



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA
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THE LADDER

MAY & JUNE 2025



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METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH

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THE LADDER

Monthly newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation.

Submissions for consideration are due on the 15th of each month. Send to annunciationyorkpa@gmail.com

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

MINISTRY TEAM

Clergy

Rev. Economos Fr. Andrew N. Tsikitas, Parish Priest

Rev. Deacon Thomas Shelley

Parish Council

President: Lola Lamnatos
Vice President: George Karanicolas
Secretary: Maria Skouras
Treasurer: Kelly Sheasley

Christopher Barakos Nick Barakos
Pete Harmantzis Dr. Nick Agapis
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Church Staff

Chantors: Nick Karageorge
Reader Mark Bittner
Diaconissa Jan Shelley
Office Administrator: Georgia Georgakopoulos
Ladder Editor: Georgia Georgakopoulos
Sunday Bulletin: Fr. Andrew Tsikitas

Schedule of Worship Hours

Sunday Services (and Weekdays)

8:30 AM Orthros

9:45 AM Divine Liturgy

Sunday Church School

In person, after Holy Communion

Schedule of Church Events

Pastoral Visitations: By request

Home & Business Blessings: By request

Departments, Ministries and Committees

Church Choir	Oratorical Festival Committee
GOYA	Grounds & Maintenance
HOPE & JOY	Tech & Security Committee
Sunday School	Stewardship Committee
Philoptochos	Scholarship Committee
Senior Citizens	Food Festival Committee
Social Committee	

Anyone interested in serving on any of these organizations or committees, please contact the Church Office.

Thank you!

FR. ANDREW'S MESSAGE

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen!

What a glorious celebration of Pascha we experienced together yet again this year. Everyone outdid themselves with regards to the preparations leading up to Holy Week and Pascha, as well as throughout Holy Week as well. It also seemed to me that we saw an increase in our overall attendance through this most sacred time of year, and that most of you stayed until the end of the services, including Anastasi service. I thank you all for that, it made my personal experiences this year more wonderful.

I hope that the Resurrection of our Lord will lead to a small resurrection in all of our lives individually, and to our community in general. The unique services and activities that come with the season may be done for another year, but let us keep the joyfulness and blessings that our Lord's resurrection brings us alive and growing for as long as we can.

Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

Your humble servant in the Lord,

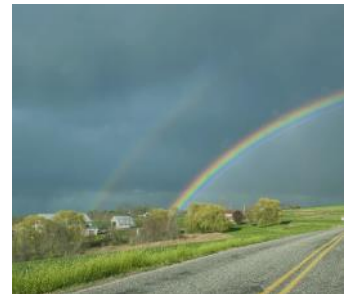
† Andrew

THE VOICE OF OUR FAITH

A SIGN OF BLESSINGS TO COME—DEACON THOMAS SHELLEY

The weather on Holy Tuesday was sometimes fearsome and fierce. Partly cloudy morning skies gave way to more sun than clouds propelled by gusty southwestern winds. Those winds eventually swept in brief but strong rain showers which just as quickly were swept away by interludes of unfiltered sunlight.

Of course, those conditions were perfect for generating rainbows, and as headed out for the Holy Tuesday service the late afternoon sun produced the most vivid rainbow that I had ever seen.



Actually, there were two rainbows. The outer one was rather faint, but the lower one, particularly at ground level had incredibly intensity of color in very broad stripes. At the moment that the picture was taken through the car windshield the end of the rainbow was unmistakably over Leader Heights—over our Temple.

That unexpected delight to the eyes was a precursor to unexpected delights to the ears. For the Bridegroom Orthros of Holy Tuesday evening was the most beautiful that I have ever experienced. First, unexpectedly Deacon George was with us for a second night. Second, the choir's many weeks of rehearsal had prepared them to sing the Hymn of Kassiani as I had never heard them sing it before; unrushed, and with pauses at the close of intense phrases.

Adding to the beauty of that evening was seeing three young men who are completing their time as Catechumens present for the third consecutive night. By the time this edition of the Ladder is published two of them will have been received as Orthodox Christians through the Sacraments of Initiation and the third will not be far behind.

A double rainbow. Double blessings. Each two-fold...and a sign of more blessings to come.

Lift up your eyes round about You and see, O Zion.

Behold, like beacons shining with light divine have your children come to you from the West, from the North and from seaward and from the East.

In you they extol Christ and bless Him to the Ages.

Glory to Your Holy Resurrection, O Lord! - Troparion from the Eighth Ode of the Canon of Pascha

CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST—ST. SYMEON THE NEW THEOLOGIAN

Brethren and Fathers, Easter is now here, the festive day that brings us joy and gladness, the day of Christ's Resurrection, which comes round once a year, or, to put it better, occurs daily and perpetually in those who know its mystery, filling our hearts with joy and inexpressible elation. At the same time, it marks the end of the efforts of the holy fast, or, better, has perfected our souls and has, at the same time, comforted them. So, as you see, it has summoned all the faithful to rest and thanksgiving.

Let us therefore give thanks to the Lord, Who has helped us chart the sea of the fast and has brought us, full of joy, to the haven of His Resurrection.

All of us who kept to the road of the fast willingly and strictly, full of fervor, and striving for the acquisition of the virtues, let us give thanks to Him, and let us do so even if we were less zealous than we should have been, through neglect and spiritual lassitude.



Because He it is Who grants, crowns to the zealous and rewards them commensurately to their efforts and, to those who are spiritually weaker, still awards forgiveness, given that He's merciful and loves us. He gauges more the dispositions and intentions of our souls rather than the bodily labours with which we exercise ourselves in virtue, whether we engage in greater asceticism, with unstinting enthusiasm, or do less than the great strivers, because of the weakness of our bodies. According to our intentions, He shares the prizes and the gifts of the Spirit with each one of us, granting fame and glory to the most zealous, or leaving them on a lower level so that they have need of more diligent purification.

But, if you agree, let us examine carefully what the mystery of the Resurrection of Christ our God is, which, in us who so desire, is always celebrated mystically; and how Christ is buried within us, as in a tomb; and how, having become united with our souls, rises and raises us with Him. What I have in mind to say is this:

Christ our God was crucified and nailed to the Cross the sin of the world; he tasted death and descended into the lowest depths of hell. When He rose from Hell, He re-entered His spotless body (from which He had not been separated in His descent) and immediately arose from the dead and was later taken up into the heavens with great glory and power. In the same way as we have left the world of sin and, in imitation of the sufferings of the Lord, have entered the tomb of humility and repentance, so He, descending from the heavens, entered as it were into a tomb, our body and, having become united with our souls, resurrects them, though they were clearly dead. And then Christ permits those who have been raised with Him in this way to see His mystical resurrection.

Christ's resurrection, then, is also the resurrection of us who live here below. It has been written that He never fell into sin, nor was the least part of His glory altered in any way, so how will He ever rise and be glorified, since He is forever glorified more than all else and is above all authority and power, remaining the same. As has been said, Christ's resurrection and glory are ours, too, which, through His resurrection in us have occurred and are manifested in us and are seen by us. Having once and for all appropriated what is ours, He attributes to Himself the things He works in us. The resurrection of the soul is union with life. Unless the dead body receives the living soul in itself and is joined to it (though not mingled with it), it can't live or be called alive.

In the same way, the soul can't live unless it's ineffably and without confusion united to God, Who is truly eternal life. Before this union in knowledge, vision and perception, it's dead, albeit with an intellectual existence and an immortal nature. There's no knowledge without vision and no vision without perception. What I mean is that there is vision, and, in the vision, knowledge and perception. I'm talking about spiritual matters here, since in the corporeal realm there is perception without vision. What do I mean? A blind person who stubs their toe on a stone feels it, but a dead person wouldn't. In spiritual matters, unless the intellect attains to the vision of things beyond thought, it doesn't perceive mystical activity.

Those who, before achieving contemplation in the spiritual realm, claim to perceive the things that are above intellect, word and meaning, are like someone who's blind, who has a feeling for what's good or bad, but isn't aware that what's in his hands or at his feet might be a matter of life or death for him. Since he's deprived of the faculty of sight and perception, he has no way of knowing whether what's coming to him is bad or good. So he'll often raise his stick to defend himself against an enemy, yet, quite probably, strike a friend instead, while his enemy stands before him and laughs at him.

Most people believe in the Resurrection of Christ, but very few of them actually see it clearly. But if you haven't seen it, you can't worship Jesus Christ as the Holy One and the Lord. It's said that: 'No-one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit', and elsewhere 'God is Spirit and those who worship Him should do so in spirit and in truth'. That most holy formulation which is on our lips every day doesn't say: 'In that we've believed in the Resurrection of Christ' but rather 'In that we've beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Lord Jesus, the only sinless One'.

How is it that the Holy Spirit encourages us to say 'in that we've beheld the Resurrection of Christ', as though we'd seen it, when, in fact, we haven't? After all, Christ rose a thousand years ago and no-one saw it at the time. Surely the divine Scriptures don't expect us to lie? Far from it. Rather they order us to tell the truth, which is that it, that is Christ's resurrection, occurs in each and every one of us believers, not once and for all but every hour of the day, in a manner of speaking, when Christ the Lord has risen in us, effulgent and radiating the lightning shafts of incorruption and the Deity. The light-bearing presence of the Spirit shows us, like the dawn, or rather allows us to see the Resurrection of the Lord. This is why we say 'God is the Lord and has appeared to us' [The Greek could also mean 'and has shone upon us'].

And we refer to His Second Coming in these terms: 'Blessed is He Who is coming in the name of the Lord'. To those to whom the Risen Christ has appeared, entirely in the Spirit, He has shown Himself to their spiritual eyes. When this happens to us in the Spirit, He raises us and quickens us, and allows us to see Him all alive in us, immortal and indestructible as He is. Moreover, he clearly permits us to know Him Who raises us up with Him and with Whom we are glorified, as all the Holy Scriptures testify.

These, then are the divine mysteries of the Christians, the hidden power of our faith, which the unbelievers, the sceptics and the partial believers neither see nor are able to see. The unbelievers, sceptics and partial believers are those who don't demonstrate their faith through works. Because even the demons believe and confess that Christ is God and the Lord, though they have no works. 'We know you', they say, 'the Son of God', and elsewhere 'These people are servants of God the Most High'. But this faith is of no benefit to them, because, according to the divine Apostle [*James 2, 26*], 'Faith without works is dead', just as deeds are without faith. How is it dead?

Because, within it, it doesn't have the life-giving God, it hasn't laid hold on Him Who said: 'He who loves me will keep my commandments and the Father and I will come and dwell in him'. So that He may, by His presence, raise from the dead those who have acquired faith and quicken them, and allow them to see Him Who has risen in them and has raised them up. This is why such faith is dead, are rather they're dead who have it but have nothing to show for it. Faith in God is always alive and, living as it does, gives life to those who approach it with pure intentions and receive it. It brought many people from death to life and showed them Christ and God, even before they started performing His commandments.

Had they but persevered in the observation of His commandments and kept them till they died, they too, would have been preserved by them, that is, in the condition into which faith alone had brought them. But since they turned aside like a crooked bow and pierced themselves upon their earlier actions, they obviously wrecked the ship of their faith and, unfortunately, deprived themselves of the true riches, Christ our God. Therefore I would urge you, let us keep God's commandments with all our strength, so that we don't share their fate but enjoy both the present and future blessings, that is, the actual vision of Christ. May we all attain to this, through the grace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory unto the ages. Amen.

ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΡ. ΑΝΔΡΕΑ

Αγαπητοί εν Χριστώ αδελφοί,

Χριστός Ανέστη!

Τι ένδοξο εορτασμό του Πάσχα βιώσαμε μαζί για άλλη μια φορά φέτος. Όλοι ξεπέρασαν τον εαυτό τους όσον αφορά τις προετοιμασίες πριν από τη Μεγάλη Εβδομάδα και το Πάσχα, καθώς και καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας. Μου φάνηκε επίσης ότι είδαμε αύξηση στη συνολική μας προσέλευση κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της ιερότερης περιόδου του χρόνου, και ότι οι περισσότεροι από εσάς μείνατε μέχρι το τέλος των τελετών, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της λειτουργίας της Ανάστασης. Σας ευχαριστώ όλους γι' αυτό, έκανε τις προσωπικές μου εμπειρίες φέτος πιο υπέροχες.

Ελπίζω ότι η Ανάσταση του Κυρίου μας θα οδηγήσει σε μια μικρή ανάσταση στη ζωή όλων μας ατομικά, και στην κοινότητά μας γενικότερα. Οι μοναδικές τελετές και δραστηριότητες που συνοδεύουν την περίοδο αυτή μπορεί να έχουν τελειώσει για έναν ακόμη χρόνο, αλλά ας διατηρήσουμε ζωντανή και αυξανόμενη τη χαρά και τις ευλογίες που μας φέρνει η ανάσταση του Κυρίου μας για όσο περισσότερο μπορούμε.

Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς, Ανέστη!

Ο ταπεινός δούλος σας εν Κυρίω,

† **Ανδρέας**

Η ΚΛΙΜΑΞ

ΣΗΜΑΔΙ ΕΥΛΟΓΙΩΝ ΠΟΥ ΘΑ ΕΡΘΟΥΝ—Διάκ. Θωμάς Shelley

Ο καιρός τη Μεγάλη Τρίτη ήταν μερικές φορές τρομακτικός και άγριος. Ο μερικώς συννεφιασμένος πρωινός ουρανός έδωσε τη θέση του σε περισσότερο ήλιο παρά σε σύννεφα που προωθήθηκαν από θυελλώδεις νοτιοδυτικούς ανέμους. Αυτοί οι άνεμοι τελικά σάρωσαν με σύντομες αλλά δυνατές βροχές, οι οποίες εξίσου γρήγορα παρασύρθηκαν από ενδιάμεσα αφιλτράριστου ηλιακού φωτός.

Φυσικά, αυτές οι συνθήκες ήταν ιδανικές για τη δημιουργία ουράνιων τόξων, και καθώς κατευθυνόμασταν προς τη τελετή της Μεγάλης Τρίτης, ο ήλιος αργά το απόγευμα έδωσε το πιο έντονο ουράνιο τόξο που είχα δει ποτέ.



Στην πραγματικότητα, υπήρχαν δύο ουράνια τόξα. Το εξωτερικό ήταν κάπως αχνό, αλλά το χαμηλότερο, ιδιαίτερα στο επίπεδο του εδάφους, είχε απίστευτη ένταση χρώματος σε πολύ φαρδιές ρίγες. Τη στιγμή που η φωτογραφία τραβήχτηκε μέσα από το παρμπρίζ του αυτοκινήτου, το τέλος του ουράνιου τόξου ήταν αναμφισβήτητα πάνω από το Leader Heights - πάνω από τον Ναό μας.

Αυτή η απροσδόκητη απόλαυση για τα μάτια ήταν προάγγελος απροσδόκητων απολαύσεων για τα αυτιά. Για τον Νυμφίο, ο Όρθρος της Μεγάλης Τρίτης το βράδυ ήταν ο πιο όμορφος που έχω βιώσει ποτέ. Πρώτον, απροσδόκητα ο Διάκονος Γεώργιος ήταν μαζί μας για δεύτερη νύχτα. Δεύτερον, οι πολλές εβδομάδες πρόβας της χορωδίας τους είχαν προετοιμάσει να ψάλλουν τον Ύμνο της Κασσιανής όπως δεν τους είχα ξανακούσει ποτέ να τον τραγουδούν· χωρίς βιασύνη και με παύσεις στο τέλος έντονων φράσεων.

Κάτι που προστέθηκε στην ομορφιά εκείνης της βραδιάς ήταν το γεγονός ότι είδα τρεις νέους άνδρες που ολοκληρώνουν τον χρόνο τους ως Κατηχούμενοι να είναι παρόντες για τρίτη συνεχόμενη νύχτα. Μέχρι να εκδοθεί αυτή η έκδοση της Κλίμακας, δύο από αυτούς θα έχουν γίνει δεκτοί ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί μέσω των Μυστηρίων της Εκκλησίας και ο τρίτος δεν θα αργήσει πολύ.

Διπλό ουράνιο τόξο. Διπλές ευλογίες ... και σημάδι περισσότερων ευλογιών που θα έρθουν.

Ἄρον κύκλω τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς σου Σιών καὶ ἴδε·

ἰδοὺ γὰρ ἦκασί σοι, θεοφεγγεῖς ὡς φωστῆρες, ἐκ δυσμῶν καὶ βορρᾶ,

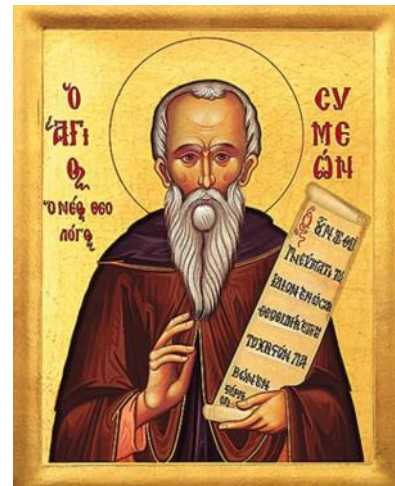
καὶ θαλάσσης, καὶ ἐφ’ ἧς τὰ τέκνα σου

ἐν σοὶ εὐλογοῦντα, Χριστὸν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.

Δόξα την Αγία Σου Ανάσταση, Κύριε! - Τροπάριο από την Όγδοη Ωδή του Κανόνα του Πάσχα

ΠΕΡΙ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ—Αγ. Συμεών ο Νέος Θεολόγος

Ἀδελφοί καὶ πατέρες, ἤδη τό Πάσχα, ἡ χαρμόσυνη ἡμέρα, πού προκαλεῖ κάθε εὐφροσύνη καὶ εὐτυχία, καθὼς ἡ ἀνάσταση τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἔρχεται τήν ἴδια ἐποχή τοῦ χρόνου πάντοτε, ἡ καλύτερα γίνεται κάθε ἡμέρα καὶ συνεχῶς μέσα σ’ αὐτοῦς πού γνωρίζουν τό μυστήριό της, ἀφοῦ γέμισε τίς καρδιές μας ἀπό κάθε χαρά καὶ ἀνεκλάλητη ἀγαλλίαση (Λουκ. 1, 14), ἀφοῦ ἔλυσε μαζί καί τόν κόπο ἀπό τήν πάνσεπτη νηστεία ἥ, γιά νά πῶ καλύτερα, ἀφοῦ τελειοποίησε καί συγχρόνως παρηγόρησε τίς ψυχές μας, γι’ αὐτό καί μᾶς προσκάλεσε ὅλους μαζί τοὺς πιστούς, ὅπως βλέπετε, σέ ἀνάπαυση καὶ εὐχαριστία, πέρασε. Ἄς εὐχαριστήσουμε λοιπόν τόν Κύριο, πού μᾶς διαπέρασε ἀπό τό πέλαγος (Σοφ. Σολ. 10, 18) τῆς νηστείας καί μᾶς ὁδήγησε μέ εὐθυμία στόν λιμένα τῆς ἀναστάσεώς Του. Ἄς τόν εὐχαριστήσουμε καί ὅσοι περάσαμε τό δρόμο τῆς νηστείας μέ θερμή πρόθεση καί ἀγῶνες ἀρετῆς, καί ὅσοι ἀσθένησαν στό μεταξύ ἀπό ἀδιαφορία καί ἀσθένεια ψυχῆς, ἐπειδή ὁ ἴδιος εἶναι πού δίνει μέ τό παραπάνω τά στεφάνια καί τοὺς ἄξιους μισθοὺς τῶν ἔργων τοὺς σ’ ἐκείνους πού ἀγωνίζονται, καί πάλι αὐτός εἶναι πού ἀπονέμει τῇ συγγνώμῃ στοὺς ἀσθενέστερους ὡς ἐλεήμων καί φιλόανθρωπος. Διότι βλέπει πολύ περισσότερο τίς διαθέσεις τῶν ψυχῶν μας καί τίς προαιρέσεις, παρά τοὺς κόπους τοῦ σώματος, μέ τοὺς ὁποίους γυμνάζομε τοὺς ἑαυτοὺς μας στήν ἀρετή, ἢ ἐπαυξάνοντας τήν ἄσκησις λόγω τῆς προθυμίας τῆς ψυχῆς ἢ ἐλαττώνοντας αὐτήν ἀπό τά σπουδαῖα ἐξ αἰτίας τοῦ σώματος, καί σύμφωνα μέ τίς προθέσεις μας ἀνταποδίδει τά βραβεῖα καί τά χαρίσματα τοῦ Πνεύματος στόν καθένα, κάμνοντας κάποιον ἀπό τοὺς ἀγωνιζόμενους περίφημο καί ἑνδοξο ἢ ἀφήνοντας τόν ταπεινὸ καί ἔχοντα ἀκόμη ἀνάγκη ἀπό κοπιαστικότερη κάθαρση.



Ἀλλά ἂς δοῦμε, ἐάν νομίζετε, καί ἂς ἐξετάσουμε καλῶς, ποῖο εἶναι τό μυστήριό τῆς ἀναστάσεως τοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ μας, τό ὁποῖο γίνεται μυστικῶς πάντοτε σέ ἐμᾶς πού θέλομε, καί πῶς μέσα μας ὁ Χριστός θάπτεται σάν σέ μνημα, καί πῶς ἀφοῦ ἐνωθεί μέ τίς ψυχές, πάλι ἀνασταίνεται, συνανασταίνοντας μαζί του καί ἐμᾶς. Αὐτός εἶναι καί ὁ σκοπὸς τοῦ λόγου.

Ὁ Χριστός καί Θεός μας, ἀφοῦ ὑψώθηκε στό σταυρό καί κάρφωσε (Κολ. 2, 14) σ’ αὐτόν τήν ἁμαρτία τοῦ κόσμου (Ἰω. 1, 25) καί γεύτηκε τό θάνατο (Ἑβρ. 2, 9), κατήλθε στά κατώτατα μέρη τοῦ ἅδη (Ἐφ. 4, 9, Ψαλ. 85, 13). Ὅπως λοιπόν ὅταν ἀνῆλθε πάλι ἀπό τόν ἅδη εἰσῆλθε στό ἄχραντό Του σῶμα, ἀπό τό ὁποῖο ὅταν κατήλθε ἐκεῖ δέν χωρίσθηκε καθόλου, καί ἀμέσως ἀναστήθηκε ἀπό τοὺς νεκρούς καί μετὰ ἀπ’ αὐτό ἀνῆλθε στοὺς οὐρανοὺς μέ δόξα πολλή καί δύναμη (Ματθ. 24, 30, Λουκ. 21, 27), ἔτσι καί τώρα, ὅταν ἐξερχόμαστε ἐμεῖς ἀπό τόν κόσμον καί εἰσερχόμαστε μέ τήν ἐξομοίωση (Ρωμ. 6, 5, Β’ Κορ. 1, 5, Φιλ. 3, 10) τῶν παθημάτων τοῦ Κυρίου στό μνημα τῆς μετάνοιας καί ταπεινώσεως, αὐτός ὁ ἴδιος, κατερχόμενος ἀπό τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, εἰσέρχεται σάν σέ τάφο μέσα στό σῶμα μας καί, ἐνούμενος μέ τίς δικές μας ψυχές, τίς ἀνασταίνει, ἀφοῦ αὐτές ἦταν ὁμολογουμένως νεκρές, καί τότε δίνει τῇ δυνατότητα, σ’ αὐτόν πού ἀναστήθηκε ἔτσι μαζί μέ τόν Χριστό, νά βλέπει τῇ δόξῃ τῆς μυστικῆς του ἀναστάσεως.

Ἀνάσταση λοιπόν τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶναι ἡ δική μας ἀνάσταση, πού βρισκόμαστε κάτω πεσμένοι. Διότι ἐκεῖνος, ἀφοῦ ποτέ δέν ἔπεσε στήν ἁμαρτία (Ἰω. 8, 46, Ἑβρ. 4, 15. 7, 26), ὅπως ἔχει γραφεῖ, οὔτε ἀλλοιώθηκε καθόλου ἡ δόξα του, πῶς θ’ ἀναστηθεῖ ποτέ ἢ θά δοξασθεῖ, αὐτός πού εἶναι πάντοτε ὑπερδοξασμένος καί πού διαμένει ἐπίσης πάντοτε ἀπό κάθε ἀρχή καί ἐξουσία (Ἐφ. 1, 21); Ἀνάσταση καί δόξα τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶναι, ὅπως ἔχει λεχθεῖ, ἡ δική μας δόξα, πού γίνεται μέσα μας μέ τήν ἀνάστασή Του, καί δειχνεται καί ὁράται ἀπό ἐμᾶς. Διότι ἀπό τῇ στιγμή πού ἔκανε δικά του τά δικά μας, ὅσα κάμνει μέσα μας αὐτός, αὐτά ἀναγράφονται σ’ αὐτόν. Ἀνάσταση λοιπόν τῆς ψυχῆς εἶναι ἡ ἔνωση τῆς ζωῆς. Διότι, ὅπως τό νεκρὸ σῶμα οὔτε λέγεται ὅτι ζεῖ οὔτε μπορεῖ νά ζεῖ, ἐάν δέν δεχθεῖ μέσα του τῇ

ζωντανή ψυχή καί ένωθει μέ αὐτήν χωρίς νά συγχέεται, ἔτσι οὔτε ἡ ψυχή μόνη της καί καθ' ἑαυτήν μπορεῖ νά ζεῖ, ἐάν δέν ένωθει μυστικῶς καί ἀσυγχύτως μέ τόν Θεό, πού εἶναι ἡ πραγματικά αἰώνια ζωή (Α' Ἰω. 5, 20). Διότι πρίν ἀπό αὐτή τήν ένωση ὡς πρὸς τή γνώση καί ὄραση καί αἴσθηση εἶναι νεκρή, ἂν καί νοερά ὑπάρχει καί εἶναι ὡς πρὸς τή φύση ἀθάνατη. Διότι δέν ὑπάρχει γνώση χωρίς ὄραση, οὔτε ὄραση δίχως αἴσθηση.

Αὐτό πού λέγω σημαίνει τό ἐξῆς. Ἡ ὄραση καί μέσω τῆς ὁράσεως ἡ γνώση καί ἡ αἴσθηση (αὐτό τό ἀναφέρω γιά τά πνευματικά, διότι στά σωματικά καί χωρίς ὄραση ὑπάρχει αἴσθηση). Τί θέλω νά πῶ; Ὁ τυφλός ὅταν χτυπᾷ τό πόδι του σέ λίθο αἰσθάνεται, ἐνῶ ὁ νεκρός ὄχι. Στά πνευματικά ὁμως, ἐάν δέν φθάσει ὁ νοῦς σέ θεωρία τῶν ὧσων ὑπάρχουν πάνω ἀπό τήν έννοια, δέν αἰσθάνεται τή μυστική ἐνέργεια. Αὐτός λοιπόν πού λέγει, ὅτι αἰσθάνεται στά πνευματικά πρίν φθάσει σέ θεωρία αὐτῶν πού εἶναι ἐπάνω ἀπό τό νοῦ καί τό λόγο καί τήν έννοια, μοιάζει μέ τόν τυφλό στά μάτια, ὁ ὁποῖος αἰσθάνεται βέβαια τά ὅσα ἀγαθὰ ἢ κακὰ παθαίνει, ἀγνοεῖ ὁμως τά ὅσα γίνονται στά πόδια ἢ στά χέρια του καθὼς καί τά αἷτια ζωῆς ἢ θανάτου του. Διότι τά ὅσα κακὰ ἢ ἀγαθὰ τοῦ συμβαίνουν δέν τά ἀντιλαμβάνεται καθόλου, ἐπειδὴ εἶναι στερημένος ἀπό τήν ὀπτική δύναμη καί αἴσθηση, γι' αὐτό, ὅταν πολλές φορές σηκώνει τήν ράβδο του ν' ἀμυνθεῖ ἀπό τόν ἐχθρό, ἀντί ἐκεῖνον μερικές φορές χτυπᾷ μᾶλλον τόν φίλο του, ἐνῶ ὁ ἐχθρός στέκεται μπροστά στά μάτια του καί τόν περιγεῖ.

Οἱ περισσότεροι ἀπό τοὺς ἀνθρώπους πιστεύουν στήν ἀνάσταση τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὁμως πολύ λίγοι εἶναι ἐκεῖνοι πού καί τήν βλέπουν καθαρά, καί αὐτοὶ βέβαια πού δέν τήν εἶδαν οὔτε νά προσκυνήσουν μποροῦν τόν Ἰησοῦ Χριστό ὡς ἅγιο καί Κύριο. Διότι λέγει, «κανένας δέν μπορεῖ νά πεῖ Κύριο τόν Ἰησοῦ, παρά μόνο μέ τό Πνεῦμα τό ἅγιο» (Α' Κορ. 12, 3)· καί ἄλλοῦ. «Πνεῦμα εἶναι ὁ Θεός καί αὐτοὶ πού τόν προσκυνοῦν πρέπει νά τόν προσκυνοῦν πνευματικά καί ἀληθινά» (Ἰω. 4, 24). Καί ἀκόμη τό ἱερώτατο λόγιο, πού τό προφέρομε κάθε ἡμέρα, δέ λέγει, Ἀνάσταση Χριστοῦ πιστεύσαντες, ἀλλά τί λέγει; Ἀνάσταση Χριστοῦ θεασάμενοι, ἅς προσκυνήσομε ἅγιον Κύριον Ἰησοῦν, πού εἶναι ὁ μόνος ἀναμάρτητος». Πῶς λοιπόν μᾶς προτρέπει τώρα τό Πνεῦμα τό ἅγιο νά λέμε (σάν νά εἶδαμε αὐτήν πού δέν εἶδαμε) «Ἀνάσταση Χριστοῦ θεασάμενοι», ἐνῶ ἀναστήθηκε ὁ Χριστός μιά φορά πρίν ἀπό χίλια (Ὁ Συμεὼν ὁ Νεὸς Θεολόγος ἐξῆσε τέλη 10ου καί ἀρχές 11ου αἰῶνος, δηλ. χίλια χρόνια περίπου μετὰ τήν Ἀνάσταση τοῦ Κυρίου) ἔτη καί οὔτε τότε τόν εἶδε κανένας νά ἀνασταίνεται; Ἀραγε μήπως ἡ θεία Γραφή θέλει νά ψευδόμαστε; Μακριὰ μιά τέτοια σκέψη· ἀντίθετα συνιστᾷ μᾶλλον νά λέμε τήν ἀλήθεια, ὅτι δηλαδή μέσα στό καθένα ἀπό μᾶς τοὺς πιστοὺς γίνεται ἡ ἀνάσταση τοῦ Χριστοῦ καί αὐτό ὄχι μιά φορά, ἀλλά κάθε ὥρα, ὅπως θά ἔλεγε κανεὶς, ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Δεσπότης Χριστός ἀνασταίνεται μέσα μας, λαμπροφορώντας καί ἀπαστράπτοντας τίς ἀστραπές τῆς ἀφθαρσίας καί τῆς θεότητος. Διότι ἡ φωτοφώρα παρουσία τοῦ Πνεύματος μᾶς ὑποδεικνύει τήν ἀνάσταση τοῦ Δεσπότη, πού ἔγινε τό πρῶν (Ἰω. 21, 4), ἢ καλύτερα μᾶς ἐπιτρέπει νά βλέπομε τόν ἴδιο ἐκεῖνον τόν ἀναστάντα. Γι' αὐτό καί λέμε. «Θεός εἶναι ὁ Κύριος καί φανερώθηκε σέ μᾶς» (Ψαλμ. 117, 27), καί ὑποδηλώνοντας τή Δευτέρα παρουσία του λέμε συμπληρωματικά τά ἐξῆς. «εὐλογημένος εἶναι αὐτός πού ἔρχεται στό ὄνομα τοῦ Κυρίου» (Ψαλμ. 117, 26). Σέ ὁποιους λοιπόν φανερωθεῖ ὁ ἀναστημένος Χριστός, ὅπωςδήποτε φανερόνεται πνευματικῶς στά πνευματικά τους μάτια. Διότι, ὅταν ἔλθει μέσα μας διὰ τοῦ Πνεύματος, μᾶς ἀνασταίνει ἀπό τοὺς νεκροὺς καί μᾶς ζωοποιεῖ καί μᾶς ἐπιτρέπει νά τόν βλέπομε μέσα μας αὐτόν τόν ἴδιο ὅλον ζωντανό, αὐτόν τόν ἀθάνατο καί ἀφθαρτο, καί ὄχι μόνον αὐτό, ἀλλά καί μᾶς δίνει τή χάρη νά γνωρίζομε εὐκρινῶς ὅτι συνανασταίνει (Ἐφ. 2, 6) καί συνδοξάζει (Ρωμ. 8, 17) καί ἐμᾶς μαζί του, ὅπως μαρτυρεῖ ὅλη ἡ θεία Γραφή.

Αὐτά λοιπόν εἶναι τά μυστήρια τῶν Χριστιανῶν, αὐτὴ εἶναι ἡ κρυμμένη μέσα τους δύναμη τῆς πίστεώς μας, τήν ὁποία οἱ ἄπιστοι ἢ δύσπιστοι, ἢ καλύτερα νά πῶ ἡμίπιστοι, δέν βλέπουν, οὔτε βέβαια μποροῦν καθόλου νά τή δοῦν. Καί ἄπιστοι, δύσπιστοι καί ἡμίπιστοι εἶναι αὐτοὶ πού δέν φανερώνουν τήν πίστη μέ τά ἔργα (Ἰάκ. 2, 18). Διότι χωρίς ἔργα πιστεύουν καί οἱ δαίμονες (Ἰάκ. 2, 19) καί ὁμολογοῦν ὅτι εἶναι Θεός ὁ Δεσπότης Χριστός. «Σέ γνωρίζομε» (Μάρκ. 1, 24, Λουκ. 4, 34), λένε, «ἐσένα τόν Υἱό τοῦ Θεοῦ» (Ματθ. 8, 29)· καί ἄλλοῦ· «αὐτοὶ οἱ ἄνθρωποι εἶναι δοῦλοι τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ Ὑψίστου» (Πραξ. 16, 17). Ἀλλ' ὁμως οὔτε τοὺς δαίμονες οὔτε τοὺς ἀνθρώπους αὐτοὺς θά τοὺς ὠφελήσει ἡ τέτοια πίστη. Διότι δέν ὑπάρχει κανένα ὄφελος ἀπό τέτοια πίστη, ἐπειδὴ εἶναι νεκρή κατὰ τόν θεῖο ἀπόστολο. Διότι λέγει, «ἡ πίστη χωρίς τά ἔργα εἶναι νεκρή» (Ἰάκ. 2, 26), ὅπως καί τά ἔργα χωρίς τήν πίστη. Πῶς εἶναι νεκρή; Ἐπειδὴ δέν ἔχει μέσα της τόν Θεό πού τή ζωογονεῖ (Α' Τιμ. 6, 13), ἐπειδὴ δέν ἀπέκτησε μέσα της ἐκεῖνον πού εἶπε· «αὐτός πού μέ ἀγαπᾷ θά τηρήσει τίς ἐντολές μου» (Ἰω. 14, 21.23), «καί ἐγὼ καί ὁ Πατέρας μου θά ἔλθομε καί θά κατοικήσομε μέσα του» (Ἰω. 14, 23), γιὰ νά ἐξαναστήσῃ μέ τήν παρουσία του ἀπό τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτόν πού τήν κατέχει καί νά τόν ζωοποιήσει καί νά τοῦ ἐπιτρέψῃ νά δεῖ μέσα του καί αὐτόν πού ἀναστήθηκε καί αὐτόν πού ἀνέστησε.

Ἐξ αἰτίας αὐτοῦ λοιπόν εἶναι νεκρή ἡ τέτοια πίστη, ἢ καλύτερα νεκροὶ εἶναι αὐτοὶ πού τήν κατέχουν χωρίς ἔργα. Διότι ἡ πίστη στὸν Θεό πάντα ζεῖ καί ἐπειδὴ εἶναι ζῶσα ζωοποιεῖ αὐτοὺς πού προσέρχονται ἀπὸ ἀγαθὴ πρόθεση καί τήν ἀποδέχονται, ἡ ὁποία καί ἔφερε πολλοὺς ἀπὸ τό θάνατο στὴ ζωὴ καί πρίν ἀπὸ τήν ἐργασία τῶν ἐντολῶν

καί τούς ὑπέδειξε τόν Χριστό καί Θεό. Καί θά ἦταν δυνατό, ἐάν ἔμεναν πιστοί στίς ἐντολές του καί τίς φύλαγαν μέχρι θανάτου (Φιλ. 2, 8), νά διαφυλαχθοῦν καί αὐτοί ἀπ' αὐτές, ὅπως δηλαδή ἔγιναν ἀπό μόνη τήν πίστη. Ἐπειδή ὅμως μεταστράφηκαν, ὅπως τό στραβό τόξο (Ψαλμ. 77, 57), καί ἀκολούθησαν τίς προηγούμενες πράξεις τους, εὐλογα ἀμέσως βρέθηκαν νά ἔχουν ναυαγήσει ὡς πρός τήν πίστη (Α' Τιμ. 1, 19) καί δυστυχῶς στερήσαν τούς ἑαυτούς τους ἀπό τόν ἀληθινό πλοῦτο, πού εἶναι ὁ Χριστός ὁ Θεός.

Γιά νά μή πάθουμε λοιπόν καί ἐμεῖς αὐτό τό πρᾶγμα, ζητῶ νά τηρήσομε μέ ὅση δύναμη ἔχομε τίς ἐντολές τοῦ Θεοῦ, γιά ν' ἀπολαύσομε καί τά παρόντα καί τά μέλλοντα ἀγαθά, ἐννοῶ δηλαδή αὐτήν τήν ἴδια τήν θέα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τήν ὁποία εἶθε νά ἐπιτύχομε ὅλοι μας μέ τή χάρη τοῦ Κυρίου μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, στόν ὁποῖο ἀνήκει ἡ δόξα στούς αἰῶνες. Ἀμήν.



CLASS OF 2025

For all upcoming High School and College graduates !



We want to honor you in a future issue
of the Ladder !

Please email a senior photo of yourself along with the
following information to:

annunciationyorkpa@gmail.com

No later than May 31st

*Name

*School you are graduating from

* School you are planning to attend

* Field of study

* Any awards, scholarships, honors, etc you received

* College graduates, which degree you will receive

We look forward to hearing from you !!

**Graduate recognition is Sunday, June 8th

SCHOLARSHIP

*Attention all...
Upcoming graduating students
and current students pursuing a
higher education !*



*Every Spring, The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of York, PA
shall be awarding a minimum of two scholarships, the amounts depending on the
qualification of the applicants, to students pursuant to the following guidelines:*

*Eligible applicants are high school students who shall be pursuing a college education
or higher education in a business or trade school;
and students who are already attending a college, university, business or trade school.*

Application forms available in Church office

Submission deadline is May 23rd



***Applicants family must be members in good standing of the
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church York, PA to apply***

Scholarship recognition is Sunday, June 8th

ICON FLOWER DONATIONS

Icons for May, June, July & August Feast Days

Εικόνες για τις γιορτές του Μαΐου, Ιουνίου, Ιουλίου και Αυγούστου

Available for flower donations towards decorating -\$60 each

Διατίθενται για δωρεές στολισμού - \$60 η καθεμία

Wednesday, May 14 - Mid-Pentecost

Τετάρτη, 14 Μαΐου - Μεσοπεντηκοστή

Wednesday, May 21 - Sts. Constantine & Helen (Donated)

Τετάρτη, 21 Μαΐου - Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου & Ελένης (Έχει δωριστη)

Thursday, May 29 - Holy Ascension

Πέμπτη, 29 Μαΐου - Η Ανάληψης του Κυρίου

Sunday, June 8 - Holy Pentecost

Κυριακή, 8 Ιουνίου - Πεντηκοστή

Monday, June 9 - Monday of the Holy Spirit

Δευτέρα, 9 Ιουνίου - Του Αγίου Πνεύματος

Sunday, June 29 - Apostles Peter & Paul

Κυριακή, 29 Ιουνίου - Αγ. Απόστ. Πέτρος & Παύλος

Monday, June 30 - Synaxis of the Holy Apostles

Δευτέρα, 30 Ιουνίου - Σύναξη των Αγίων Αποστόλων

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Διατίθενται για δωρεές στολισμού - \$60 η καθεμία

Sunday, July 20 - Elias the Prophet

Κυριακή, 20 Ιουλίου - Του Προφήτη Ηλία

Saturday, July 26 - St. Paraskevi

Σάββατο, 26 Ιουλίου - Αγίας Παρασκευής

Sunday, July 27 - Panteleimon the Great Martyr

Κυριακή, 27 Ιουλίου - Αγίου Παντελεήμων

Wednesday, August 6 - Transfiguration of Jesus Christ (Donated)

Τετάρτη, 6 Αυγούστου - Μεταμόρφωση του Ιησού Χριστού (Έχει δωριστη)

Friday, August 15 - Dormition of the Theotokos (Donated)

Παρασκευή, 15 Αυγούστου - Κοίμηση της Θεοτόκου (Έχει δωριστη)

Friday, August 29 - Beheading of John The Baptist

Παρασκευή, 29 Αυγούστου - Αποτομή Κεφαλής Προδρόμου

****Please contact the Church office at 717-741-4200**

or email: annunciationyorkpa@gmail.com If you are interested in donating towards an icon

****Επικοινωνήστε με το γραφείο της Έκκλησίας στο 717-741-4200**

Εάν ενδιαφέρεστε να κάνετε δωρεά προς μια εικόνα

Thank you! Σας ευχαριστούμε

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Greek School 5pm-7pm	2	3
4  Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Div. Liturgy	5	6 Greek School 5pm-7pm Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	7 Greek School 5pm-6:30 pm	8 Greek School 5pm-7pm	9	10
11  Sunday of the Paralytic 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Div. Liturgy 	12	13 Greek School 5pm-7pm	14 Greek School 5pm-6:30 pm	15 Greek School 5pm-7pm	16	17
	Fr. Andrew will be attending the in-person meetings of the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Alumni Association and Alumni Dinner in Boston, May12-15					
18  Sunday of the Samaritan Woman 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Div. Liturgy	19	20 Greek School 5pm-7pm	21  Saints Constantine & Helen 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Divine Liturgy Greek School 5pm-6:30 pm	22 Greek School 5pm-7pm	23	24
25  Sunday of the Blind Man 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Div. Liturgy Greek School Program	26  Memorial Day Office Closed Memorial at Mt Rose Cemetery 12:30 pm	27 Greek School 5pm-7pm	28 Greek School 5pm-6:30 pm	29  Holy Ascension 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Divine Liturgy Greek School 5pm-7pm	30	31

Μάιος 2025

Κυρ	Δευ	Τρι	Τετ	Πεμ	Παρ	Σαβ
				1 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ	2	3
4  Κυριακή των Μυροφόρων 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργ.	5	6 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ Ενοριακό Συμβούλιο 7μμ	7 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-6:30 μμ	8 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ	9	10
11  Κυριακή του Παραλύτου 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργ. 	12	13 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ	14 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-6:30 μμ	15 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ	16	17
Ο πρ. Ανδρέας θα παραστεί στις συναντήσεις του Συλλόγου Αποφοίτων του Ελληνικού Κολλεγίου/Θ. Σ. Τιμίου Σταυρού και στο Δείπνο Αποφοίτων στη Βοστώνη, 12-15 Μαΐου.						
18  Κυριακή της Σαμαρείτιδος 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργ.	19	20 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ	21  Αγίων Κωνσταντίνου & Ελένης 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργ. Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-6:30 μμ	22 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ	23	24
25  Κυριακή του Τυφλού 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργ. πρόγραμμα του Ελληνικού Σχολείου	26  Γραφείο Κλειστό Γενικό Μνημόσυνο στο Mt. Rose 12:30μμ	27 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ	28 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-6:30 μμ	29  Η Ανάληψης του Κυρίου 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργ. Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ	30	31

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Fathers of the 1st Council 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Div. Liturgy	2	3 Greek School 5pm-7pm Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	4 Greek School 5pm-6:30 pm	5 Greek School 5pm-7pm	6	7 Saturday of Souls 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Divine Liturgy
8  Holy Pentecost 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Div. Liturgy Scholarship Awards and Graduate Recognition	9  Monday of the Holy Spirit 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Divine Liturgy	10 Greek School 5pm-7pm	11	12	13 Office Closed	14
15 The Sunday of all Saints 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Div. Liturgy 	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 2nd Sunday of Matthew 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Div. Liturgy	23	24	25	26	27	28
29  Peter and Paul The Holy Apostles 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Div. Liturgy	30  Synaxis of the Holy Apostles 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Divine Liturgy					

Ιούνιος 2025

Κυρ	Δευ	Τρι	Τετ	Πεμ	Παρ	Σαβ
1  Αγ. Πατέρες Α΄ Οικ. Συνόδου 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργία	2	3 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ Ενοριακό Συμβούλιο 7μμ	4 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-6:30 μμ	5 Ελληνικό Σχολείο 5μμ-7μμ	6	7 Ψυχосάββατο 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργία
8  Πεντηκοστή 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργία Διανομή Υποτροφιών, Αναγνώριση Αποφοίτων	9  Του Αγίου Πνεύματος 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργία	10	11	12	13 Γραφείο Κλειστό	14
15 Κυριακή Α' Ματθαίου Των Αγίων Πάντων 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργία 	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Β' Κυριακή του Ματθαίου 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργία	23	24	25	26	27	28
29  Των Αγ. Αποστ. Πέτρου & Παύλου 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργία	30  Σύναξης των 12 Αποστόλων 8:30 πμ Όρθρος 9:45 πμ Λειτουργία					

PARISH COUNCIL - ΕΝΟΠΙΑΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ

Parish Council Meeting: February 12, 2025

Present: Father Andrew Tsikitas, Lola Lamnatos, George Karanicolas, Kelly Sheasley, Maria Skouras, Pete Harmantzis, Roula Skouras, Zach Harmantzis, Chris Barakos, Nick Barakos, Nick Barakos, Toli Vainas

Absent: Dr. Nick Agapis

1. Prayer and Father's Opening Remarks

- The meeting began at 7:00 pm with a prayer by Father Andrew.
- He again thanked everyone for putting together such a great basketball tournament and expressed that he is proud of the community, the kids and the organizers. Also proud of the GOYANS that attended the recent tournament in Cleveland, in which they received the sportsmanship award.
- Getting ready for Lent, Holy Week & Pascha. Will be making more calls to schedule house blessings, and hopes to be able to squeeze some in during the next few weeks.

2. Approval of Minutes for January 22, 2025 -A motion was made by Lola L. to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by George K. and the minutes were approved.

3. President's Report

-Lola reviewed correspondence including a thank you card from House of Hope for food we donated after the basketball tournament, and a thank you from the IOCC or school supplies we donated. She also stated that we had very good feedback from other communities about the tournament we hosted, and reported that the tournament in Cleaveland went well. Both our teams played on Sunday of the tournament.

4. Treasurer's Report - The account balances were given by Kelly S.

5. Grounds & Maintenance

-The snow/ice removal seems to be going well this season. We do need to find a material that is safe for the concrete for melting ice.

6. Food Festival Update

- The final order for the festival was placed today and will be delivered tomorrow as per Pete H. We will be getting pastries from a new vendor, which will include portokalopita, karidopita and kataifi. We had ordered galaktoboureko but is not available this time. To also get vegan moussaka to try. This delivery will be on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.
- Scheduled closers for the festival which will be: Friday, Chris B. and Saturday & Sunday Lola L.
- Also discussed having a total of 5 dishwashers, 3 of who will also help with kitchen duties.

7. Stewardship Committee & Social Committee Update

-Still in need of a stewardship committee and social committee. Father Andrew reached out to a few other churches to see what they are doing in regards to stewardship and will report back when he gets more information.

PARISH COUNCIL - ΕΝΟΠΙΑΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ

8. Tech & Security Update

-Pete H. met with Gettle and Kleppers about the locks and key fobs. Gettle, who installed the key fob system, reports that there was an installation issue which is making the system be offline, therefore they fixed the issue. Kleppers replaced the locks on the office door and linen closet door.

9. Old Business

-Locks: currently being worked on
-Marble in church: discussed having a contrasting color on the step to prevent falls since all is white.
-Heat in foyer: still working on this as well as the heat in the hallway
-Moving dishwasher: will work on this after the food festival
-New board member: still need to find someone to fill the vacancy which Zach is currently filling
-Window sealing in church: we need to get some bids for this work -Quick Books update: Father Andrew has been working on this and found out that the system is now available through Parish Data Systems. He is waiting to receive more information from them.
-Member in Good Standing: reviewed the guidelines of what it means to be a member in good standing. Also reviewed pricing for non stewards to rent the social hall and use the church. To also develop a check sheet of expectations/criteria for someone who wants to use the church or social hall.

10. New Business

-Bingo Night: planning for the Sunday after Easter, April 27th . Tickets will be sold, we will have prizes, etc. This event will benefit the scholarship fund.
-Dance or Comedy show: hoping to schedule in the fall (possible dates 10/18/25, 10/25/25 or 11/5/25)
-Would like to plan another trip to the monastery .
-Godparent's Sunday will be March 3rd, as well as a book giveaway and brunch,
-St. Photios award nominees: Golfo Skouras was nominated by Lola L, seconded by Chris B. Also, Nick Barakos was nominated by Pete H. and seconded by Zach H.
-Hellas TV: Pete H. requested we purchase a membership for the church, at a cost of about \$60 per month so that we can plan events for church members such as watching soccer games and movies. Motion to purchase by Maria S., seconded by Lola L.
-Social Media Account Complaint: discussed a complaint about an independent social media account portraying inappropriate content, much of which ties it to our church activities. Father Andrew to address this issue with those involved

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 4th at 7:00pm.

The meeting ended at 9 pm with a prayer by Father Andrew

PARISH COUNCIL - ΕΝΟΠΙΑΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ

Parish Council Meeting: March 4, 2025

Present: Father Andrew Tsikitas, Lola Lamnatos, George Karanicolas, Kelly Sheasley, Maria Skouras, Pete Harmantzis, Dr. Nick Agapis, Roula Skouras, Chris Barakos, Nick Barakos, Toli Vainas.

Absent: Zach Harmantzis

1. Prayer and Father's Opening Remarks

-The meeting began at 7:05 pm with a prayer by Father Andrew. He wished a blessed Lent to everyone. Will be away for a few days next week for a Clergy Laity.

2. Approval of Minutes for February 12, 2025

-A motion was made by George K. to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Pete H. and the minutes were approved.

3. President's Report

-Lola shared a thank you card from GOYA thanking everyone for all their help with the basketball tournament. Things are moving along in preparation for Easter, as most of the donations we asked for are filling up.

4. Treasurer's Report

-The account balances were given by Kelly S. The food festival report is not complete as all expenses have not yet been accounted for.

5. Grounds & Maintenance

-The new committee had it's first meeting today and will soon be choosing a chair person. There was much discussion already about items on our "Old Business" list. Will prioritize projects and soon begin to work on things.

6. Food Festival Update

- The latest festival was amazing, with only a few negatives, mostly a plumbing issue which was a clog that was found to be causing clogs. The lines were jet cleaned and will continue to be cleaned prior to each festival until we can find a better solution. This issue now is that the sinks in back dishwashing room all bypass the grease trap, which causes clogging.

-We had a lot of views on social media and many "likes" on the Facebook page.

-Another issue we had at this festival was concerning traffic, specifically during a medical emergency during which the ambulance was delayed getting through our parking lot due to traffic.

-There were also a few complaints about the GOYA stand needing more supervision, as a customer was upset about the kids sitting on the table eating ice cream. We will be setting up guidelines for them as well as all other volunteers in general.

-Still working on guidelines for people working the registers, need to check bags, know the product we are selling, ring items in correctly, etc. Will also work on developing a menu to hand out and to also have a greeter to welcome customers and answer questions.

-The Greek coffee stand was a success, Patrick did a great job with this, he was very knowledgeable and was even able to get people to buy bags of Greek coffee and a briki.

PARISH COUNCIL - ΕΝΟΠΙΑΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ

7. Stewardship Committee & Social Committee Update

- Still in need of a stewardship committee.
- We had a great turnout for Godparents Sunday, the Lagana sales and the Lenten spread sales. GOYA sold 152 laganas and 36 tiropsoma. Philoptochos also did very well with the spreads. We also held a book fair during this time, and will continue to offer the books for the next few weeks.
- We will have the annual Easter Egg hunt on 4/19, the Palm Sunday Luncheon will be on 4/13, a Bingo Night on 4/27 which will benefit the scholarship fund, and the Philoptochos will be having a fundraiser Dinner dance on 4/26, "A Taste Of Greece", which will be open to our community as well as the general public.

8. Tech & Security Update

- Pete has been looking into replacing all the internal locks with keypads/fobs. Motion by Lola to proceed, 2nd by Maria. Motion passed.
- Still trying to figure out the best way to transition to using the security system and will further discuss with the tech & security committee.
- Also discussed forming an emergency plan, Deacon Tom will be checking on getting consultation from the local police.

9. Old Business

- Welcome packet: was developed by Father Andrew, He will add what it means to be "a member in good standing" and publish it in the Ladder and also distribute to new members.
- Lola will order name tags for all Parish Council members to wear
- Quick Books: Father Andrew to ask about a price for just the accounting portion and ACH
- House Blessing will continue throughout this week
- Discussed liability insurance being needed for caterers who wish to use our social hall
- Discussed a baptism being held in which the parents live out of the area, Godparents live in York but are not members in good standing, therefore will have to pay the nonmember fee.
- Clarified rental of social hall and church for members and non members.
- To start posting the weekly bulletin and the Ladder on the website.
- "Barstool" Social Media issue-Father Andrew will meet with GOYA officers to explain they cannot post anything affiliating them with the Church without being monitored/approved, otherwise they will need to discontinue the account.

10. New Business

- ServeSafe: we need someone to become certified in Food Safety , and we need to make sure we are all in compliance of the food safety regulations.
- To purchase locking cages to lock up any food items that are stored in the hallway.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 8th at 7:00pm.

The meeting ended at 9 pm with a prayer by Father Andrew.

VCS '25 Presents The Holy Sacraments



July 20-24
5:30-7:00

Ages 5-10

Sign-up outside of the office
Or call: (717)741-4200

Dr & Mrs Nicholas Apagis	Ms Vasiliki Marros	M/M Demetrios Tsoukalis
Dr & Mrs Steven Agapis	Mr George H Margetas	M/M Konstantinos Tsoukalis
M/M Albert Anstine	M/M Harry Margetas	M/M Lionel Van Dommelen
M/M Anthony Anstine	Ms Kelly L Margetas	Ms Alexis Vergara
Ms Anita Asimos	M/M Petros G Margetas	M/M Derek Vanino
Mr Christopher Barakos	M/M Sotirios Margetas	M/M Nate Walker
Ms Lola Benefiel	Mr Demetrios Masgalas	Ms Olympia Wilson
Ms Turkan Birkmueller	Dr Tassia Masgalas	Mr Pavel Znutin &
M/M Mark Bittner	Mr Tony Masgalas	Ms Amanda Scurti Eck
M/M Matthew Bittner	M/M Thomas Meligakes	
M/M Colin Burtner	Dr & Mrs Nick Pandelidis	
Ms Maria Carrieri	Dr & Mrs Steven Pandelidis	
Ms Vasilia Chiadis	M/M Dimos Papageorgiou	
M/M Takis Cologer	Mr George Papageorgiou	
M/M Christopher Dalaperas	M/M Chriss Papayannis	
M/M Nestoras Dalaperas	M/M Athanasios Polychronis	
M/M Alex Daoularis	Ms Katherine Rodas	
M/M Dionisios Daoularis	Ms Marianna Rodas	
Mr Patrick Doyle	M/M Socratis Rodas	
Ms Sophie Eppley	Mr Socratis T Rodas	
M/M Steven Eppley	M/M Socratis Rodas	
Dr & Mrs Constantine Gekas	Ms Marina Rontiris	
M/M Steven Gekas	M/M Chris Saltos	
Mr William Peter Gekas	Mr Nicholas Scales &	
Ms Athanasia Georgakopoulos	Mrs Evangelia Papacostas	
Mr George K Georgakopoulos	Mr Caleb Schwenk	
M/M Kostas Georgakopoulos	& Ms Paige Cottrell	
M/M George Georgaras	Mrs Julie Sekeres	
The late, Mr Andreas Giourtis	M/M James K Sgagias	
M/M George Haritos	Mr Konstantine A Sgagias	
Drs George & Joan Hayes	M/M Stephen Sheasley	
Mr Charles Henry	Mr John Shelley	
Ms Hrisoula Hioutis	Rev Deacon Thomas Shelley &	
M/M Phillip Kapsalis	Diaconissa Jan Shelly	
Ms Irini Karambas	Ms Maria Siakavellas	
M/M George Karanicolos	M/M George V Skouras	
Ms Joanne Karanicolos	Ms Golfo Skouras	
M/M Athanasios Karanikas	Ms Maria K Skouras	
M/M John Katsaros	Ms Maria V Skouras	
M/M Michael Keriazis	Ms Roula Skouras	
Ms Eleni Kocoronis	M/M Stavros Skouras	
M/M Gus Kocoronis	M/M Alex Smolskiy	
Mr Harry Kocoronis	Mr Gennadiy Smolskiy	
Mr James Kocoronis	M/M James St. John	
Ms Lola Lamnatos	M/M Jedidiah Steele	
Mr John Lamnatos	M/M John Sterns	
Ms Sotiria Lamnatos	M/M Thomas Stratis	
Drs Gus & Sophia Livaditis	Mr Charley Talbert &	
M/M Thomas Livaditis	Mrs Anna Papayannis	
Ms Alisa Nicoara	Mr George Touras	
M/M Bill Mallas	Father Andrew Tsikitas &	
M/M Konstantine Mallas	Presvytera Katherine	
Ms Leah Mallas	M/M Luke Tsoflias	
M/M Thomas Mandras	M/M Emmanuel Tsogas	

These are the people who have paid towards Stewardship for 2025. Thank you for your generosity and support of our community.

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things."



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF
THE ANNUNCIATION

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