ross Township office will. Anyone 18-40 without any medical conditions who would like to volunteer during these times is asked to contact Karen Petalas at the Township Office or Patty Makarounas through the church office.

JC’S CLOSET is in need of donations of new & packaged underwear and socks, new or gently used coats (all sizes) for men, women & children, as well as new or gently used sweatpants for men and women (sizes large to 3XL). Items may be dropped off at the church office. For details, see Eva Kostidis.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Triodion begins – Sunday, February 21st

Saturday of Souls – March 6th, 13th & 20th

Great Lent begins – Monday, March 15th

Vespers for St. Savvas of Kalymnos – April 17th

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 25th

Orthodox Easter (Pascha) – Sunday, May 2nd

Ss. Constantine & Helen Vespers – Thursday, May 20th

Ss. Constantine & Helen Feast Day – Friday, May 21st

Grecian Festival – Friday, Saturday & Sunday, July 9th, 10th & 11th

Memorials will not be celebrated on the following Sundays in 2021: March 21st, April 4th & 25th, May 2nd & 9th, June 20th, August 15th, and November 21st

STATISTICS: A man was driving through the country when he saw a sign in front of a country store: “Rabbit Burgers – 25 cents.” Intrigued by both the idea and the price, he stopped, went inside and purchased one. While he was eating, he spoke with the cook: “I stopped because I saw your sign and price. Are these made completely from rabbit meat?” “They’re mostly rabbit,” the cook said. “What do you mean by ‘mostly’?” “I put in a little mule, too.” “What do you mean by ‘a little’?” “Fifty-fifty,” replied the cook. “What do you mean by ‘fifty-fifty’?” The cook answered, “You know, you put in one rabbit, and you put in one mule.”