

Worship Services

Orthros 9:00am
Divine Liturgy 10:00am
Priest: Fr. Tom Pistolis
Deacon: Fr. Dn. Haralambos (Charles) Joiner
Youth Director: Marla Palmer
Choir Director: Fanya Paouris
Organist: Mary Koutroulias
Chanters: Tony Thermos, Sotiris Basilakos, Forrest Palmer, David Bowden, John Blackstone, Tim Demas, Jon Kazaglis, Ben Slayton

Weekday Services

December 24th at 9:00pm Christmas Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, December 12

Altar Boys: Team St. Nicholas: Shelby Bowden, leader, Jimmy Palmer, co-leader, Yianni Bakaes, John Tarasidis, Matthew Bourean
Parish Council: Gus Stathos, John Gandis, Bill Stathakis, Jimmy Georgiades, Dan Johnson
Greeter: Paula Starr Melehes
40day Memorial for Thalia Vurnakes

Sunday, December 19

Altar Boys: Team St. Andrew: Dimitri Kakouras, leader, Alexander Mayfield, co-leader, Jackson Arnold, Constantine Madeckas, George Skenteris
Parish Council: Shane Taylor, Keefe Hamberis, Nick G. Skenteris, Stathe Koutroulias
Greeter: Rusty and Helen Foxhall
Coffee Servers: Phyllis Cox & Kathy Chulkus
Christmas Pageant

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

...to Despina and Nick Demos and to Fotini and John Nikolakopoulos, whose beloved mother, Anthoula Florou, fell asleep in the Lord on November 27 in Montreal Canada. May her memory be eternal.

MEMORIAL

...is offered Sunday, December 12, in loving memory of Thalia Vurnakes, beloved mother of Valerie Bickley and Stephanie McCrary. This is the 40 day anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord.

BAPTISM

Saturday, Dec. 4th, son of Nick and Alisha Como. Godparents are Tiffany Harakas and Cynthia Mastorakis.

Sunday School

Table For 4 Returns

There are still many families unemployed, working reduced hours and many are wondering where their next meal will come from. Contribute a non perishable dinner for a family of four.

The menu for December is:

- 1 - 12 oz Celebrity or similar Canned Ham
- 2 - Cans Green Beans
- 1 - Box Betty Crocker or similar Au Gratin Potatoes
- 1 - 7.5 oz Bisquick Biscuits
- 1 - Box Dry Brownie Mix
- 1 - 9.6 oz dry Instant Milk

Please place all in a bag and there will be a box each Sunday in the great hall where this can be deposited. Questions, please contact Jim Navarro at 306-8243.

Coat & Blanket Drive.

The 9th & 10th grade Sunday School class is doing a coat & blanket drive. Bring donations to the lower level of the Cathedral where the choir keeps their robes. There are two large boxes to put them in.

Christmas Pageant is Sunday December 19th

Greek School

The Greek School's annual Christmas Carol Drive on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010 for the Greenville area and on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010 for the Easley area, after 2pm both days.

Families wishing to donate or loan traditional Greek costumes for events and programs to the Greek School contact Gia. Smaller sizes are of urgent need.

Why all the Fuss Over Christmas?

The "Christmas Season," which has unfortunately has become known as "the Holiday Season," is now mostly devoid of Jesus Christ for which this celebratory season was originally created. But wait! What are all the parties and all the gifts piled up under the Christmas tree for? Be honest. In our celebrating have we not forgotten why we celebrate? This is supposed to be the time when we celebrate the Incarnation of God.

The Incarnation is much more than a baby in a manger, kings bringing gifts, or some supernatural star in the sky. If we are blind and unable to see what it is that God expects of us, what can God do to help us overcome this blindness? He can become like one of us and show us and ask us to follow Him. This is what He did. This why we should celebrate and give thanks. This we are in need of remembering.

The gift of the Son of God is a most merciful gift that God has given us. With it comes not only clarity about how to live, but the establishment of the Church to aid us in overcoming our blindness—even 2000 years after the historical event of His Incarnation. The Church gives us many aids for our spiritual healing. The Sacraments of His Church bring to us the powers of the Holy Spirit. The ascetic practices help us develop the self-control with the aid of the Holy Spirit so it can work freely through us, and the Scriptures that clarify how we are to follow Him. These were all given to us through the Church to aid us in becoming one with God, for eternal life in union with Him.

Saint Athanasius tells us the following about the nature of the Incarnation in his well known treatise On the Incarnation:

Naturally, willing to profit men, He sojourns here as man, taking to Himself a body like the others, and from things of earth, that is by the works of His body [He teaches them], so that they who would not know Him from His Providence and rule over all things, may even from the works done by His actual body know the Word of God which is in the body, and through Him the Father.....

For as a kind teacher who cares for His disciples, if some of them cannot profit by higher subjects, comes down to their level, and teaches them at any rate by simpler courses; so also did the Word of God. As Paul also says: "For seeing (1 Corinthians 1:21) that in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom knew not God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the word preached to save them that believe." For seeing that men, having rejected the contemplation of God, and with their eyes downward, as though sunk in the deep, were seeking about for God in nature and in the world of sense, feigning gods for themselves of mortal men and demons; to this end the loving and general Savior of all, the Word of God, takes to Himself a body, and as Man walks among men and meets the senses of all men half-way, to the end, I say, that they who think that God is corporeal may from what the Lord effects by His body perceive the truth, and through Him recognize the Father.

God, the Creator of all creation, became fully human in the Incarnation, then voluntarily suffered and showed us the path to eternal life if we learn to live as he showed us. Then after He left this earth, He sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples and they established the Church for our healing. It was through God's arrival as fully human, while still remaining fully God, the Incarnation we are about to celebrate, that we are now able to know the way to eternal life.

Let's be joyful for the reason of the Incarnation and as the Christmas hymn proclaims:

"Today Christ is born in Bethlehem of the Virgin.

Today He who is without a beginning begins,

And the Word is made flesh.

The powers of Heaven rejoice,

The earth and her people are jubilant; The Wise Men bring gifts to the Lord, The shepherds marvel at the One who is born;

And we sing without ceasing:

"Glory to God in the Highest, And on earth peace, (God's) good will toward men".

Let's put Christ back into Christmas.

AHEPA Christmas Party

AHEPA's annual Christmas party at BG's Restaurant, 620 Howell, on **Sunday, December 12 starting at 6:30.** Cost per non-member is \$35. Contact A J Theodore at his office, 268-0111 to attend.

Daughters of Penelope

Next meeting is Thursday Dec. 9th at 6:00pm at the Corporate Deli/Yiayia's at Night on Pelham Road. Please bring a new huggable Teddy Bear to donate to a local foster child. Instead of a gift exchange we are asking each member to also bring \$10 as a donation to support a family in need during the holidays. In addition we are also throwing a Christmas Party for the

special children at the Washington Center. 260 children and caregivers are expected to attend. We offer cake, refreshments, goodies and good cheer!

We hope everyone enjoyed our Founders Day coffee hour that we sponsored in November. A huge thank you goes to Kay Leventis, Francis Pappas, Sophia Plagakis, Stasia Bakaes, Mina Troubetaris, Kathy Joiner, Kathy Garilas and Helen Kakouras for pulling it all together for us and Pam Kazaglis for donating the greenery for the tables. If you are interested in joining Daughters of Penelope please ask one of our hardworking members for more information.

Daughters of Evrytania

Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 18** at the home of Nick and Angie Athanasiou.

New Year's Party

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the Velouchi and Stenoma New Year's Eve Dance on December 31. More details to follow.

Agape Fellowship - Monastery visit

We will visit the Paracletos Monastery on **Tues. Dec. 21st.** We will leave from the Cathedral Parking lot at 10AM. Will have lunch out after our visit and return about 3:00pm. Call Kathy Joiner for reservations at 254-0150.

December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 🐟 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy St. Nicholas Luncheon	6 🐟 9:30am Divine Liturgy	7 🐟 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12n Philoptochos Saint Barbara Luncheon Greek School	8 + 10a Bible Study Greek School	9 🐟 Greek School	10 +	11 🐟
12 🐟 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy Elections	13 6pm Church Fathers Discussion Group	14 6pm Foundations Class Greek School	15 10a Bible Study Greek School	16 Greek School	17	18
19 🐟 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy Christmas Pageant	20	21 Greek School Agape Trip to Monastery	22	23	24 9:00pm Christmas Divine Liturgy	25 Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Fasting guidelines: 🐟 fish allowed 🍷 Wine and oil allowed + Strict Fast 🧀 Dairy, eggs and fish allowed

Shut in or Hospitalized?

Please tell us if you or someone you know in the congregation will be hospitalized as we are not routinely notified by local hospitals when members are admitted. Kindly call the Church Office, (864) 233-8531, to inform us. We also want to keep up on our shut in visits. If you are a shut in or know of someone who is, please contact the Church Office.

Address service requested

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