

**Adult Religious Education (Bible Study)** - Monday, March 12th @ 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.

**Confessions:** Father John will be hearing confession during the week, on Wednesdays from 3:00 pm—5:00 pm and Fridays from 4:00 pm—6:00 pm, until March 30th. Please call the office to schedule an appointment (773) 334-4515

**Mommy and Me will be meeting on Friday, March 23rd** @ 10:30 am in the Pre-School Room. Palm Sunday and Holy Week lesson and craft. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Stephane Collopy at sacollopy@gamil.com

**Donations for Lurie Children Hospital:** The Collopy Family will be collecting monetary donations on behalf of St. Andrew's parishioners to put towards Easter Arts and Crafts Bags for children at Lurie Children's Hospital. Reflecting back to last year, thanks to many of you, we distributed 100 bags! Please look for Stephane and Adam at the back of the Church on your way out today, and donate what you can. You can also donate via check by March 11th. Please make the check out to St. Andrew with "Lurie Children's Hospital" in the Memo. Thank you in advance for your contributions, which go a long way for the children who need it most!

**Holy Friday Retreat: Join the "St. Andrew's Women's Philoptochos and Parish Family for our Annual Good Friday Outreach Project" on Friday, April 6, 2018.** Please arrive by 10:00am for setup and preparation. Every donation of \$25 will help feed 100 children in need, but the more that we give, the more good we can do! To donate, please see Kathy Siavelis at coffee hour or send to the church office. To volunteer for the outreach project, please RSVP to Fr. Athanasios at frathanasios@standreorthodox.org by March 31st.

**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.

**Please join for our Annual Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9:00 am to 1:30 pm, at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 601 S. Central, Chicago, IL 60644.**

**This year's Theme is:** The Body: Temple of the Holy Spirit - Raising Diabetes Awareness. Our speakers include Rev. Fr. Athanasios Minetos, Rev. Fr. Anastasios Theodoropoulos, Dr. George Bakris, and Dr. Siri Greeley, both from the University of Chicago. The Retreat Master is the Very Rev. Archimandrite Timothy G. Bakakos. All are welcome for this spiritually uplifting and informative program. For further information and to RSVP, please contact Kathy Siavelis at: gsiavelis@sbcglobal.net or 847-677-0217.



Wishing all of St. Andrew's Kali Sarakosti

Traditionally, Philoptochos has passed the 2nd tray on the third Sunday of Lent, Sunday of Holy Cross, Tou Stavrou. As you know Hellenic College Holy Cross is responsible for training our Greek Orthodox priests. Your contributions provide the necessary financial support to keep the school open year after year. In addition, you help young students willing to dedicate their lives to the priesthood an invaluable life experience. Thank you for your kind donation.

**Friday, March 16th 10:30 Sarah's Circle Sack Lunch Making:** Women helping Women via our monthly outreach program, supporting our local Edgewater women's shelter. Sarah's Circle has a full functioning kitchen during the week, however, on the weekends, these women don't have this luxury. These lunches provide a fresh alternative on the weekends for them. Please join us in the kitchen, the third Friday every month. Contact Vonnie Karafotias at 708.280.6537 or Vicki Karagianis at 773.327.3194 or stop by the Philoptochos table for additional information.

**\*\* Date Correction Baking for Palm Sunday Bake Sale: Saturday, March 17th at 10:00am in St Andrew's Kitchen:** please sign up at the Philoptochos table to participate. These sweets will also be packaged for shut-ins who are unable to attend church services. If you would like to bake at home, please sign up to bring your favorite Greek pastries!!

**Sunday, March 25th, Spaghetti Luncheon and Greek School Independence Day Program:** Come celebrate Greek Independence Day after church services! Be entertained by the Greek School children and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship. Our traditional spaghetti luncheon will be served along with garlic bread, salad and delicious dessert. This is an open seating luncheon, but reservations are needed to determine how much food to prepare. Reservations made before March 22nd are free of charge; after March 22nd \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 children under 12. Please make your reservations now at the Philoptochos table after services.

**Tuesday, March 27th: Philoptochos General Meeting 6:30pm President's Room.**

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



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

**SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018 (Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross)**

*STEWARDSHIP QUOTE – The Ultimate Expression Of Being A Christian; Its True Form Is This: To Look For The Betterment Of Your Brother And Sister. Be A Good Steward Also For The Betterment Of God's House.*

**40 DAY BLESSING**

**Theodore James Holmes**

*We invite the entire Parish Family to join in prayer as the servant of God, Theodore James and his parents, Maria Nichols & Matthew Holmes present him to God within the church following the fortieth day of his birth. We offer congratulations and prayers that God continue to bless them with health and happiness.*

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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 worshiping with us.*  
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# Veneration of the Holy Cross, Third Sunday of Lent

Many a time we have heard the Scriptural passage that says, 'Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends'. We can view this passage in a new light: Greater love has no one more than God who became man, Who laid down His life for His creation, and Who left behind a symbol of hope as a result of this sacrifice (the Holy Cross). Today we commemorate the middle of the season of Lent with the celebration known as 'The veneration of the Cross'. It is on this day that we have reached a mountain of hope after travelling along the long hard road of Lent. It is this mountain of hope that offers us strength to carry on until the feast of feasts finally arrives. It is this mountain of hope upon which we can climb up and see the coming of Pascha in the distance. This mountain of hope is the Cross.

Today we venerate the Cross of Christ to not only remind ourselves of the coming of His crucifixion and Resurrection, but to gather strength from it and to thank Jesus Christ for what He did for us on the wood of the Cross. Let's ponder on the symbol of the Cross for a moment. What a profound paradox this symbol is. An instrument that was used to kill people on becomes the instrument of salvation. It was through this instrument that Christ died, but it was also because of this instrument that Christ was able to defeat death, to rise on that first Pascha, and to open for us the gates of paradise.

On the topic of crucifixion it is a well-known fact amongst historical and medical circles that Roman crucifixion was the most cruel and painful form of execution. If you were caught on charges ranging from theft to insurrection and were crucified for it, you would be fortunate if you were dead within a few hours. This was the case with Jesus, and the two thieves who likely died by asphyxiation considering the type of crucifixion that they underwent. Sometimes the unfortunate ones hung on a cross for up to a week before death finally came. Not only would these victims starve and become exhausted but they would also attract a variety of animals and insects from the area that would slowly pick at the victims. Yet, our God was willing to undergo this cruel and humiliating form of execution for our sakes. Holy tradition relates to us that many of our Saints died by crucifixion. For example, St. Andrew the First Called was crucified on a cross that resembled the letter X, and St. Peter was crucified upside

down because he did not consider himself worthy to be crucified in the same manner as his master.

The instrument of death that becomes the symbol of life is everywhere. It is around our necks, on top of the church, behind the altar, on top of the iconostasis, on the priest's vestments, in our homes, in our cars, on flags and coats of arms. It's even on the koliva and above grave sites as a reminder to us that because of the death on the Cross, the dearly departed can now enjoy everlasting life.

Jesus tells us that if we wish to go after Him we too must take up our cross and follow. This means that we must suffer with Him in truth and love, that we've got to live through the trials and tribulations that this world brings to us, and that we must endure the rejection of this world. We are rejected for being Christians, for living a Christian life, for standing before the world and saying "I believe in Jesus and follow his teachings". This means that we must put into practice the life that Christ Himself lived, the life that Christ Himself is, the life which is given to us in Christ's name in the Church. Then will we gain the life that awaits us.

This is why we venerate the Cross of Christ, which tells us of God's coming to us and of our return to Him, both accomplished by the way of the Cross. This is what we venerate and contemplate in the middle of great lent, the wisdom and the power of God as Christ crucified on the Cross. This symbol tells us the truth about life. It tells us of the truth and love of God for the world, and it tells us what we must do to be alive for eternal life in God's kingdom.

Furthermore, Jesus chose this symbol so that he could outstretch his arms and embrace the whole of humanity with his love even in pain and death. If you can see the image of Christ crucified standing behind the altar you will notice that Christ is not withering in pain with a look of despair on His face as you see so often in Western religious art. However, He has a look of peace and serenity on His face exactly because he is embracing us with His love. He is triumphing over death through His death. He is saying to us 'I did this because I love you and I want you to be with me for eternity'. There is no greater love than this.

As we witness the procession with the Cross on this day and we go forth to venerate it let's think to ourselves 'thank you Jesus for dying on this symbol for our sakes. Thank you Jesus for leaving us this symbol of hope. Thank you Jesus for opening the gates of paradise for us with the Holy Cross'.

Amen.

Given by Nick Brown of the Orthodox Church of Australia

## EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

## GOSPEL READING: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**Wednesday, March 14th, 2018**

Pre-Sanctified  
Liturgy 6:00 pm

**Friday, March 16th, 2018**

Pre-Sanctified  
Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

**Friday, March 16th, 2018**  
4th Salutation to the Virgin Mary  
7:00 pm