SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH FLUSHING, NEW YORK



Sunday March 17, 2024 Forgiveness Sunday/Κυριακή τῆς Τυροφάγου Protopresbyter Fr. Paul Palesty, Pastor · Economos Aristidis Garinis Presbyter Alexandros Douvres

Απολυτίκιον Άναστάσιμον. Ήχος πλ. δ'.

Έξ ὕψους κατῆλθες ὁ Εὔσπλαγχνος, ταφὴν You descended from on high, O compassionate

Τοῦ Ναου. Ἡχος δ'.

σοι.

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, A rule of faith are you, and an icon of gentleπτωχεία τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Κοντάκιον. Ήχος πλ. β'.

Τῆς σοφίας όδηγέ, φοονήσεως χορηγέ, τῶν άφοόνων παιδευτά, καὶ πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστά, στήριξον, συνέτισον τὴν καρδίαν μου Δέσποτα. Σὺ δίδου μοι λόγον, ὁ τοῦ Πατρός Λόγος ἰδοὺ γὰρ τὰ χείλη μου, οὐ μὴ κωλύσω ἐν τῷ κράζειν σοι·

Έλεῆμον, ἐλέησόν με τὸν παραπεσόντα.

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Tone pl. 4..

κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ήμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης τῶν One, and consented to a threeday burial, to free us παθων. Ή ζωή καὶ ή ἀνάστασις ήμων, Κύριε δόξα from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You!

Parish Hymn. Devout Man. Tone pl. 4.

ἐγκρατείας διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῆ ness, and a teacher of self-control. And to your ποίμνη σου, ή τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ flock this was evident, by the truth of your life τοῦτο ἐκτήσω τῆ ταπεινώσει τὰ ύψηλά, τῆ and deeds. You were humble and therefore πλούσια, Πάτεο ἱεράρχα you acquired exalted gifts, treasure in heaven Νικόλαε· πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι for being poor. O Father and Hierarch St. Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, and entreat Him to save our souls.

Kontakion. Tone. Pl. 2..

O guide to wisdom, provider of prudence, disciplinarian of fools, and defender of the poor, fortify and discipline my heart, O Master; You, give me a word, O Word of the Father. For behold, I will not hinder my lips from crying to You: O merciful Lord, have mercy on me who have fallen.

Τὸ Ανάγνωσμα: Ρωμ 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Αδελφοί, νῦν ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἡ σωτηρία ἢ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν. Ἡ νὺξ προέκοψεν, ἡ δὲ ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν. Ἀποθώμεθα οὖν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ σκότους καὶ ἐνδυσώμεθα τὰ ὅπλα τοῦ φωτός. Ὠς ἐν ἡμέρα εὐσχημόνως περιπατήσωμεν, μὴ κώμοις καὶ μέθαις, μὴ κοίταις καὶ ἀσελγείαις, μὴ ἔριδι καὶ ζήλω, ἀλλ⊕ ἐνδύσασθε τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ τῆς σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν μὴ ποιεῖσθε εἰς ἐπιθυμίας. Τὸν δὲ ἀσθενοῦντα τῆ πίστει προσλαμβάνεσθε, μὴ εἰς διακρίσεις διαλογισμῶν. Ὅς μὲν πιστεύει φαγεῖν πάντα, ὁ δὲ ἀσθενῶν λάχανα ἐσθίει. Ὁ ἐσθίων τὸν μὴ ἐσθίοντα μὴ ἐξουθενείτω, καὶ ὁ μὴ ἐσθίων τὸν ἐσθίοντα μὴ κρινέτω· ὁ Θεὸς γὰρ αὐτὸν προσελάβετο. Σὰ τίς εἶ ὁ κρίνων ἀλλότριον οἰκέτην; τῷ ἰδίω Κυρίω στήκει ἢ πίπτει, σταθήσεται δέ· δυνατὸς γάρ ἐστιν ὁ Θεὸς στῆσαι αὐτόν.

Epistle Lesson: Rom. 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

Εὐαγγέλίον: Μτ ζ' 14-21

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ἐὰν γὰρ ἀφῆτε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, ἀφήσει καὶ ύμῖν ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος· ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ἀφῆτε τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, οὐδὲ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ἀφήσει τὰ παραπτώματα ὑμῶν. Ὅταν δὲ νηστεύητε, μὴ γίνεσθε ὥσπερ οἱ ὑποκριταὶ σκυθρωποί· ἀφανίζουσι γὰρ τὰ πρόσωπα αὐτῶν ὅπως φανῶσι τοῖς ἀνθρώποις νηστεύοντες· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἀπέχουσι τὸν μισθὸν αὐτῶν. σὰ δὲ νηστεύων ἄλειψαί σου τὴν κεφαλὴν καὶ τὸ πρόσωπόν σου νίψαι, ὅπως μὴ φανῆς τοῖς ἀνθρώποις νηστεύων, ἀλλὰ τῷ πατρί σου τῷ ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ, καὶ ὁ πατήρ σου ὁ βλέπων ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ ἀποδώσει σοι ἐν τῷ φανερῷ. Μὴ θησαυρίζετε ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ὅπου σὴς καὶ βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου κλέπται διορύσσουσι καὶ κλέπτουσι· θησαυρίζετε δὲ ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐν οὐρανῷ, ὅπου οὕτε σὴς οὐτε βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου κλέπται οὐ διορύσσουσιν οὐδὲ κλέπτουσιν· ὅπου γάρ ἐστιν ὁ θησαυρὸς ὑμῶν, ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ καρδία ὑμῶν.

Gospel: Mt. 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Eortologion of the Week

Sunday 03/17

Forgiveness Vespers 5:00pm

Monday 03/18

Start of Great & Holy Lent

Great Compline 7:00 pm

Tuesday 03/19

Great Compline 7:00pm

Wednesday 03/20

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm (Lenten Supper and Study)

Thursday 03/21

Great Compline 7:00 pm

Friday 03/22

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 8:30 am

1st Stanza Salutations 7:00pm

Sanctuary (Greek) Chapel (English) <u>Saturday 03/23</u> Saturday of Souls

Saturday 05/25 Saturday of Sour

Orthros 7:30 am D. Liturgy 8:30am

Πρόγραμμα τής Εβδομάδος

<u>Κυοιακή 03/17</u>

Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός 5:00 μ.μ.

Δευτερα 03/18

Έναρξη Μεγάλης και Αγίας Σαρακοστής

Μέγα Απόδειπνο 700 μ.μ

Τοίτη 03/19

Μέγα Απόδειπνο 700 μ.μ

Τετάρτη 03/20

Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία 6:00 μ.μ

Νηστίσιμο δείπνο και μελέτη της Αγίας Γοαφής

Πέμπτη 03/21

Μέγα Απόδειπνο 700 μ.μ

Παρασκευή 03/22

Προηγιασμένη Θ. Λειτουργια 8:30 π.μ.

Α' Χαιρετισμοί 700 μ.μ.

Στόν ναό Ελληνιστί στο Παρεκκλησι Αγγλιστί

Σάββατον 03/23 Ψυχοσαββάτον

Όρθοος 7:30 π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργια 8:30 π.μ



MEMORIALS

John Badget
Maria Baroumis
Penelope Kalli
Markos Kontorakis
Persefoni Kostakis
Julie Kyrkostas
Mihail Lioudakis
Anastasia Pavlides
Elaine Rodis

ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΑ



Ιωάννου Μπεζερεγιάννη Μαρίας Μπαρούμη Πηνελόπης Κάλλη Μάρκου Κοντοράκη Περσεφόνης Κωστάκης Ευαγγελίας Κυρκόστα Μιχαήλ Λιουδάκη Αναστασίας Παυλίδου Ελένης Ρόδη

Dear Parishioners,

We would ask that you please

REMAIN

in your individual pew for Communion and dismissal, until called upon by our ushers.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Αγαπητοί Ενορίτες,

Σας παρακαλούμε να

παραμείνετε στα στασίδια σας για τη Θεία

Κοινωνία

και την απόλυση μέχρι

να σας καλέσουν οι κλητήρες μας.

Σας ευχαριστούμε για την κατανόηση και συνεργασία σας.

You are all invited to our fellowship coffee hour after the 1st Divine Liturgy.

Sponsored by

St. Nicholas Goya

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

On March 24th, after Divine Liturgy, the
Parish Council will offer loukoumades
to the community, as a thank you for all their support,
in Sarantakos Hall of the Michelis Cultural Center

Be sure to visit our Anthony I. Crassides
'Philokalia' Bookstore!
Open after each Liturgy
and
Monday – Friday 9am - 5pm

Are you receiving our
Email notifications announcements and alerts?

If not, please contact the

church office at:

(718) 357-4200

SENIORS GROUP

if you are interested in joining our
Seniors Group,
they meet twice a week
Monday and Wednesday
11:30am - 2:00pm
For more information
pleases contact the Church Office
718 357 4200

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted
<u>Divine Liturgy on Weekdays</u>
Orthros 7:30am Divine Liturgy 8:30am
<u>Sunday Services</u>
Orthros 7:30 am
1st Divine Liturgy 8:45 am
2nd Divine Liturgy 10:45 am
Church School begins at 10:00 am

STEWARDSHIP

Have you ever received a gift that left you speechless? Perhaps this was because you knew what went into the gift, the care with which the giver selected it, that conveyed the giver's love for you. Maybe it was a simple moment of presence, a visit with a loved one in which time stood still... when we reflect on the love behind the many gifts and blessings that fill our lives—love that is God—we may be struck speechless.

We express gratitude for the many gifts and blessings in our lives by giving in return.

Knowing that all we are and have been is a gift, we appreciate that it is given in order to be shared. When you share time and attention, talents and skills, money, and resources you are using those gifts in the way God desires. This is faithful stewardship.

The building structure of our beloved Saint Nicholas Shrine Church is beginning to show its age as it is now over fifty-years old.

In the coming weeks, you will be receiving our 2024 Stewardship Appeal.

This year, we are appealing to our stewards to consider making an investment in our community with a "Sponsoring A Day" campaign as your 2024 stewardship gift.

Prayer

Loving Lord, Your word says that we should be good stewards of all that we have been given, and I know that includes the way we manage our money and finances too.

Lord, I dearly want to be a careful steward of all that You have given me, for I know that everything I have comes from You and I want to be wise with the money that You have entrusted to me.

Give me wisdom in the way that I spend my money, honesty in the way that I make my money, and discernment to prevent me from making unwise choices, especially in the area of giving and spending.

Thank You Lord. I acknowledge that all things come from You and I thank You for Your day by day provision.

Amen.



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Office of the Chancellor

CATECHETICAL HOMILY FOR THE OPENING OF HOLY AND GREAT LENT

+ BARTHOLOMEW BY GOD'S MERCY ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH, MAY THE GRACE AND PEACE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, TO-GETHER WITH OUR PRAYER, BLESSING AND FORGIVENESS

BE WITH ALL

Most honorable brother Hierarchs and blessed children in the Lord,

The grace of our God of love has once again vouchsafed for us to enter the soul-benefiting period of the Lenten Triodion and arrive at Holy and Great Lent, namely to the arena of ascetic struggle replete with gifts from above and the joy of the Cross and Resurrection. During this blessed period, the spiritual treasure and dynamism of the ecclesiastical life as well as the soteriological reference of all its expressions are revealed with clarity.

We have already learned much from the impasse and self-righteous arrogance of the Pharisee, from the barren moralism and hard-heartedness of the elder son in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and from the callousness and condemnation on the Day of Judgment of those who proved indifferent to the "least of our brothers" that were hungry, thirsty, foreigners, naked, ill, and imprisoned. Moreover, the value and power of humility and repentance, of forgiveness and mercy were revealed to us as attitudes that the Church emphatically calls us to nurture in the period that opens up before us.

Holy and Great Lent is a welcome time of spiritual, inner and physical purification and discipline, which—as we just heard in the Gospel passage that was read—traverses through fasting, which should not be practiced "so that others may see," and through forgiveness of our brothers and sisters: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you" (Mt. 6.14). After all, this is what we confess each day with the Lord's Prayer, when we say: "as we forgive the sins of our debtors" (Mt. 6.12).



Yesterday, on Cheesefare Saturday, the Church honored the memory of the saintly men and women who shone in ascetic life. Saints are not only models for the faithful in the good fight of life in Christ and according to Christ. They are also our fellow travelers, friends and supporters in the ascetic journey of fasting, repentance, and humility. We are not alone in our effort, but we have God, who encourages and blesses us, as well as the Saints and Martyrs, who stand beside us, and above all the First among the Saints and Mother of God, who intercedes for us all to the Lord. Sanctity is proof of the power of divine grace and the human synergy in the Church, which takes place through participation in the holy sacraments and fulfilment of the divine commandments. There is no "gratuitous piety" or "easy Christianity," just as there is no "wide gate" or "spacious way" that leads to the heavenly Kingdom (cf. Mt. 7.13–14).

The Church constantly reminds us that salvation is not an individual, but an ecclesiastical event, a common discipline. During the God-guarded Holy and Great Lent, what becomes apparent for the spiritual life of the faithful is the definitive meaning of participation in the life of the community—that is to say, in the Christian family and parish, or else in the monastic coenobium. We would like to highlight the function of the Christian family as a community of life for the experience of Great Lent's spirituality. Our predecessor among the Saints, John Chrysostom, described the family as "a small Church." Indeed, it is in the family that occurs the rendering of our existence into that of the church; it is there that the sense of the social and communal character of human life and the life in Christ as well as the love, mutual respect and solidarity are developed; and it is there that the life and joy of cohabitation are experienced as a divine gift.

The joint endeavor to apply the ecclesiastical rule and ethos of fasting in the context of the family manifests the charismatic dimension of ascetic life and, more broadly, the conviction that whatever is true, honorable, and rightful in our life comes to us from above; that despite our own cooperation and contribution, in the end they transcend whatever is humanly achievable and accessible. After all, the communal aspect of life, the love for one another that does not seek its own, and the virtue of forgiveness, do not allow room for human rights-ism and complacency. An expression of such a spirit of "common freedom" and eucharistic asceticism is precisely the inseparable connection between fasting, charity, and participation in the parish and liturgical life of the Church. Living out this "Lenten spirit" within a Christian family leads us to the depth of truth in the ecclesiastical experience and constitutes the birthplace and source of Christian witness in our secularized contemporary world.

Brothers and children, pray that we may all travel with godly zeal along the way of Holy and Great Lent with fasting and repentance, in prayer and contrition,

making peace within ourselves and with one another, sharing in life and showing ourselves to be "neighbors" to those in need through charitable works, forgiving one another and glorifying in all circumstances the God of mercy's name, which is above the heavens, beseeching Him to deem us worthy of reaching Holy and Great Week with purified minds and of worshipping with joy and delight His splendid Resurrection.

Holy and Great Lent 2024 + BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople Fervent supplicant for all before God

Άριθμ. Πρωτ. 152

ΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΤΗΡΙΟΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΝΑΡΞΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ + Β Α Ρ Θ Ο Λ Ο Μ Α Ι Ο Σ ΕΛΕΩι ΘΕΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ - ΝΕΑΣ ΡΩΜΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΟΛΟ ΤΟ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ, ΧΑΡΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΡΗΝΗ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΣΩΤΗΡΑ ΚΑΙ ΚΥΡΙΟ ΜΑΣ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟ, ΑΠΟ ΕΜΑΣ ΔΕ ΕΥΧΗ, ΕΥΛΟΓΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΣΥΓΧΩΡΗΣΗ * * *

Τιμιώτατοι ἀδελφοὶ Άρχιερεῖς καὶ τέκνα ἐν Κυρίω εὐλογημένα, Ἡ χάρις τοῦ Θεοῦ τῆς ἀγάπης μᾶς ἀξίωσε καὶ πάλι νὰ εἰσέλθουμε στὴν ψυχωφελῆ περίοδο τοῦ Κατανυκτικοῦ Τριωδίου καὶ νὰ φθάσουμε στὴν Άγία καὶ Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή, στὸ στάδιο τῶν ἀσκητικῶν ἀγώνων, ποὺ εἶναι πλῆρες ἀπὸ δωρήματα τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ ἀπὸ εὐφροσύνη σταυροαναστάσιμη. Κατὰ τὸ εὐλογημένο αὐτὸ διάστημα ἀποκαλύπτεται μὲ εὐκρίνεια ὁ πνευματικὸς πλοῦτος καὶ ὁ δυναμισμός τῆς ἐκκλησιαστικῆς ζωῆς καὶ ἡ σωτηριολογικὴ ἀναφορὰ ὅλων τῶν ἐκφάνσεών της. Πολλὰ διδαχθήκαμε ήδη ἀπὸ τὴν ὑπερηφάνεια τοῦ Φαρισαίου, ἡ ὁποία εἶναι ἀδιέξοδη καὶ δικαιώνει τὸν έαυτό μας. Διδαχθήκαμε ἀπὸ τὸν ἄγονο ἠθικισμὸ καὶ τὴν σκληροκαρδία τοῦ μεγαλύτερου ἀδελφοῦ ἀπὸ τὴν παραβολὴ τοῦ ἀσώτου. Διδαχθήκαμε ἀπὸ τὴν ἀπονιὰ καὶ τὴν καταδίκη ἐκείνων, οί ὁποῖοι ἀδιαφόρησαν γιὰ ὅσους «ἐλάχιστους ἀδελφοὺς» τοῦ Κριτή εἶναι πεινασμένοι, διψασμένοι, ξένοι, γυμνοί, ἄρρωστοι καὶ φυλακισμένοι. Φανερώθηκε σὲ ὅλους μας ή ἀξία καὶ ή δύναμη τῆς ταπεινώσεως καὶ τῆς μετανοίας, τῆς συγχωρητικότητας καὶ τῆς έλεημοσύνης, στάσεων, στὴν καλλιέργεια τῶν ὁποίων μᾶς καλεῖ μὲ ἔμφαση ἡ Ἐκκλησία κατὰ τὴν περίοδο ποὺ ἀρχίζει ἀπὸ σήμερα. Ἡ Άγία καὶ Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστὴ εἶναι ὁ κατάλληλος καιρός γιὰ πνευματική, ψυχική καὶ σωματική κάθαρση καὶ ἄσκηση. Αὐτὰ περνᾶνε, ὅπως ἀκούσαμε στὴν εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ποὺ διαβάστηκε πρὸ ὀλίγου, μέσα ἀπὸ τὴ νηστεία, ἡ όποία δὲν ἐπιτρέπεται νὰ τηρεῖται «πρὸς τὸ θεαθῆναι» ἀπὸ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους. Αὐτὰ περνᾶνε ἐπίσης καὶ μέσα ἀπὸ τὴν συγχωρητικότητα πρὸς τοὺς ἀδελφούς μας: «Ἐὰν ἀφῆτε τοῖς ανθρώποις τα παραπτώματα αὐτῶν, ἀφήσει καὶ ὑμῖν ὁ Πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος»1.

Ματθ. στ', 14.

Αὐτὸ ἐξάλλου τὸ ὁμολογοῦμε καθημερινὰ στὴν Κυριακή προσευχὴ μὲ τὸ «ώς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν»2.

Χθές, Σάββατο τῆς Τυροφάγου, ἡ Ἐκκλησία τίμησε τὴ μνήμη τῶν ἀνδοῶν καὶ γυναικῶν ἁγίων ποὺ ἔλαμψαν μὲ τὴν ἄσκησή τους. Οἱ ἄγιοι δὲν εἶναι μόνο πρότυπα τῶν πιστῶν στὸν καλὸ άγῶνα τῆς ζωῆς μας μὲ τὸν Χριστὸ καὶ σύμφωνα μὲ τὸν Χριστό, ἀλλὰ καὶ συνοδοιπόροι, φίλοι καὶ ἀρωγοὶ στὸν ἀσκητικὸ δρόμο τῆς νηστείας, τῆς μετανοίας καὶ τῆς ταπεινώσεως. Δὲν εἰμαστε μόνοι στὴν προσπάθειά μας, ἀλλὰ ἔχουμε τὸ Θεὸ νὰ μᾶς εὐλογεῖ, τοὺς άγίους καὶ τοὺς μάρτυρες νὰ μᾶς συμπαραστέκονται, καὶ τὴν πρώτη τῶν ἁγίων Θεοτόκο νὰ μεσιτεύει γιὰ ὅλους μας πρὸς τὸν Κύριο. Ἡ άγιότητα εἶναι τεκμήριο τῆς δυνάμεως τῆς χάριτος τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τῆς συνεργίας τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησία, μὲ τὴ συμμετοχὴ στὰ ἱερὰ μυστήρια καὶ μὲ τὴν τήρηση τῶν θείων προσταγμάτων. Δὲν ὑπάρχει «ἀδάπανος εὐλάβεια» καὶ «εὔκολος Χριστιανισμός», οὔτε «πλατεῖα πύλη» καὶ «εὐρύχωρος δρόμος», ποὺ νὰ όδηγεῖ πρὸς τὴν οὐράνια Βασιλεία.

Ο ποοκάτοχός μας ἄγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Χουσόστομος ἀποκάλεσε τὴν οἰκογένεια «Ἐκκλησία μικοή»4. Όντως, στὴν οἰκογένεια συντελεῖται ἡ ἐκκλησιοποίηση τῆς ὑπάοξεώς μας, ἀναπτύσσεται ἡ αἴσθηση τοῦ κοινωνικοῦ καὶ κοινοτικοῦ χαρακτῆρα τοῦ ἀνθρώπινου βίου καὶ τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ζωῆς, ἡ ἀγάπη, ὁ ἀλληλοσεβασμὸς καὶ ἡ ἀλληλεγγύη, βιώνονται ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ χαρὰ τῆς συμβίωσης ὡς θεία δωρεά. Ἡ κοινὴ προσπάθεια ἐφαρμογῆς τοῦ ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ κανόνα καὶ τοῦ ἤθους τῆς νηστείας στὰ πλαίσα τῆς οἰκογένειας, ἀναδεικνύει τὸν χαρισματικὸ χαρακτῆρα τῆς ἀσκητικῆς βιοτῆς καί, εὐρύτερα, τὴν βεβαιότητα ὅτι ὅλα τὰ ἀληθινά, τὰ σεμνὰ καὶ τὰ δίκαια στὴ ζωή μας προέρχονται ἄνωθεν, ὅτι, παρὰ τὴ δική μας συνεργία καὶ συμβολή, ὑπερβαίνουν, ἐν τέλει, τὸ ἀνθρωπίνως ἐφικτὸ καὶ τὰ

ἀνθοώπινα μέτοα. Ἐξάλλου, ή κοινότητα τοῦ βίου, ή ἀγάπη ποὸς ἀλλήλους ποὺ δὲν ἀναζητᾶ τὸ προσωπικὸ συμφέρον, καὶ ή συγχωρητικότητα δὲν ἀφήνουν χῶρο στὸν δικαιωματισμὸ καὶ τὴν αὐταρέσκεια. Ἐκφραση αὐτοῦ τοῦ πνεύματος «κοινῆς ἐλευθερίας» καὶ εὐχαριστιακοῦ ἀσκητισμοῦ ἀποτελεῖ ἡ ἀδιάσπαστη σύνδεση νηστείας, φιλανθρωπίας καὶ συμμετοχῆς στὴν ἐνοριακὴ καὶ λειτουργικὴ ζωὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Ἡ βίωση τοῦ «σαρακοστιανοῦ κλίματος» στὴ χριστιανικὴ οἰκογένεια όδηγεῖ στὸ βάθος τῆς ἀλήθειας τῆς ἐκκλησιαστικῆς ἐμπειρίας καὶ ἀποτελεῖ κοιτίδα καὶ ἀφετηρία χριστιανικῆς μαρτυρίας στὴν ἐκκοσμικευμένη σύγχρονη κοινωνία.

Εὔχεσθε, ἀδελφοὶ καὶ τέκνα, νὰ διατρέξουμε ὅλοι μὲ ἔνθεο ζῆλο τὸ στάδιο τῆς Ἁγίας καὶ Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς μὲ νηστεία καὶ μετάνοια, μὲ προσευχὴ καὶ κατάνυξη, εἰρηνεύοντας μὲ τὸν ἑαυτό μας καὶ μὲ τοὺς ἄλλους, κοινωνώντας τὴ ζωή,

ἀναδεικνυόμενοι «πλησίον» ὅσων βοίσκονται στὴν ἀνάγκη μὲ ἔογα φιλάνθοωπα, συγχωρώντας ἀλλήλους καὶ δοξολογώντας γιὰ ὅλα τὸ ὑπερουράνιο ὄνομα τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ἐλέους, δεόμενοι πρὸς Αὐτὸν νὰ εὐδοκήσει νὰ φθάσουμε μὲ καθαρισμένη τὴ διάνοιά μας στὴ Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλη Ἑβδομάδα καὶ νὰ προσκυνήσουμε μὲ χαρὰ καὶ ἀγαλλίαση τὴν λαμπροφόρα Ἀνάστασή Του.

Αγία καὶ Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή 2024 † Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως διάπυρος πρὸς Θεὸ εὐχέτης ὅλων σας



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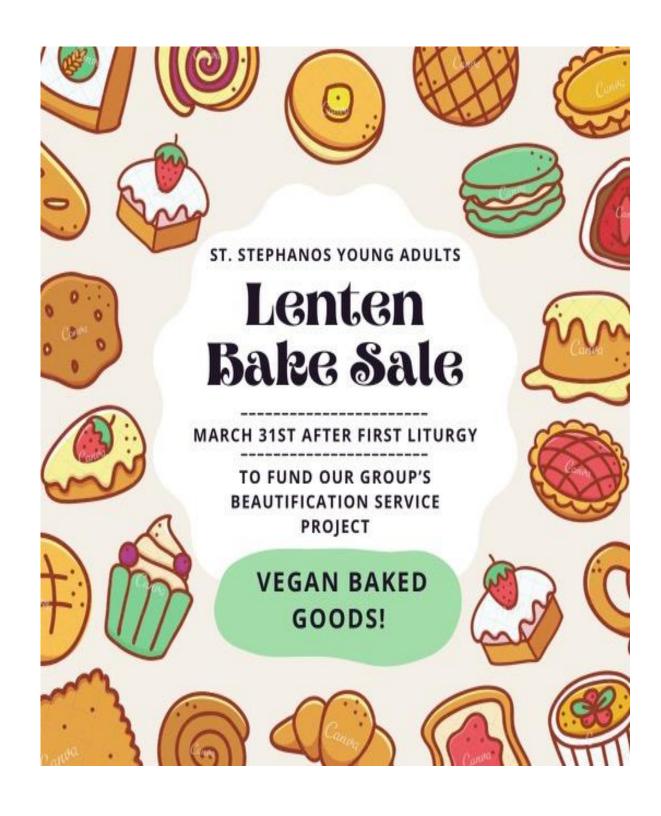
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AHEPA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus Chapter No. 326 of the Order of AHEPA announces its scholarship program. Three \$2,000 scholarships to high-school seniors who plan to attend college in the Fall of 2024 are available. The application is only available in digital form. Students must complete the applications by May 8, 2023. See link to the application below: https://bit.ly/49Sb0qP

Applicants can request documents pertaining to AHEPA's History and Mission, and AHEPA's 100 Years of Contributions to assist their knowledge about AHEPA which will help them with the application requirements by emailing the program Co-Chairman Dean Moskos at moskos.ahepa326@verizon.net.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must be High School Seniors of Hellenic descent who reside in Queens and attend a High School in any NYC borough, and who intend to attend a College or University in the Fall of 2024. (Exception: AHEPA members of Chapter 326, regardless of where they reside, whose qualifying children or grandchildren intend to attend a College or University in the Fall of 2024.) The winner of the scholarship awards will be awarded on AHEPA Sunday, June 9, 2024.

In addition, the AHEPA Empire District No. 6 offers several scholarships to high-school seniors who plan to attend college in the Fall of 2024 including a scholarship to a high school senior who will pursue a career in vocational training at an accredited school, i.e. health care, constriction, manufacturing, carpentry, electronics, plumbing, etc. The AHEPA District Six application and requirements are available online and may be easily downloaded at https://www.ahepad6.com/chapter-resources. Please note that the entire application must be e-mailed as a PDF document by May 1, 2024 to d6scholarships@ahepad6.com. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Please send any questions to the AHEPA District 6 Scholarship Secretary Chris Pappis at ahepascholarshiped6@gmail.com. The annual ceremony of the scholarship recipients will take place on June 15, 2024.

- ♦ The AHEPA Education Foundation (AEF) offers a number of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies scholar-ships. The partial list of the scholarships available includes the following: Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary Scholarships; AHEPA National Housing Corporation Scholarships; James G. Pulos Memorial Scholarship; Webster University − Athens Campus Scholarships; Chariclea ChristodoulakisCummins Educational Charity Fund Scholarship; and Constantine and Patricia Mavroyannis Scholarship. Scholarship awards may range up to a max of \$2,000, except where stipulated of a different amount. The deadline is March 31, 2024. For more information and to download the applications, visit https://www.ahepa.org/education. For questions about AHEPA's scholarships, please call (202) 232-6300 or email admin@ahepa.org.
- For additional scholarship opportunities (Hellenic Times, Panhellenic Scholarship Foundation, and GOADO (Greek Archdiocesan Olympic Scholarship (Deadline is April 21, 2024)), please visit https://www.ahepad6.com/chapter-resources and view all Scholarship and Educational Programs.
- ♦ AHEPA Journey to Greece: This exciting program was established in 1968 by our AHEPA Chapter's name-sake Past Supreme President Gus Cherevas. It offers an opportunity for our youth to visit Greece and earn six college credits working with Webster University, a fully accredited American University located near St. Louis, MO. The program date is from June 16 to July 12, 2024. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2024. For more information, and to complete the application form, visit https://www.ahepa.org/education and click on 2024 Journey to Greece Program.

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2024

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QUESTIONS

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