

Sunday, September 6, 2020

13th Sunday of Matthew

The Commemoration of the Miracle wrought by Archangel Michael in Colossae; Holy Martyr Calodote

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

The church will be opened to the first 150 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)

- # 4 – Το φαιδρον της Αναστασεως/Having heard the joyous Resurrection message
- # 49 – Των ουρανιων στρατιων Αρχιστρατηγου/You the Marshalls of the heavenly armies
- # 134 – Του Σταυρου σου τον τυπον/The sign of the Cross in the sky
- # 252 – Ιωακειμ και Αννα/Joachim and Anna

READINGS: Orthros Gospel: Mark 16:1-8.
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24.
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42.

(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 CANDLE DUTY: Frank Takis Zarakas & ALL Parish Council members and volunteers.

MEMORIALS

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6 months Christos J. Vlahos | 6 yrs. William (Nikovasilos) Dovellos |
| 9 months Ephraim Ieromonachos | 43 yrs. Ioannis Vlahos |
| | 82 yrs. Panagoula Vlahos |

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

SERVICE SCHEDULE: Tuesday, September 8th, - *Feast Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos* – Orthros: 8:00am & Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. in the Cathedral.

ΘΗΣΚΕΥΤΙΚΟΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ: Τριτη, 8 Σεπτεμβριου – *Η ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ* – Ορθρος: 8:00 π.μ. και Θεια Λειτουργια: 9.00 π.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

PARISH COUNCIL OPENINGS: Due to two resignations from the Parish Council, there are two open seats available. Any parishioner 18 years or older in good standing with the church (canonically & financially) is welcomed to submit their name, co-sponsored by two parishioners, to Fr. Ted at the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS: The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7th, for the Labor Day holiday. All items for the weekly bulletin for the week of September 13th should be submitted Wednesday, September 9th, 12:00noon. Reservations to attend worship on Tuesday, September 8th should be made as soon as possible. Reservations for Sunday, September 13th should be made by Friday, September 11th before 2:00pm.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our church office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every Monday through Friday. The church office is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

CATHEDRAL EARLY LEARNING CENTER: Due to lack of student registrations because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our CELC Preschool has decided to suspend classes for the 2020-2021 school year. We apologize for any inconvenience that this decision may cause anyone. For further details, contact CELC director Christine Chimitris through the church office at 219-769-2481.

ORTHODOX STUDY HOUR: Fr. Dimitri is continuing his Tuesday night Bible Study at 7:00pm via Zoom. This Bible Study will be posted on our Facebook Page and parish website the day after. For further details, contact Fr. Dimitri through the church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE: Unfortunately, due to safety and health concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been decided by our Cathedral clergy to postpone Sunday school classes for this school year. We will be offering some religious education lessons via Zoom for our students. More specific details will be forthcoming about these lessons. We would like to thank all our Sunday school teachers who had offered their time and talent to teach this year.

BYZANTINE MUSIC CLASS: This fall, our parish will be holding a Byzantine Music class led by Fr. Dimitri for those who would like to learn the ancient art of Orthodox Church music. All interested students ages 12+ should contact Fr. Dimitri at frdimitri@ssconstantineandhelen.org. Once the class is solidified, we will determine the schedule based on availability. Lessons will be held in-person or via Zoom depending on the pandemic conditions.

YOUTH MINISTRY: We will be holding our JOY/Jr. GOYA/GOYA meetings this year according to the CDC guidelines in the Great Hall and Gold Room, where there will be enough space for social distancing for our volunteers and children. We would like to thank Tia Vaupel (JOY advisor), Shannon Zaronias & Kelly Barajas (Jr. GOYA advisors), Martha Emmanoilidis, Irene Nikolaras & Susan Tsagris (GOYA advisors), as well as Kevy Paviadakis (alternate) for offering their services for this year.

YOUTH MEETING DATE: Our first meetings of the new Church Year for HOPE/JOY/Jr. GOYA/GOYA are scheduled for Monday, September 21st, 6:30-7:30pm. We look forward to seeing our young people gather once again to be an active part of our parish ministry, both spiritually and socially. Contact Fr. Dimitri at the church office for details. **Please note:** everyone attending must wear a mask and follow CDC protocols.

PHILOTOCHOS RAFFLE: Following worship services on September 14th, our Philoptochos will have the drawing of their Spaghetti Dinner Raffle (the Spaghetti Dinner, which benefits the Food Pantry, was postponed due to the COVID-19 Crisis back in May). All tickets and monies should be turned in to Frances Klimis by Sunday, September 13th. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Frances Klimis at 219-776-3091.

MEETING DATE: With the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year, our St. Helen's Philoptochos Society will once again be hosting their monthly meetings. The first meeting will be on Monday, September 21st at 6:30pm in the Gold Room. Bring a friend and join us for fun and fellowship as we kick off our new Philoptochos Year. **Please note:** everyone attending must wear a mask and follow CDC protocols.

PHILOTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP is ongoing throughout the year. Philoptochos needs YOU to fulfill its mission! You can support Philoptochos either as an active member or as a supportive member. For those too busy to attend a monthly meeting or be involved in any of its ministries or activities, your yearly \$30 or more membership is a meaningful way to participate and offer your assistance. Help us to help others by becoming a Philoptochos member of the largest Christian women's philanthropic organization in America!

CHUCKLE: A wife and husband were reminiscing about their dating days when he mentioned to her that she used to have a "Coke-bottle figure." "Honey," she said, "I still have a Coke-bottle figure, only now it's a two-liter!"

ATTENTION FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN CATHEDRAL

We have spent the days since the COVID-19 Pandemic swept the nation and world unable to gather as a church family for prayer, worship, and the reception of the sacraments. Through these difficult months, we have devoted ourselves to fervent prayer and entreaty to God for those sick with the virus, for frontline workers, for our civil and church leaders, and so that we could once again be united to our church family.

We now have the church doors open for church services, with limited seating after months of being closed. That being said, the experience of coming to church is different. There are new requirements and procedures put in place to allow us to celebrate the Divine Liturgy as safely as possible.

Below is a list of these new protocols. Please read them over carefully. A greater familiarity with these protocols will result in an easier transition to the new worship experience at our Cathedral. Please understand that these protocols are subject to change, and we will do our best to keep you updated.

We thank you for your continued patience and prayer, and ask for your assistance and cooperation as we open up our church.

In Christ's service,
✠Fr. Ted ✠Fr. Dimitri

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 (100-150) 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 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.
- There will be no distribution of kolyva.
- Holy Communion will be distributed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. 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).
- After receiving Holy Communion, 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.**

ANNUAL FESTIVAL RAFFLE: 4000 RAFFLE TICKETS have been distributed to our parishioners and super sales people. Cost per Raffle Ticket is \$25 for prizes totaling \$10,000 — 1st Prize: \$5,000, 2nd Prize: \$2,000, 3rd Prize: \$1,000. There will also be four Early Bird Prizes drawn of \$250 each on July 5th, August 16th, September 6th & Oct. 18th.

The second Early Bird drawing was held on Sunday, August 16th and the \$250 winner was: Ticket #1493 – Pete Malouhos. Congratulations to Pete, and thank you to all who have purchased tickets. The next Early Bird drawing will be held today: Sunday, September 6th.

Please note that it is the Raffle that brings in the greatest profit for our Festival and guarantees financial success. That is why it is very important we make every effort to sell or buy our tickets. It is truly amazing what can be accomplished if we only try.

All unsold tickets, ticket stubs and money collected are to be returned to the church office no later than Friday, November 6th. Your cooperation in this matter is truly appreciated!

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS: We kindly ask parishioners to refrain from littering the church grounds with the antidoron bags. These bags should not be thrown around the parking lot or in front of the church, especially if there is antidoron in them. If you do not want antidoron, do not take it from the altar boys. If this practice continues, we will be forced to stop administering antidoron.

ANNOUNCEMENTS for the Sunday bulletin and names to be commemorated for Memorials on Sunday need to be submitted to the church office by Wednesday at 12:00 noon. Articles or announcements for the monthly newsletter "The Message" need to be submitted to Fr. Ted by the 1st of each month for the upcoming month (i.e. September 1st for October).

THOUGHT: One who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS: As the COVID-19 crisis unfolds, much of the world is struggling to navigate these turbulent waters. Yet, our Cathedral's mission remains more important than ever to minister to the faithful of the Lord, both spiritually and physically, in the spirit of Christ's love. We thank God for all of the support received thus far in 2020 with your time, talent, and treasure. But, we still have more work to do if we plan to continue to fulfill our purpose as stewards of the gifts He has given us. For those who are behind in their pledge commitment, please catch up by September 30th. For those who haven't pledged, what are you waiting for? Please submit your pledge for 2020 along with your payment by September 30th as well. Everyone's support is truly appreciated!

Every parishioner should be a supporting member, a steward, of our Cathedral. Everyone should contribute what they can. 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 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>

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS: For more specific details concerning Greek School classes during the COVID-19 Crisis, contact Zoe Koultouridis through the Greek School Facebook page or e-mail zoealiazi@gmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY: Joe Shudick, Ross Township Trustee, is reminding us the *Meijer Simply Give Campaign* is currently underway until October 24th. On Friday & Saturday, September 11th & 12th, for every \$10 donation card purchased these days, Meijer will double match the donation, meaning they will donate and additional \$20. This means our Food Pantry will receive a total of \$30 for every \$10 a customer donates.

At this time, the Food Pantry will remain open on Fridays from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. However, instead of our regular parishioner crew working it, 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.

VASILIKO WANTED: We are in need of Vasiliko plants for the celebration of the Litany of the Holy Cross, which will take place this year on Monday, September 14th, the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross.

HARVEST FOR THE HUNGRY: Since 2004, Harvest for the Hungry has been able to provide Thanksgiving meals and groceries to almost 50,000 families thanks to the generosity of so many parishioners and countless volunteers of our community. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, the need is greater than ever, and we need at least \$8,000 to feed families in need. No donation is too small! If you are able to donate, there are a couple of ways you can help: (1) Donations may be made directly, either by mail or in person, through the church office. Checks may be made payable to Ss. Constantine and Helen with Harvest for the Hungry in the memo; (2) Donations can be made on Tithe.ly app or by visiting the Tithe.ly website. Choose the amount you would like to give. In the TO section, search for Harvest for the Hungry. Complete the credit card/banking/apple pay information.

Please note: With the current CDC and Lake County Health Department restrictions and guidelines, volunteers will be limited this year. More details to follow.

GOD'S JUDGMENT: The parable in today's Gospel speaks of God's *judgment*. God is *very* patient. Many of us humans take advantage of His patience, but in the end we still have to face His judgement and justice. God's forbearance is long, but in the end He acts. Having sent His Son into the world in the person of Jesus, God can do nothing more. There is no further appeal. Ultimately, we are all to be judged by our response to God's Son.

"When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyards to the other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." The great task which should have belonged to the Jews, said Jesus, will be taken away from them and given to the Gentiles. The Jews should have been the nation to lead all men to God. Instead, they rejected God's Son when He came; so the task of evangelizing the world would be given to the Gentiles whom they despised.

God is merciful, patient, generous, trusting, but He is also just. The cultivators thought that they could kill the son and possess the vineyard for themselves. They must have thought that the owner was too far away to act or that he was dead. Many today still feel that way about God but He is still very much alive and in charge of things. Because of this, the day of reckoning always comes. He has placed us here in positions of trust, but one day He will return, and when He does, He will have the right to expect something from us.

In His final days, just before His crucifixion, Jesus used this parable to make it crystal clear to the leaders of Israel exactly who He is and what His mission is.

Far from being an "absentee" landlord, who long ago created this world for Himself, then left it and forgot all about it, God is One Who is constantly present, caring, loving, patient, generous, sending messenger after messenger, ultimately even His own Son to offer us the gift of heaven and eternal life.

THE MIRACLE OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AT COLASSAI: In the area of Herapolis, there was a great snake caged in a temple and worshipped by all the people. The Apostles John the Theologian, Philip, and Bartholomew traveled there and destroyed it by prayer. They then prophesied that Archangel Michael would work miracles there.

A spring of miracle working water soon gushed forth. All who drank from this spring and washed in it were healed and baptized. A church was built over the stream by a man whose daughter was healed there. Later, Archippos, a ten-year-old child, moved into the church and lived an ascetic life there until the age of 70.

The pagans, out of fear that the healings would continue to discredit their gods, would attack Archippos, often tearing out his hair and beard, but he would not leave the holy church. They arrived at a plan to divert two rivers nearby to cover the stream and drown the ascetic. They dammed the rivers for ten days while Archippos begged Archangel Michael in prayer to preserve the place. The rivers were released and the waters rushed down upon the church.

The Archangel appeared in human form, and with Archippos on his left and a pillar of fire on his right, reaching from heaven to earth, he made the sign of the cross saying "Halt here," and they stopped. He then struck a huge rock near the altar and again made the sign of the cross on it and the rock split in two. He said to the water, "Enter into this crevice," and it did so from that day. The enemies watched in terror.

Archangel Michael blessed the waters saying, "May every adverse power be cast out from here! May deliverance from every ill be granted to all who draw near with faith," and he ascended again into heaven.

This same diversion still remains today. If you should visit the area where the Shrine of St. Michael once stood (it has since been destroyed by the Turks), you will notice the sudden split in the river Chryssos.

WISDOM OF THE CHURCH FATHERS: It is absolutely essential to cleanse our conscience in order to be at peace with God. The conscience is cleansed by repentance; consequently it is necessary to repent unceasingly. For repentance cleanses all pollution from the soul and makes it pure. (Read 1 John 1:6-2:2).