

THANK YOU!!!!!! For all who helped with this year's festival, in whatever way you helped, thank you. The festival was a huge success, probably our best ever. It could not have happened without your assistance.

Vacation Church School - We are partnering up with St. Demetrios Chicago from **Monday, July 24 through Friday, July 28th** at St. Demetrios church. This year's theme will be "Learning about the 7 Days of Creation." Please sign up by contacting the office of St. Demetrios at 773-561-5992, or by emailing Fr. Chris Michalopoulos at frchrismichalopoulos@gmail.com. You can also contact Fr. Athanasios Minetos for more information at frathanasios@standrewothodox.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

The newly-released DVD of the *Greek Liturgy* by Fr. Ivan Moody is now on sale for \$20.00. After Divine Liturgy today, there will be a table in the hallway between the Church and the church office where the DVD can be purchased. All proceeds are donated to St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE!

Visit the Holy Land with Fr. John Kalomas & Fr. Timothy Bakakos: 11 Days Epiphany in the Holy Land. \$2,898 per person/double occupancy, from Chicago. For additional information call the office (773) 334-4515.



PHILOPTOCHOS

Books & Backpacks: St. Andrew's Philoptochos & Sunday Church School are again sponsoring a Books and Backpacks Drive to help needy children within our local community to get ready for school by purchasing backpacks and essential school supplies to help them get off to a good start on their first day of school. How can you help? It is quite simple...donate money to go towards purchasing a backpack and/or supplies/books and bring it to the Sunday Church School or Main Church Office by THE END OF JULY. (A list of recommended school supplies is available in the Sunday Church School or Main Church Office.) Donations will be used to purchase school items and back packs for needy children in our community.

Outreach: Sarah's Circle Sack lunches: Friday, July 21st 10:30 in the kitchen. Please email Vonnie@karafotias.com if you can attend no later than, Tuesday, July 18th.

August 5th: Outreach Support needed at the Soup Kitchen at First Presbyterian Church, 1427 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois. Philoptochos has supported this Soup Kitchen as it was promoted by the late Ethel Kotsovos and many Philoptochos members. We maintain a slot the first Saturday of every month from 11:30-12:30; please arrive by 11:15, serve the meal and stay for 15 minutes for clean-up. Please see if you can help us out and join in this worthwhile activity. High School students are welcome to earn service hours!! Contact Vonnie Karafotias vonnie@karafotias.com if you are able to attend the first **Saturday of August, August 5th**, no later than **July 25th**.

Please mark your Calendars for these Fall/Winter Soup Kitchen Dates:

- Saturday, September 2nd
- Saturday, November 4th
- Saturday, October 7th
- Saturday, December 2nd

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, JULY 16, 2017—Sunday of the Holy Fathers

STEWARDSHIP QUOTE— *"Almsgiving above all else requires money, but even this shines with a brighter luster when the alms are given from our poverty. The widow who paid in the two mites was poorer than any human, but she outdid them all."* + St. John Chrysostom

MEMORIALS

George Melas - 10 years
Andromache Melas - 27 years

TRISAGION

Athina Loucas

May Their Memory Be Eternal!

UPCOMING SERVICES

Thursday, July 20, 2017—The Prophet Elias
Orthros 8:00 AM
Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM

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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.
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The Poor, Debts & Your Enemies: Learning to Forgive

By [Fr. Stephen Freeman](#)

He who has pity on the poor makes a debtor of God. (Prov. 19:17)

Jesus told a story about a man with a huge debt. He owed it to his master and was unable to pay. When he was dragged before his master, he begged for mercy. Strangely, the master was so moved by the man's begging that he forgave him the entire debt. This same man, Jesus said, turned around and had a poor man thrown into prison for a very minor debt. When the master learned of this injustice, there was a serious reckoning: the man was delivered to the "torturers" until he could pay his own debt.

Debt is serious business. Indeed, it is pretty much the business of our culture. America owes trillions of dollars – to itself, to others, to one another. Everybody owes somebody! Of course, in our land, there is an occasional reckoning. Some go to prison for failure to pay their taxes. Some lose their homes for failure to pay their mortgage. Others have their debts forgiven (particularly if they are "too big to fail").

There is a deeper debt, something that makes money look like child's play (and it is). That debt is the burden created by the injuries we do to others. Many of those burdens could never be reduced by any amount of money. We generally do not think of those who owe us money as "enemies" – it's usually only our "friends" who owe us money. But the level of emotional and spiritual debt owed by our enemies can be enormous. Such debts only grow older with time.

There is a spiritual burden created by the debts of our enemies. They keep *us* from true prayer and they block our journey to the heart. I have been told by many that they "have no enemies." I suggest that everyone who owes you a debt is your spiritual enemy. Some are simply more pernicious than others. I have rarely encountered a heart so pure that no resentment or grudge could be found in it.

In the parable, the only possible way for the first man to settle his debt was for the master to let it go. He, of course, was promising to pay and begging for more time. The debt of the second man was small and could likely have been paid over time. But there was no mercy in the heart of his creditor, only resentment, and bitterness. His resentment and his bitterness created the "tortures" in his sentence.

My experience in life is that no one has the power to pay the emotional/spiritual debt owed to others. Nothing erases a memory or removes the injury itself. People fantasize that an apology would suffice. It doesn't. It may restore some small measure of self-esteem, but the injury remains. I have listened to people who have returned to an injury year after year and marvel at their inability to forgive.

My experience has also shown me something else. There are those in my life whose "stock" is large. My love and communion with them are such that I easily overlook their sins against me. I find it easy to explain away their actions and make excuses for them. These are what constitute our "friends." As St. Paul notes, "Love covers a multitude of sins." Essentially, the difference between our enemies and our friends are the *allowances* we are willing to make for them. Friends have credit accrued from a variety of things. Our enemies are bound in poverty.

There is only one way forward. The debts of our enemies must be treated as the debts of the poor. Our enemies will not have enough to pay us. If these debts cannot be paid (and they can't), then they can only be forgiven. Or, perhaps, someone else can loan them what is needed.

And here we come to the verse from Proverbs: "He who gives to the poor makes a debtor of God." The Scriptures add: "And He will pay him."

The penury of our enemies is the deepest poverty of all, truly an inescapable cycle. It

can only be broken by an act of radical generosity. But the generosity is not being asked of us. *God* will repay the debt. Whatever it is they have done, however much they owe, God will pay it. I have long placed this thought in a prayer: "O Lord, you know what my enemies have done to me. On the day of judgment, do not hold it against them on my account." Set them free. Get serious about laying up treasure in heaven. Make a debtor of God.

EPISTLE READING:

Titus 3:8-15

TITUS, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 5:14-19

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."