

Adult Bible Study - Monday, December 3rd @ 7:00 p.m. Come join us and learn about the richness of our faith through scripture. Bring your bibles, we'll be using the Orthodox Study Bible. For more information call the office (773) 334-4515 and speak to Father John.

SENIOR CIRCLE - Our Fourth Annual Christmas luncheon. Come join us, sing Christmas carols and enjoy the beautiful Greek cuisine at Psistaria Restaurant on **Monday December 3rd at 12:00 p.m.** Reservations a must, please call Mrs. Alexopoulos at (847) 998-5232

Mommy & Me will be meeting on December 14th @ 10:30 am in the Sunday pre-school room. Nativity lesson and craft. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Stephane Collopy at sacollopy@gmail.com

Thank you to all who so generously donated to the Thanksgiving Food Drive. We were able to provide 32 turkeys/turkey breasts and lots of dry goods. Thank you for helping make Thanksgiving warm and full for so many.

Christmas Food Drive: It's that time again to help so many who are less fortunate have a full table this time of year. Please pick up a "Christmas Food Drive Bag" to fill with food today or send a donation to help purchase Christmas Hams. Donations can be made to SWAPS attention: Stephane Collopy or via Zelle or Paypal to sacollopy@gmail.com Last day to donate is December 16.

Birthday for Jesus: We ask that all families bring unwrapped gifts (\$20 Value) for a hospitalized child. Our Sunday School Children will be placing their gift under a tree on the solea, as they approach for Holy Communion on Sunday, December 16. Please look at the bulletin boards to find some gift ideas. The gifts will be delivered by Philoptochos to UIH Pediatric Unit at Children's Hospital University of Illinois. Please be generous, as these gifts will help to provide Christmas cheer to these children!

St. Andrew's has Graves for Sale @ Elmwood Cemetery, Section 3B. Please call the church for additional information if you are interested (773) 334-4515



Upcoming Opportunities:

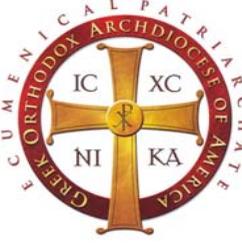
Saturday, December 8 - Mingle and Jingle

Our major fundraiser is almost here! And we want to make sure everyone is ready for a wonderful party. Spread the word to all! It promises to be a most enjoyable evening of dancing, eating, drinking, and fellowship! We have a lofty goal of raising \$50,000. Help us reach that by asking businesses and family friends for donations. We know that Philoptochos is a caring and worthwhile organization. Don't keep us a secret. This fundraiser helps us, help those most in need. See below for the invite, reservations, and sponsorship card.

Thursday, December 13 - Dinner Night Out - Graziano's on Touhy in Niles, 6:30pm

Save the date for a casual night out with your Philoptochos friends. Let us know you're coming by emailing Hellena Chrones at hkchrones@gmail.com.

Welcome to Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church
"Proclaiming Orthodoxy Since 1926"



5649 North Sheridan Road • Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 334-4515 • Fax: (773) 334-3468
E-mail: info@standreworthodox.org
Website: StAndrewOrthodox.org

Fr. John N. Kalomas – Proistamenos
Fr. Athanasios Minetos - Associate Priest
Fr. John Kutulas – In Loving Memory

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018 (14th Sunday of Luke)

STEWARDSHIP QUOTE – As The Beggar Who Sat Outside Of The Walls Of Jericho Needed The Healing Of Our Lord, Your Church Also Stands There And Asks For Your Healing As A Good Steward Of The Church. She Doesn't Beg, But Asks. Give The Best.

weekly altar stewards - How do we obtain the incense, charcoal, oil wine, and other necessities required to celebrate the Divine Services? In part, we secure them through stewardship offerings from our Parish Family members. The \$25 offering we receive is a great help. Please -telephone the Parish Office if you would like to be an Altar Steward for

Altar Steward - Anonymous

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• **FOR NON-ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS:** We welcome those Christians not fully united with us. It is a consequence of the sad divisions of Christianity that we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist and for which we must all pray. We do however invite you to receive the blessed bread that is given out to all at the end of service. Thank you for coming and worshipping with us.
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14th Sunday Of St. Luke: The Blind Man At The Gate of Jericho

Sometimes we happen to hear stories about how hard or even bad life was in the past. For example, we know that once most people were very poor and a few were very rich. We also know that slavery used to exist here in this country. In the past there were some terrible wars and battles and thousands were killed within just a few hours. We know for instance that in Victorian times people worked very long hours, twelve hours a day, six days a week. We also know that life expectancy was shorter. Medical knowledge was not very developed and many children died in infancy. If you survived the first few years, you would often live no longer than 65 or 70. We also know that fashions in clothing and hairstyle have changed a great deal. Clothes were very different even a hundred years ago, men were always bearded and before that rich people shaved their hair and wore wigs. Some of those fashions we find ridiculous and very impractical.

When we hear such things, we tend to think, well, life is all much better now. And yet, is everything much better? When we think about it, life is better in some ways, but in other ways it is not. So for example, worldwide, we are very rich, but there are billions of people in other countries who are very poor. Though today the situation is even stranger, because there are a billion people who are dying because they do not eat enough and there are another billion people who are dying because they eat too much or because the food they eat is contaminated by artificial additives which make them obese. We know that slavery still exists in many countries, in fact, it exists here in this country in the form of wage slavery. Still today there are terrible wars and in fact they are much more terrible than in the past, because now there is the technology to kill millions in just a few hours. In many parts of the world, people still work very long hours in bad conditions. As for life expectancy, in many places it is very short. And as for

here, people do live ten or twenty years longer, but what quality of life do they have? Many in rich countries complain about loneliness and there are those who prefer suicide to life, something which was very rare before and does not exist in poor countries. As for fashions, every day we can see ourselves the most incredible fashions and hairstyles on the streets. We do not even have to wait for the next generation for people to say how funny they think today's fashions are. Most terrible of all, nowadays there are abortions – 200,000 every year just in this country, that is millions of dead children since this practice was made lawful.

Therefore, we can be sure that just as we criticize life in the past, in years to come people will criticize modern life and will find our life strange. Why is this? Why do we justify our way of life, but find the way of life in the past or in other countries strange? Why can we not learn from the mistakes of the past? Why, as well, do we always make new mistakes? Why are we so wrong? Why can we see the mistakes of others, but not of ourselves? Often, in talking about the past, people will use the word 'hindsight' and they say 'With the benefit of hindsight...', or, 'Hindsight is a wonderful thing'. Hindsight means looking back, it means if we had known in the past what we know now, we would have acted in a different way. Thus we justify our mistakes.

The opposite of hindsight is foresight. Foresight means looking ahead, providing for the future, predicting what we will need to do. Foresight is considered to be a gift. Both these words, hindsight and foresight, give us clues in order to understand how wrong we can be. Both words contain the word 'sight'. In other words, we lack hindsight and we lack foresight, we make mistakes, because we have no sight, we cannot see. In other words, we are like the man in today's Gospel, who was blind.

How can we, who are spiritually blind, regain our sight? There is only one way. It is in today's Gospel. The only way to regain our sight is to have faith. In our Lord's words in today's Gospel: 'Receive thy sight; thy faith has made thee whole'. If we have faith in Christ, Who is our Maker, then we have faith in the Eternal One, in Him Who is beyond past, present and future, in Eternity, Who sees all things. He is sighted in time, because He made time, because He is sighted outside time, in Eternity.

O Lord, grant us hindsight and foresight, that we may not be spiritually blind to our faults, that we may gain insight and so live our lives according to Thy commandments. Amen

Taken from the writings of The Orthodox Church Of England

EPISTLE READING **Ephesians 6:10-17**

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

GOSPEL READING: **Luke 18:35-43**

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.