



February-March 2017

THE BRIDGE *Η ΓΕΦΥΡΑ*

"Rejoice, bridge that truly leads us from death to life!"
Akathist Hymn

DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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FATHER'S MESSAGE



God does not want those whom He will save, who seek His mercy, to be ignoramuses, unmanly, cowardly, or spiritually untested. It is a matter of divine inheritance stored up for experienced Christians. So He places temptations before us so that our obedience to His commandments may be demonstrated. His illumination is within us; knowledge of His will is taught by the Scriptures; furthermore, our conscience guides us like a compass. All of the above enlighten us in the face of temptations. But when evil prevails over our will, we do not obey His commandments.

We were created with free will, and free will cannot be controlled by others. As such, if we feared God, we would not fall into temptation. If we did not love ourselves more than God, we would not tend towards sin. But His goodness did not leave our falls without a rectifying remedy, whereby we return once again and a victory occurs in spite of our fall.

All who compel themselves to be saved, the Scriptures call righteous, justified by faith. God will not let them fall, for they are struggling properly. He will not let them be tempted beyond their strength when they are making every effort to be patient. But when we are cowardly and lukewarm, when we have a slothful will, this constitutes an occasion for a temptation beyond our strength.

Your grumbling is sinful; it is a result of self-love and unmanliness. Have patience in everything; thank God; blame your lukewarmness, and not God, Who was crucified for you and, consequently, must love you. Since He loves you, how can He let you fall into temptation? Seek forgiveness from Him, and secure yourself with patience.

Elder Ephraim of Philotheou and Arizona
From "Counsels from the Holy Mountain"

My beloved,

In only a few short weeks, we begin Holy and Great Lent. In the passage above, Geronda Ephraim emphasizes, as do all of the hesychastic fathers and mothers, free will. Free will is the gift given us by the Creator to work on our salvation. We have the ability to turn our lives over to God, to strive for **Theosis** (unity with God), by making a simple decision of transformation. Christ tells us **to deny ourselves, take up our Cross, and follow after Him**. If we make the effort to turn our lives around, to participate in God's love for us, we will surely obtain salvation.

It takes courage and strength to follow the Lord – but we have already been given the map and guideposts for this path. The map is the Mystical life in the Body of Christ, His Holy Orthodox Church; the guideposts are the Mysteria, the Sacraments, especially during Lent of Holy Communion and Holy Confession. Many roadblocks will be put in front of us, but by following this path, these will be overcome. God's love is for all humanity, and for all time: it's there to be taken freely. Turn to Him, follow Him, and join your brothers and sisters on this joyous journey to Christ's Resurrection and our Salvation.

During Great Lent, Repentance and Confession will be offered after Monday evening Great Compline and Saturday evening Great Vespers. Holy Communion will be offered at least twice each week, at Sunday Divine Liturgy and Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy.

With paternal love in Christ,

✠Father Andreas



PARISH MINISTRY DIRECTORY

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PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD: President, Presvytera Anthe Athas

ORDER of AHEPA: President, Dr. John Tampas

PROTOPSALTIS: Presvytera Mary Papayiannis

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – Georgia Maheras, Parish Council President

Opportunities

2017 is a year of opportunity for all of us-we can all make a difference. The Parish Council is starting off the year by making a difference. The first is that we are publishing our full meeting schedule for 2017 in this Bulletin. We invite all Parishioners to attend our meetings if you are interested. If you are unable to attend, our meeting minutes will be posted on the Church's website (www.gocvt.org). We are also going to provide monthly financial information in the weekly Bulletins that are distributed electronically and in hard copy on Sundays (this will be provided on the last Sunday of each month). You should receive your 2016 tax statement from the Church by 2/15- let us know if you don't receive yours. We also have new leaders in each of our committees and invite you to participate in the committees by contacting the committee leads. These committees are key to our community:

Communications (Justin Griffing): Manages communications and outreach including the website.

Fundraising (Nick Pitt): Responsible for fundraising, including Festival and Take-Out Dinners.

Finance (Paul Henninge): Assist in managing the investments and assets of the Parish. This includes coordination with the Community Center Committee and the Pappas Estate Committee.

Planning (Justin Griffing): Strategic Planning for the Parish as a whole.

Stewardship (Dave Hunt): Responsible for Stewardship campaigns and outreach.

Environment (Angelike Contis): Responsible for the Parish's environmental position.

Each one of us can make a difference. We can teach Sunday School, we can attend Bible Study, we can read the Bible at home, we can join a Committee, we can sing at Church, we can participate in Philoptochos, we can host coffee hour. What will you do?



Philoptochos News and Announcements

The Philoptochos Society is the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

Our Patron Saints are Cosmas and Damian - Nov 1
Come and join us in doing the charity of our Orthodox Christian faith in this place.

Philoptochos means "friend of the poor."

All women of our parish are invited to become members.

Mark Your Calendars: There is **NO meeting in February.**

Next regular meeting will be Sunday, March 19, after coffee hour (around 12:15 p.m.)

Pascha is April 16 and we celebrate this year the same day with the West.

Spring Bake Sale will be Saturday, April 8th (Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday will be at 9 a.m.)

Monday, April 3, 9:30 a.m. - Bake Sale prep: chopping nuts and folding boxes

Tuesday, April 4 – 9:30 a.m. - Baklava and Crescent baking

Everyone who can come to help is asked to come.

We need volunteers to come at 9 a.m. to help count filo.

Friday, April 7 – 10 a.m. – Cupping and set-up.

Everyone who can come to help is asked to come.

Saturday, April 8 – 9 a.m. – Final preparations

Please see the sign-up sheet at church or call Prez Anthe (865-4416) to volunteer to work the line.

Morning Line: 10-12 p.m. - Early Afternoon Line: 12-2 p.m.

Afternoon: 2-5 p.m. – typically slow time - Evening: 5-7 p.m.

♥ ♥ ♥ **TO ALL THE WOMEN (and Men) OF OUR PARISH** ♥ ♥ ♥

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, IS GO RED SUNDAY ... PLEASE WEAR SOMETHING RED

(A PIN OR A SCARF OR BLOUSE IS SUFFICIENT – A TIE – YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALL DECKED OUT IN RED)

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR SPREADING AWARENESS OF HEART DISEASE AS THE #1 CAUSE OF DEATH IN AMERICAN WOMEN.

You do a wonderful service when you sponsor

COFFEE HOUR



Coffee /Fellowship Hour after the Divine Liturgy is a way of deepening our feeling of Community.

What Do I Need to Bring

- 1 quart of whole milk
- 2 half gallons of juice like apple, orange
- Snacks - for about 40-50 people.
Example: Dessert, Cheese and crackers,
Bagels & cream cheese, Fruit (cut up).

You do not need to bring coffee, sugar, dishes, or napkins. These are provided at Church.

During the fasting periods of the Church, please be careful to avoid bringing meat or dairy products for coffee hour. Hummus and crackers/pita bread, peanut butter and jelly are examples of what have been brought during those times.



Ladies of Philoptochos are glad to help if you need some in the kitchen. -If you have any questions, please call Presvytera Anthe Athas (865-4416).

SAVE THE DATE

Join us from 9am-12pm on April 8th
for a Sunday School Retreat on the Saturday of Lazarus

Make Lazaropita

Fold Palms into Crosses

Learn about Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Kids should be prepared to get messy!

*Life is fragile
handle with Prayer*

Parish Council Meeting Schedule 2017

February 7th at 5:15

March 14th at 5:15

April 2nd after Church (12)

May 9th at 5:15

June 6th at 5:15

July 9th after Church (12)

August 8th at 5:15

September 5th at 5:15

October 1st after Church (12)

November 7th at 5:15

December 5th at 5:15

All meetings are at Church in the Hall

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00a Orthros & Agiasmos 6:00p Vigil 7:00p Divine Liturgy <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	2 Meeting of our Lord 5:00p Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	3	4 5:00p Great Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>
5 Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy & Sunday School <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	6 Photios the Great 5:00p Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	7 9:00a Orthros 4:45p Vespers 5:15p Parish Council 7:00p Bible Study <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	8 9:00a Orthros 5:00p Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	9 9:00a Orthros 6:00p Vigil 7:00p Divine Liturgy <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	10 Ieromartyr Haralambos <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	11 5:00p Great Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>
12 Sunday of the Prodigal Son 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy & Sunday School <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	13 9:00a Orthros <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	14 CLERGY SYNAXIS <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	15 9:00a Orthros 5:00p Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	16 9:00a Orthros 5:00p Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	17 <i style="text-align: right;">Wine & Oil Allowed</i>	18 1st Soul Saturday 8:15a Orthros 9:00a Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service 5:00p Great Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>
19 Meatfare Sunday 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy & Sunday School 11:30a Apokreatiko Lunch <i style="text-align: right;">Fast Free</i>	20 9:00a Orthros 5:00p Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Dairy Allowed</i>	21 9:00a Orthros 5:00p Vespers 7:00p Bible Study <i style="text-align: right;">Dairy Allowed</i>	22 9:00a Orthros 5:00p Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Dairy Allowed</i>	23 9:00a Orthros 5:00p Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Dairy Allowed</i>	24 <i style="text-align: right;">Dairy Allowed</i>	25 2nd Soul Saturday 8:15a Orthros 9:00a Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service 5:00p Great Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Dairy Allowed</i>
26 Cheesefare Sunday 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy & Sunday School 5:00p Forgiveness Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Dairy Allowed</i>	27 Clean Monday 9:00a Orthros 7:00p Great Compline & Confession Lent Begins <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	28 9:00a Orthros 5:00p Vespers 7:00p Great Compline <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	Notes: Fasting Rules: <u>Strict Fast</u> – No meat, dairy products (includes eggs), fish (shellfish is permitted), wine or olive oil may be consumed; <u>Wine & Oil Allowed</u> – No meat, dairy products or fish (shellfish is permitted) may be consumed; <u>Dairy Allowed</u> – No meat may be consumed.			

Holy Mysterion of Repentance & Confession following Saturday Great Vespers, Clean Monday Great Compline, and by appointment.

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes: Fasting Rules: <u>Strict Fast</u> – No meat, dairy products (includes eggs), fish (shellfish is permitted), wine or olive oil may be consumed; <u>Wine & Oil Allowed</u> – No meat, dairy products or fish (shellfish is permitted) may be consumed; <u>Fish Allowed</u> – No meat or dairy products may be consumed.			1 9:00a Orthros & Agiasmos 7:00p Presanctified Liturgy <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	2 9:00a Orthros 5:00p Vespers 7:00p Great Compline <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	3 9:00a Orthros 7:00p 1 st Salutations to the Theotokos <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	4 3rd Soul Saturday 8:15a Orthros 9:00a Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service 5:00p Great Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Wine & Oil Allowed</i>
5 Sunday of Orthodoxy 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy & Sunday School 5:00p Lenten Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Wine & Oil Allowed</i>	6 9:00a Orthros 7:00p Great Compline & Confession <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	7 CLERGY RETREAT <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	8 CLERGY RETREAT 7:00p Presanctified Liturgy <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	9 40 Martyrs of Sevasteia 8:15a Orthros 9:00a Presanctified Liturgy <i style="text-align: right;">Wine & Oil Allowed</i>	10 9:00a Orthros 7:00p 2 nd Salutations to the Theotokos <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	11 5:00p Great Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Wine & Oil Allowed</i>
12 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy & Sunday School 5:00p Lenten Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Wine & Oil Allowed</i>	13 9:00a Orthros 7:00p Great Compline & Confession <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	14 9:00a Orthros 4:45p Vespers 5:15p Parish Council 7:00p Bible Study <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	15 9:00a Orthros 7:00p Presanctified Liturgy <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	16 <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	17 9:00a Orthros 7:00p 3 rd Salutations to the Theotokos <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	18 5:00p Great Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Wine & Oil Allowed</i>
19 Sunday of the Holy Cross 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy & Sunday School 5:00p Lenten Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Wine & Oil Allowed</i>	20 9:00a Orthros 7:00p Great Compline & Confession <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	21 <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	22 9:00a Orthros 7:00p Presanctified Liturgy <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	23 9:00a Orthros 5:00p Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	24 9:00a Orthros 7:00p Great Vespers with 4 th Salutations <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	25 Annunciation of the Theotokos 8:15a Orthros 9:00a Divine Liturgy 5:00p Great Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Fish Allowed</i>
26 Sunday of St. John Klimakos 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy & Sunday School 5:00p Lenten Vespers <i style="text-align: right;">Wine & Oil Allowed</i>	27 9:00a Orthros 7:00p Great Compline & Confession <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	28 <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	29 9:00a Orthros 7:00p Presanctified Liturgy 8:30p Small Compline with Great Canon <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	30 Great Canon of St. Andrew 8:15a Orthros 9:00a Presanctified Liturgy <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	31 Akathist Hymn 9:00a Orthros 7:00p Service of the Akathist Hymn <i style="text-align: right;">Strict Fast</i>	

Holy Mystery of Repentance & Confession following Monday Great Compline, and by appointment.

April 8th is our ANNUAL SPRING TAKE-OUT DINNER AND BAKE SALE

Bake Sale: 10am-7pm

Take-Out Dinner: 11am-7pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need people to help every day from April 3rd-April 8th to help with this major fundraiser for the Philoptochos and the Parish.

- Can you help the week of April 3rd with prep (baking, skewering, set-up)?
- Can you help by taking a shift on April 8th? Either serving, preparing food, washing dishes, clean-up, cashier?

Please sign up with either (or both!) the Philoptochos or Parish Council to let us know when you can help.

