

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2018-2019 - There will be a candidate meeting for people wishing to run for Parish Council on Tuesday, November 21st. If you are interested in a position, ask Fr. John for an application.

Adult Religious Education (Bible Study) - Monday, November 13th @ 7:00 p.m. Come join us and learn about the richness of our faith through Scripture. Bring your bibles. We will be using the Orthodox Study Bible. For more information call (773) 334-4515 and speak to Father John.

Catechism Class—If you or someone you know are interested in becoming Orthodox, join Fr. Athanasios every Wednesday Night for catechism class **at 7:00** in the Presidents' Room. **Classes will start this Wednesday, November 15th and will finish on Wednesday, Dec. 20th.** For information email frathanasios@standreorthodox.org.

Thanksgiving Food Drive: October 28 - November 12. Please donate non-perishable items to fill the tables of the families in need from Care for Real. Monetary donations are also much appreciated. Please make checks payable to SWAPS and in the memo put food drive - attn: Stephane Collopy. Food can be dropped off by the bins near the auditorium by 11/12.

Godparent Sunday has been rescheduled to Sunday, April 29th. Please mark this date and make plans to be with us for Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship meal in the gym.

Boxing Fundraiser: Please support this great endeavor of a night of Boxing. November 17th, 2017 @ 6:00 pm in our Gymnasium. Reservations for individuals or tables are now being taken at 773-334-4515. Proceeds to help St. Andrew ministries for USO, Horns Across America, and Dream Catchers. \$100 donation for dinner, open bar, and 8 to 10 matches of boxing. For more information see Mr. Alex Blathras or Fr. John Kalomas.

Our next GOYA meeting will be Friday, December 8th at 7:00pm in the Presidents' Room. Join us for a night of faith, fellowship, open gym and pizza! Please RSVP to Fr Athanasios at Frathanasios@standreorthodox.org in order to gauge how much food we will need.

Our annual Family Ski outing will be from January 26-28 2018. Make your reservations now to get the group rate! To reserve a room call +1 (866) 636-4502 and book under 'Family Weekend. Please also email Fr Athanasios to RSVP at frathanasios@standreorthodox.org.

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



PHILOPTOCHOS

Tuesday, November 14th, Philoptochos General Meeting, President's Room 6:30pm. Please try to attend as we finalize preparations for St. Andrew Vespers and Feast Day, as well as, Dinner Dance on December 9th, at the Westin O'Hare. We will be forming and baking kourambiedes after the meeting for St. Andrew's Vespers. Please bring a favorite appetizer or dessert to share.

Friday, November 17th, Sarah's Circle Sack Lunch: 10:00 Earlier due to preparations for the Boxing Event. Please meet in the kitchen; this is truly about women helping women!

Wednesday, November 29th St. Andrew Vespers and Thursday, November 30th St. Andrew Name's Day: Sign up for baking and serving for both days at the Philoptochos Table.

December 2nd: 10:00am First Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen Volunteers Still Needed!! Located at 1427 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois. **Please RSVP by November 13th** for December 3rd Soup Kitchen.

Saturday, December 9th 2017 Christmas Dinner Dance Westin O'Hare Hors D'oeuvres 6:00, Dinner 7:00. Invitations have been sent, reservations are being taken at the Philoptochos table.

Sunday, December 31st, New Year's EVE Day Champagne Mimosa Brunch, after church services in the auditorium! Plan to ring in 2018 in style!! Stay tuned for more details.

Welcome to Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church

"Proclaiming Orthodoxy Since 1926"

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Website: StAndrewOrthodox.org

Fr. John N. Kalomas – Proistamenos

Fr. John Kutulas – In Loving Memory

Fr. Athanasios Minetos



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017 (8th Sunday of Luke)

STEWARDSHIP QUOTE — *The Good Samaritan Displays True Stewardship. He Is Symbolic Of Christ; The Inn Is Symbolic Of The Church; And The Man Who Fell To The Thieves Is Us; And The Thieves Are The Evils Of The World. If Christ And The Church Are Great Stewards In Taking Care Of Us, Can We Not Be At Least Good Stewards To Christ And His Church?*

TRISAGION

Evangelos Rousos

May His Memory Be Eternal!

Altar Steward - Mina Rousos in loving memory of her husband.

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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
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8th Sunday of Luke; The Good Samaritan

When St. Paul preached on Mars hill introducing Athens to the God they called “unknown” he said, “He is not far from each one of us. In him we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:27-28) Thus we swim in a veritable ocean of grace. God is in us and around us everywhere and in everything. How do we miss Him?

The poet Kabir wrote words to this effect, “The fish in the water that is thirsty needs serious professional counseling.”

That is, I am afraid, the situation we find ourselves in. We are impossibly thirsty fish swimming in an inexhaustible ocean of the sweetest of all possible water. We cannot see the forest for the trees. We are very much like two of the characters in today’s Gospel.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is about four fish: one, a Jewish fish taken out of water, robbed and beaten and left to die on the bank, two other Jewish fish and a Samaritan fish. The two other Jewish fish were not just any Jewish fish. One was a priest, a gefilte fish, and the other a Levite, a lox, both of whom were very religious, knowledgeable of the Torah, schooled in the social teachings of the prophets, open to the mystical traditions of Judaism. Delicious fish indeed!

The third was a Samaritan fish, a carp, a bottom-dweller! Despised, rejected, and not very good to eat! A member of a religious school that didn’t worship in the right place or in the right way, who misinterpreted the Torah and the prophets, and who didn’t have the sense God gave a minnow.

Although the priest and the Levite fishes should have known better, after all, they were the religious ones, the “orthodox”, right-believing, right worshipping ones, they ignored their suffering fellow fish and swam by on the other side of the stream. The Samaritan fish, the one who supposedly had not a lick of sense, took care of him.

Jesus meant to show that what really matters is not how much you know or how much prestige you have, or what social strata, religion, or race you belong to, what matters is how much you love. Only the Samaritan fish actually knew he was swimming in an ocean of divine love. How do we know? By the loving way he responded. Only he was not thirsty because he had been drinking from the ocean of grace.

I love these words from a poem by St. Francis: “No one lives outside the walls of this sacred place, existence... Differences exist, but not in the city of love. Thus, my vows and yours I know they are the same.” Everyone who loves is of God. Everyone who fails to love is a thirsty fish in the Great Sea like a fish “out of water”. Fish out of the water die. Fish who do not know they are in the water are very sad fish. Happiness is knowing that you are a fish in an inexhaustible source of beautiful, fresh water. God is love, the Gospel is love, and love is life.

Let’s hear from St. Isaac of Syria.
“One who has found love feeds on Christ every day and at every hour and he becomes immortal thereby. For Jesus said, ‘Whoever eats this bread that I shall give him shall never see death’ (cf. John 6.58). Blessed is he who eats the bread of love that is Jesus. For whoever feeds on love, feeds on Christ...as John bears witness saying, ‘God is love’ (I John 4.8). Therefore one who lives in love receives from God the fruit of life. He breathes, even in this world, the air of resurrection... Love is the Kingdom...Such is the ‘wine to gladden the heart of man’ (Psalm 104.15). Blessed is he who drinks of this wine...the sick have drunk of it and become wise.”

Brothers and sisters, we swim in a veritable ocean of divine grace. We live in God, we move in God. Our being is immersed and suffused by God. Every breath we breathe we breathe in God. Every ray of sunlight is the light of His Grace. Everything in creation is a sign of His presence. Since this is true there is nothing to keep us from loving one another as Christ has loved us except our self-imposed blindness. In fact, St. Maximus says, the Gospel absolutely precludes us from hating any human being.

Repentance is to lay aside everything that is not love and then practicing love with every ounce of our being. Gradually, we change into His likeness as we repent

and practice. And we are not alone in this effort. The omnipresent One is here to help. What remains is our conscious effort to wake up and respond to this reality.

St. Isaac of Syria tells us how.
“Let yourself be persecuted but do not persecute others.
Let yourself be crucified but do not crucify others.
Let yourself be insulted but do not insult others.
Let yourself be slandered but do not slander others.
Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Such is the sign of purity.
Suffer with the sick. Be afflicted with sinners.
Exult with those who repent. Be the friend of all.
But in your spirit remain alone.

Spread your cloak over anyone who falls into sin and shield him.

And if you cannot take his fault on yourself and accept punishment in his place, do not destroy his character.”

Advent begins on November 15th and the cosmos prepares for the coming of Christ. We need to join the universal effort and prepare ourselves to receive Him. How? Practice love.

Sermon given by Fr Antony Hughes of St. Mary’s Antiochian Church Cambridge, MA

UPCOMING SERVICES

Tuesday, November 14th. St. Phillip

Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 16th. St. Matthew

Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

EPISTLE READING: II Corinthians 9:6-11

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 10:25-37

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to

him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."