

TODAY IS NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY

Senior Circle will be meeting this Monday @ 12:30 p.m. here at St. Andrew's. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Semi Karnezos at (630) 977-9274

SAVE THE DATE for the Golden Gloves Event on November 18, 2016.



PHILOPTOCHOS

October 6, Philoptochos General Meeting 6:30pm in the Presidents' Room. Please join us for our first meeting of the Ecclesiastical year. Light refreshments will be served.

October 16, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS Inclusion Awareness Sunday:
Join us for Our 10th Annual Inclusion Awareness Day, October 16, 2016. Please invite anyone you may know who would like to participate in this special day of worship. Contact Maria Kotsinis at reenote@comcast.net for additional information and if you are able bake Greek pastries and/or assist with setup and serving on Sunday.

October 26 Philoptochos Book Signing Event: ...Clara Eros thought her life was ending with Alzheimer's. She was mistaken.
Come meet new author and native of Chicago, Diana Tarant Schmidt, for a reading from her debut novel, Remember for Me, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the home of Paula Nichols Bork, 5902 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60646. Light refreshments, wine and coffee will be served; please sign up at the Philoptochos desk so we have an attendee count.
Imagine superheroes, the world as it is today, with the ongoing battle of good against evil. This promises to be a very enlightening evening.

.....
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.*
.....

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. John Kutulas – In Loving Memory
Dn. Athanasios Minetos
Dn. Vasilios Smith

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016 (2nd Sunday of Luke)

STEWARDSHIP QUOTE—*When The Disciples Were Chosen By Christ, They Were Blessed, And Left All To Follow Him. Their Stewardship Was Giving Up Everything To Do God's Work, God Doesn't Call All Of Us As He Called The Disciples, But He Still Does Call Us In Being A Good Steward. Maybe We Can't Do What The Disciples Did But We Can Be Good Stewards Towards His House And Ministry.*

MEMORIALS

- Georgia Karafotias — 6 months
- Harry Davlantes — 1 year
- John Bartholomew — 3 1/2 years

TRISAGION

Irene Diacou, Maria Diacou, Dennis Diacou, George Karafotias, Christ Karafotias, Nicholas & Melpomene Karafotias, Andrew & Katherine Lambros, George & Kristine Peplos, Alexandra Ziogas, Ronald Pace, Lisa Sword.

May Their Memory Be Eternal!

Altar Steward: The Karafotias & Pace Families in loving memory of Georgia Karafotias.

40 DAY BLESSING:

Demitra Stavrakis

We invite the entire Parish Family to join in prayer as Kiki & Pete Stavrakis present their daughter, Demitra, to God within the church following the fortieth day of her birth. We offer congratulations and prayers that God continue to bless them with health and happiness.

2nd Sunday Of Luke

Jesus left us no writings and no dogmas. He left us a simple message displayed in both His words and His deeds. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself." That's it. Jesus left us with a way of life.

"Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisee you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Jesus sets the bar very high. As high as it can possibly go. It is not enough to have good intentions. Jesus asks us to have better-than-good intentions and to live them out in concrete ways. The Lord always cuts to the quick, not satisfied in a change of behavior alone, but calling for a change of mind. The Ten Commandments say we should not kill, but Jesus goes further saying that we should not even allow anger to gain a foothold in our hearts. We may get angry with someone and not murder them and that is good, but the spiritual life is meant for the total eradication of evil thoughts so that sin may have no place in us to grow at all. So when an angry thought rises from the storehouse of our souls, we meet it and deal with it before it takes root and grows. If we do that, then there is no sin, no suffering and no crime. The Liturgy calls us to both "think and do what is pleasing to God." This transformation of mind and heart is not an instantaneous thing; it is a process over which we have some real control. Once the mind and heart are transformed the results are amazing.

St. Paul writes in his letter to Titus, "To the pure all things are pure but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted." That is, the pure in heart project from inside themselves purity. They are so filled with God they bless those who curse them and do good to those who seek to spitefully use them just as Jesus did. They notice the suffering of people, but do not judge them, knowing that if they act out in unfortunate ways it is

because of their suffering, or fear, or ignorance. The saints pray for the healing of sinners and their enlightenment so that the suffering that causes unhealthy thoughts and actions may cease.

Listen to these quotes from St. Nikitas Stethatos and St. Maximus the Confessor.

The nature of things is measured by the interior disposition of the soul; that is, the kind of person one is will determine what he thinks of others. He who has attained to genuine prayer and love no longer puts things into categories. He does not separate the righteous from sinners, but loves all equally, and does not judge them, just as God gives the sun to shine and the rain to fall both on the just and the unjust.

The one who is perfect in love and has reached the summit of detachment knows no distinction between one's own and another's, between faithful and unfaithful, between slave and freeman, or indeed between male and female. But...having risen above the tyranny of the passions and looking to the one nature of men he regards all equally and is equally disposed toward all. For in him there is neither Greek nor Jew, neither male nor female, neither slave nor freeman, but Christ is everything and in everything.

Amazing isn't it?

We must struggle to purify our hearts and mind and strive to put pure intentions into action. One real test of faith is how much we love our enemies. Another is how many strings there are attached to our charity. If we follow Christ, we will have no enemies and there should be no strings attached to our giving. We should not expect nor desire to be paid back for any kindness we perform. Jesus goes even further by saying that we should give secretly, so that no one even knows what we are doing. "Let the right not know what the left hand is doing." To be loving as God is loving, forgiving as God is forgiving, merciful as God is merciful, to be blind to class, ethnicity and any other

distinction that might cause to be repulsed by another.

So what are we doing? Are our lives governed by the plain meaning of these words or by something else?

We are called to rise above what is "typical" human behavior. We are not called to be just good human beings, but perfect human beings. "The glory of God is a human being fully realized." To be a perfect human being is to be like God. Anything in our thoughts and behavior that doesn't reflect the love of God is to be discarded and repented.

And now my favorite quote of the year. Many of you have heard it before, but please hear it again.

Then it was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the depth of their hearts where neither sin nor desire nor self-knowledge can reach, the core of their reality, the person that each one is in the eyes of the Divine. If only they could all see themselves as they really are. If only we could see each other that way all the time. There would be no more war, no more hatred, no more cruelty, no more greed....I suppose the big problem would be that we would fall down and worship each other.

Thomas Merton

Given by Fr. Antony Hughes of St. Mary Orthodox Church, Cambridge MA

EPISTLE READING: Corinthians 4:6-15

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:31-36

The Lord said, "And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."