PASCHA
APRIL 28

Ἀπολυτίκιον. Ἡχος Πλ. Α΄.
Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν,
θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας,
καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι,
ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

Apolytikion, Mode Plagal 1.
Christos anesti ek nekron,
thanato thanaton patisas,
ke tis en tis mnimasi,
zoin chrisamenos.

Apolytikion, Mode Plagal 1.
Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death
and to those in the tombs
he is bestowing life.
HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ISAIAH
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

PARISH PRIEST
REVEREND FATHER JOHN HAYDEN HABY
(361) 929-8924 (cell)

Office Hours:
Monday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS
2019

PRESIDENT .......................................................... GEORGE J. SPENTzos
VICE-PRESIDENT ...................................................... NICHOLAS P. SISSAMIS
SECRETARY .................................................................. OLGA PLOMARITY
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ASSISTANT TREASURER ............................................ DENICE ELIADES

ROBIN ALLEN LT. CDR. BRADLEY HOLMES
DR. MEL ELIADES GEORGE POLLAKIS
JOHN HARTOFILAX NATALIE ROGEN

BULLETIN EDITOR: THALIA K. PLOMARITY
SUNDAY SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2019
ORTHROS - 9:00 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY - 10:00 A.M.

April    7   4th Sunday of Lent - Sunday of St. John Climacus
The Holy Martyrs Kalliopios and Aquilina. Our Venerable
Father Savva the New of Kalymnos. Our Father among the
Saints George, Bishop of Mytilini. Our Venerable Father
Gerasimos of Byzantium, and another named Savva of
Kalymnos.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 6:13-20
GOSPEL: Mark 9:17-31

April 14   5th Sunday of Lent - Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
The Holy Apostles from among the Seventy, Aristarchos, Puden,
and Trophimos.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 9:11-14
GOSPEL: Mark 10:19-31

April 21   Palm Sunday
The Holy Hieromartyr Januarius the Bishop, and those with
him. Our Father among the Saints Maximianos, Patriarch of
Constantinople.

EPISTLE: Philippians 4:4-9
GOSPEL: John 12:1-18

April 28   Great and Holy Pascha
The Holy Nine Martyrs of Kyzikos.

EPISTLE: Acts 1:1-8
GOSPEL: John 1:1-17
ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ
ΔΙΑ ΤΟ ΜΗΝΑ ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ, 2019
ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - 9:00 Π.Μ.; ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ – 10:00 Π.Μ.

7 Απριλίου  Κυριακή Δ’ Τών Νηστείων
Τών Άγιων Μαρτύρων Καλλιοπίου και Άκυλίνης. Τοῦ Ὁσίου Πατρός ἡμῶν Σάββα τοῦ νέου τοῦ ἐν Καλύμνῳ. Τοῦ ἐν Άγίως Πατρός ἡμῶν Γεωργίου, Ἐπισκόπου Μυτιλήνης. Τών Ὁσίων Πατέρων Γεωργίου καὶ Ἀκυλίνης, τοῦ Βυζαντίου, καὶ Σάββα, τοῦ ἐν Καλύμνῳ.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Εβραίους 6:13-20
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Μάρκον 9:17-31

14 Απριλίου  Κυριακή Ε’ Τών Νηστείων
Τών Άγιων ἐνδόξων Ἀποστόλων ἐκ τῶν Ἐβδομήκοντα, Ἀριστάρχου, Πούδη καὶ Τροφίμου.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Εβραίους 9:11-14
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Μάρκον 10:19-31

21 Απριλίου  Κυριακή τῶν Βαΐων
Τοῦ Άγιου Ἱερομάρτυρος Ἱανουαρίου, Ἐπισκόπου καὶ τῶν σύν αὐτῷ. Τοῦ ἐν Άγίως Πατρός ἡμῶν Μαξιμιανοῦ, Πατριάρχου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Φιλιππίσιος 4:4-9
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Ἰωάννου 12:1-18

28 Απριλίου  ΑΠΑ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ
Τών Άγιων ἐννέα Μαρτύρων τῶν ἐν Κυζίκῳ.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Πράξεων 1:1-8
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Ἰωάννου 1:1-17
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Great Compline</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 April</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Service of the 9th Hour</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Service of the Bridegroom</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Service of the Bridegroom</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Service of the Bridegroom</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Service of the 9th Hour</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Holy Wednesday</td>
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<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Holy Wednesday</td>
<td>Service of Holy Unction</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Holy Thursday</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Holy Thursday</td>
<td>Service of the 12 Gospels</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Holy Friday</td>
<td>Royal Hours</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>26 April</td>
<td>Holy Friday</td>
<td>Vesper of Taking Down from the Cross</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Lamentations</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Holy Saturday</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Holy Saturday</td>
<td>Orthros for Pascha</td>
<td>11:25 p.m.</td>
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<td>28 April</td>
<td>Holy and Great Pascha, Resurrection Service</td>
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<td>12:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Holy and Great Pascha, Agape Vespers</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>1 Απριλίου</td>
<td>Δευτέρα</td>
<td>Μέγα Απόδειξινον</td>
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<td>3 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>Λειτουργία των Προφητικών Δόρων</td>
<td>6:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<td>Δ’ Χαιρετισμή</td>
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<td>8 Απριλίου</td>
<td>Δευτέρα</td>
<td>Μέγα Απόδειξινον</td>
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<td>10 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>12 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>Ακάθιστος Ημιων</td>
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<td>Μέγα Απόδειξινον</td>
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<td>17 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>17 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>19 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>19 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>20 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>21 Απριλίου</td>
<td>Κυριακή Των Βαϊών</td>
<td>Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου</td>
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<td>22 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>23 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>8:30 π.μ.</td>
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<td>23 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>9:00 π.μ.</td>
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<td>23 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>25 Απριλίου</td>
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<td>Ακολουθία της 12 Ευαγγέλια</td>
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<td>Αποκαθίστως</td>
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<td>Θρησκεία</td>
<td>11:25 μ.μ.</td>
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<td>28 Απριλίου</td>
<td>Κυριακή Του Πάσχα</td>
<td>Υπηρεσία Ανάστασης</td>
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<td>Αγάπης Εσπερινά</td>
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NAMEDAYS FOR MAY
We wish everyone who has a Feast Day in May
"CHRONTA POLLA."

May 3rd
FRIDAY OF BRIGHT WEEK -
THE FEAST OF THE LIFE-GIVING FONT
Zoe Alexander     Zoe Piperis

May 5th
SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS
Tom Hudson

May 5th
SAINT IRENE, THE GREAT MARTYR
Irene Baker        Irene Daniska
Irene Chambers     Irene Diakomina
Irene Chrisco      Irene Miura
Iryna Dalton       Irene Piperis

May 12th
SUNDAY OF THE MYRRHBEARING WOMEN
Susan Krzeszewski

May 21st
SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN
Miss Elena Andreadis  Gus Montis
Mrs. Helen Bottis     Mrs. Eleni Paloukis
Konstantinos Daniskas Konstantinos Papakostas
Mrs. Venera (Helen) Gentry Gus Peters
Ms. Elaine Gialouris  Konstantinos Piperis
Charles (Dean) Hriissikopoulos Mrs. Helen Pool
Austin Dean Jones     Corbett (Constantine) McCoy Pool
Mrs. Helen Kaudis     Mrs. Constance P. Sanchez
Konstantinos Livaditis Konstantinos Mihail Talarantas
Dean Lontos          Konstantinos Minas Talarantas
                      Dean Trakas
With Holy Week rapidly approaching, I am providing a little background. Father Alkiviadis Calivas provides us with some great incites into the Major Themes through out the sacred period in the book *Great Week and Holy Pascha in the Orthodox Church*. Below are some excerpts from this book to aid our preparation for Holy Week.

**The Saturday of Lazaros and Palm Sunday**

The solemnities of Great Week are preceded by a two day festival commemorating the resurrection of Lazaros and the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem. These two events punctuate Christ’s ministry in a most dramatic way (John 11:1 - 12, 19) By causing the final eruption of the unrelenting hostility of His enemies, who had been plotting to kill him, these two events precipitate Christ’s death. At the very same time, however, these same events emphasize His divine authority. Through them Christ is revealed as the source of all life and the promised Messiah For this reason, the interlude which separates Great Week from the Great Fast is Paschal in character. It is the harbinger of Christ’s victory over death and of the inrush of His kingdom into the life of the world. The Saturday of Lazaros is counted among the major feasts of the Church. It is celebrated with great reverence and joy.

**Great Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday**

The first part of Great Week presents us with an array of themes based chiefly on the last days of Jesus’ earthly life. The story of the Passion, as told and recorded by the Evangelists, is preceded by a series of incidents located in Jerusalem and a collection of parables, sayings and discourses centered on Jesus’ divine sonship, the kingdom of God, the Parousia, and Jesus’ castigation of the hypocrisy and dark motives of the religious leaders. The observances of the first three days of Great Week are rooted in these incidents and sayings. The three days constitute a single liturgical unit. They have the same cycle and system of daily prayer. The Scripture lessons, hymns, commemorations, and ceremonials that make up the festal elements in the respective services of the cycle highlight significant aspects of salvation history, by calling to mind the events that anticipated the Passion and by proclaiming the inevitability and significance of the Parousia.

**Great Thursday**

On Great Thursday the focus of the Church turns to the events that occurred in the Upper Room and at the Garden of Gethsemane. In the Upper Room, while at meal, Jesus established and instituted the mystery or sacrament of the holy Eucharist and washed the feet of His disciples as well. The Garden of Gethsemane calls our attention to Jesus’ redemptive obedience and sublime prayer (Mt 26:36-46). It also brings us before the cowardly, treacherous act of Judas, who betrayed Christ with a kiss, the sign of love and friendship.

**Great Friday**

On Great Friday the Church remembers the ineffable mystery of Christ’s death. Death — tormenting, indiscriminate, universal — casts its cruel shadow over all creation. It is the silent companion of life. It is present in everything, ready to stifle and impose limits upon all things. The fear of death causes anguish and despair. It shackles us to the appearances of life and makes rebellion and sin erupt in us (Heb 2:14-15). The Scriptures assure us that “God did not make death, and He does not delight in the death of the living, for He created all things that they might exist... But through the devil’s envy death entered the world” (Wisdom 1:13-14;
2:24). The same divinely inspired author also writes, “God created man for incorruption and made him in the image of His own eternity. . . But ungodly men by their words and deeds summoned death” (Wisdom 2:23; 1:16).

The Great and Holy Saturday
On Great Saturday the Church contemplates the mystery of the Lord’s descent into Hades, the place of the dead. Death, our ultimate enemy, is defeated from within. “He (Christ) gave Himself as a ransom to death in which we were held captive, sold under sin. Descending into Hades through the Cross. . . He loosed the bonds of death” (Liturgy of St. Basil). On Great Saturday our focus is on the Tomb of Christ. This is no ordinary grave. It is not a place of corruption, decay and defeat. It is life-giving (ζωοπιός) a source of power, victory and liberation.

The Great and Holy Pascha
Great Week comes to an end at sunset of Great Saturday, as the Church prepares to celebrate her most ancient and preeminent festival, Pascha, the feast of feasts. The time of preparation will give way to the time of fulfillment. The glorious and resplendent light emanating from the Empty Tomb will dispel the darkness. Christ, risen from the dead, cracks the fortress of death and takes “captivity captive” (Ps 67:19). All the limitations of our createdness are torn asunder. Death is swallowed up in victory and life is liberated. “For as by a man came death, by a man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Cor 15:21-22). Pascha is the dawn of the new and unending day. The resurrection constitutes the most radical and decisive deliverance of humankind. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental truth and absolute fact of the Christian faith. It is the central experience and essential kerygma of the Church. It confirms the authenticity of Christ’s remarkable earthly life and vindicates the truth of His teaching. It seals all His redemptive work: His life, the model of a holy life; His compelling and unique teaching; His extraordinary works; and His awesome, life-creating death. Christ’s resurrection is the guarantee of our salvation. Together with His ascension it brings to perfection God’s union with us for all eternity.

Blessings,

Youth Epistle Reading Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Epistle Reading Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 7, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28, 2019</td>
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</tbody>
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ΑΓΙΟ ΠΑΣΧΑ
28 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ

Οι γυναίκες οι οποίες παραβρέθηκαν το απόγευμα της Παρασκευής, στον ενταφιασμό του Κυρίου, δηλαδή η Μαρία η Μαγδαληνή και οι υπόλοιπες, όταν επέστρεψαν από το Γολγοθά στην πόλη, ετοίμασαν αρώματα και μύρα για να αλείψουν το σώμα του Ιησού· και την επομένη μέρα απείχαν από κάθε δραστηριότητα λόγω της αργίας του Σαββάτου. Κατά το βαθύ όρθρο, όμως, της Κυριακής, η οποία ονομάζεται από τους Ευαγγελιστές «πρώτη Σαββάτου» και «μια Σαββάτων», δηλαδή πρώτη μέρα της εβδομάδος, μετά από τριάντα έξι σχεδόν ώρες από τη νέκρωση του Ιησού, έρχονται με νεκρώσιμα αρώματα στον τάφο. Και ενώ σκέπτονταν τη δυσκολία της αποκυλίσεως του λίθου από την είσοδο του τάφου γίνεται σεισμός φοβερός· και Άγγελος με αστραπηφόρα όψη και χιονόφωτη στολή, αφού αποκύλισε το λίθο και κάθισε πάνω σ’ αυτόν, έκανε τους φύλακες να τρομάξουν και τους έτρεψε σε φυγή. Οι γυναίκες, στο μεταξύ, αφού μπήκαν στον τάφο και δε βρήκαν το σώμα του Ιησού, βλέπουν δυο Άγγελους λευκοφορεμένους, με αντρική μορφή, οι οποίοι αφού τους φανέρωσαν την ανάσταση του Σωτήρα, τις στέλνουν για να αναγγέλουν στους μαθητές την χαρούμενη είδηση. Σε μικρό χρονικό διάστημα φθάνουν στον τάφο ο Πέτρος με τον Ιωάννη, αφού έμαθαν τι έγινε από τη Μαρία τη Μαγδαληνή, όπως ήδη ειπώθηκε, αλλά μπαίνοντας μέσα βρίσκουν μόνο τα σάβανα. Γι’ αυτό ανέρχονται όλοι στη πόλη με χαρά, κήρυκες της ανάστασης του Χριστού, τον οποίον και είδαν πραγματικά ζωντανό πέντε φορές κατά τη σημερινή γιορτή.

Αυτή την χαρμόσυνο Ανάσταση γιορτάζοντας σήμερα ασπαζόμαστε μεταξύ μας τον εν Χριστώ ασπασμό, δείχνοντας με τον τρόπο αυτό τη διακοπή της πρώτης έχθρας ανάμεσα σ’ εμάς και το Θεό και τη διαλλαγή του Θεού προς εμάς για άλλη μια φορά, διαλλαγή που έγινε φανερή με το πάθος του Σωτήρος. Και η εορτή ονομάζεται Πάσχα, έχοντας έτσι το ίδιο όνομα με τον Πάσχα των Εβραίων, το οποίο, στη γλώσσα τους σημαίνει διάβαση• διότι ο παθών και αναστάς Ιησούς μας διέβιβασε από την κατάρα του Αδάμ και τη δουλεία του διαβόλου στην ελευθερία και μακαριότητα. Και αυτή η μέρα της εβδομάδος, κατά την οποία έγινε η Ανάσταση του Χριστού, η οποία είναι η πρώτη από τις υπόλοιπες μέρες, στην τιμή του Κυρίου ονομάστηκε από το όνομα Του Κυριακή, και σ’ αυτή μετατέθηκε από τους Αποστόλους η αργία και η ανάπαυση της εορτής του Σαββάτου του παλαιού νόμου.

http://www.saint.gr/190/saint.aspx
Palm Sunday Luncheon
Sunday, April 21, 2019
Following the Divine Liturgy

MENU

Adult - $15.00
- Salad
- Psari Plaki (Greek-style Baked Fish)
- Potatoes
- Roll
- Fruit Pies
- Water, Soft Drink, or Iced Tea

Child (12 and under) - $6.00
- Salad
- Fish Sticks
- Mixed Vegetables
- Roll
- Fruit Pies
- Water, Soft Drink, or Iced Tea

Sponsored by:
St. Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos Society
PASCHA FELLOWSHIP MEAL

APRIL 28, 2019

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE PASCHA MIDNIGHT DIVINE LITURGY

MENU
Mageritsa Soup (Greek Easter Soup)
Avgolemeno Soup (Chicken with Egg/Lemon Soup)
Easter Bread
Water or Soft Drink

FREE

Sponsored by the Parish Council
EASTER DONATIONS

This year Orthodox Easter falls on **April 28, 2019**. To allow time for all parishioners to donation items for the Holy Week Services, we are listing the items that are needed. Please notify Father John or one of the members of the Parish Council if you wish to donate any of the items listed below that have not yet been donated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday evening, April 21st</td>
<td>A frame of flowers for the Icon of the Nymphios</td>
<td>Fotini Aspras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Wednesday, April 24th</td>
<td>All items needed for the Sacrament of Holy Unction (1 sack of flour and 1 small bottle olive oil)</td>
<td>Louis and Maria Sissamis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Thursday evening, April 25th</td>
<td>The wreath of flowers to be placed on the Cross during the Holy Passion Service (the Reading of the 12 Gospels)</td>
<td>Manolis and Venetia Lignos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Thursday evening, April 25th</td>
<td>12 beeswax candles for the Reading of the 12 Gospels</td>
<td>Louis and Maria Sissamis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Friday, April 26th</td>
<td>Flowers for the Kouvouklion</td>
<td>Margareta Fratila and donations from parishioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Friday, April 26th</td>
<td>Rose petals</td>
<td>George and Virginia Aspras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday morning, April 28th</td>
<td>Bay leaves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday evening, April 28th</td>
<td>A frame of flowers for the Lavaron (Banner) of the Resurrection</td>
<td>Katherine Hrissikopoulou, Dean Hrissikopoulou, Butch and Helen Pool and James Hrissikopoulou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday evening, April 28th</td>
<td>A frame of flowers for the Icon of the Anastasis (Resurrection) for the midnight Resurrection Service</td>
<td>Kostas Livaditis, Vasilios and Alexia Maragakis, George and Virginia Aspras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday evening, April 28th</td>
<td>The Paschal Candle</td>
<td>Harry and Thalia Plomarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday evening, April 28th</td>
<td>Easter Lilies</td>
<td>J.R. and Maria Stendebach</td>
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</tbody>
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Each family is asked to bring one dozen **hard-boiled red-dyed Easter eggs to Church on Friday or Saturday.** Please make sure the eggs are **hard-boiled** and dyed **RED.**
On the Fifth Sunday of Lent the Orthodox Church commemorates our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt. The feast day of Saint Mary of Egypt is April 1, however, she is also commemorated on this Sunday due to her recognition by the Church as a model of repentance.

Our holy mother Mary was born in Egypt. She had left her parents at the age of twelve to go to Alexandria, where she spent the next seventeen years in debauchery and the greatest profligacy. Living on charity and linen-weaving, she nevertheless offered her body to any man, not being forced to it by dire necessity as were so many poor women, but as though she were consumed by the fire of a desire that nothing was able to appease.

One day, seeing a crowd of Lybians and Egyptians moving towards the port, she followed them and set sail with them for Jerusalem, offering her body to pay her fare. When they arrived in the Holy City, she followed the crowd that was thronging towards the Church of the Resurrection, it being the day of the Exaltation of the Cross. But, when she reached the threshold of the church, an invisible force prevented her entering in spite of repeated efforts on her part, although the other pilgrims were able to go in without hindrance. Left alone in a corner of the narthex, she began to realize that it was the impurity of her life that was preventing her approaching the holy Wood. She burst into tears and smote her breast and, seeing an icon of the Mother of God, made this prayer to her: "O Sovereign Lady, who didst bear God in the flesh, I know that I should not dare to look upon thine icon, thou who are pure in soul and body, because, debauched as I am, I must fill thee with disgust. But, as the God born of thee became man in order to call sinners to repentance, come to my aid! Allow me to go into the church and prostrate before His Cross. And, as soon as I have seen the Cross, I promise that I will renounce the world and all pleasures, and follow the path of salvation that thou wilt show me."

She felt herself suddenly freed from the power that had held her and was able to enter the church. There she fervently venerated the Holy Cross and then, returning to the icon of the Mother of God, declared herself ready to follow the path that the Virgin would show her. A voice replied to her from on high: "If you cross the Jordan, you will find rest."

Leaving the church, she bought three loaves with the alms a pilgrim had given her, discovered which road led to the Jordan and arrived one evening at the Church of Saint John the Baptist. After having washed in the river, she received Communion in the Holy Mysteries, ate half of one of the loaves and went to sleep on the riverbank. The next morning, she crossed the river and lived from that time on in the desert, remaining there for forty-seven years without ever encountering either another human being or any animal.

During the first seventeen years, her clothes soon having fallen into rags, burning with heat by day and shivering with cold by night, she fed on herbs and wild roots. But more than the physical trials, she had to face violent assaults from the passions and the memory of her sins and, throwing herself on the ground, she implored the Mother of God to come to her aid. Protected by God, who desires nothing but that the sinner should turn to Him and live, she uprooted all the passions from her heart by means of this extraordinary asceticism, and was able to turn the fire of carnal desire into a flame of divine love that made it possible for her to endure the implacable desert with joy, as though she were not in the flesh.

After all these years, a holy elder called Zosimas (April 4), who, following the tradition instituted by Saint Euthymios, had gone into the desert across the Jordan for the period of the Great
Fast, saw one day a human form with a body blackened by the sun and with hair white as bleached linen to its shoulders. He ran after this apparition that fled before him, begging it to give him its blessing and some saving words. When he came within ear-shot, Mary, calling by name him whom she had never seen, revealed to him that she was a woman and asked him to throw her his cloak that she might cover her nakedness.

At the urging of the monk, who was transported at having at last met a God-bearing being who had attained the perfection of monastic life, the Saint recounted to him with tears the story of her life and conversion. Then, having finished her account, she begged him to come the following year to the bank of the Jordan with Holy Communion.

When the day arrived, Zosimas saw Mary appearing on the further bank of the river. She made the sign of the Cross and crossed the Jordan, walking on the water. Having received Holy Communion weeping, she said: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation" (Luke 2:29). She then took leave of Zosimas, asking him to meet her the following year in the place where they had first met.

When the year was past, Zosimas, going to the agreed spot, found the Saint's body stretched on the ground, her arms crossed and her face turned towards the East. His tearful emotion prevented him from noticing at once an inscription traced on the ground by the Saint, which read: "Abba Zosimas, bury here the body of the humble Mary; give what is of dust to dust, after having prayed for me. I died on the first day of April, the very night of the Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, after having partaken in the Holy Eucharist." Consoled in his grief by having learned the Saint's name, Zosimas was amazed to discover that she had, in several hours, covered a distance of more than twenty days' march.

After having vainly tried to break up the earth with a stick, he suddenly saw a lion approaching Mary's body and licking her feet. On the orders of the Elder, the beast dug a hole with its claws, in which Zosimas devoutly placed the Saint's body.

On his return to the monastery, he recounted the marvels that God had wrought for those who turn away from sin and move towards Him with all their hearts. From the hardened sinner that she had been, Mary has, for a great many souls crushed under the burden of sin, become a source of hope and a model of conversion. This is why the Holy Fathers have placed the celebration of her memory at the end of the Great Fast as an encouragement for all who have neglected their salvation, proclaiming that repentance can bring them back to God even at the eleventh hour.

The feast day of Saint Mary of Egypt is April 1, the day of her repose, however the Orthodox Church also commemorates the Saint on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. As a Sunday of Great Lent, the commemoration is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, which is preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on Saturday evening.

Scripture readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent are the following: At the Orthros (Matins): The prescribed weekly Gospel reading. At the Divine Liturgy: Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 10:32-45.

Saint Mary of Egypt is also commemorated on the Thursday before the Fifth Sunday of Lent, when her life is read during the Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete. A canon in her honor is read at the end of each Ode. In parish churches the service and the canon is most often conducted on Wednesday evening.

https://www.goarch.org/sunday-stmaryofegypt
Οσία Μαρία η Αιγυπτία

Οσία Μαρία η Αιγυπτία... απέτυχε ως πόρνη και νίκησε ως ασκήτρια

Πριν 1.400 χρόνια μια κοπέλα, μόλις δώδεκα ετών, κάπου στην Αλεξάνδρεια της Αιγύπτου, μπλέκεται στα δίχτυα του αγοραίου έρωτα. Δίνεται με σώμα και ψυχή στην πτώση, στην αμαρτία, στη φθορά. Η σαρκολατρεία, η ηδονοθηρία, η ακόρεστη λαγνεία την κατακυριεύουν πολύ νωρίς. Έπει δεκαεπτά ολόκληρα χρόνια ζούσε αχόρταγα αυτή τη ζωή δίχως αναστολές, ντροπές, επιφυλάξεις, ενοχές και τύψεις.

Θεωρούσε τον εαυτό της ελεύθερο, ανεξάρτητο, ανεξέλεγκτο και ακατανίκητο. Θαύμαζε την ωραιότητά της, τα πλούτη της, τις κατακτήσεις της και την προκλητικότητά της. Ένα θαυμαστό σημείο που της συνέβη στα ορεσσόλυμα και δεν μπορούσε να εισέλθει στο ναό την έκανε να γονατίσει, να δακρύσει, να θυμηθεί την αθωότητα των παιδικών της χρόνων. Αρχίσει να κλαίει. Αρχίσει η μεταστροφή της. Η φιλόσαρκη γίνεται ξαφνικά φιλόθεη. Μεταμορφώνεται, ξεμασκοφορεί, φιλοκαλεί, ανασταίνεται. Στην καρδιά της, μετά από αυτή την απρόσμενη υπαρξιακή αλλαγή, κυριαρχεί ο θεός έρωτας. Η ζωή της λαμβάνει βαθύ νόημα. Πρόκειται για μια ηρωίδα, μάρτυρα και οσία.

Αναχωρεί για την έρημο, την πέραν του Ιορδάνου, αποφασιστικά και ανυποχώρητα. Οι λογισμοί επιστροφής στην πρότερη ζωή δεν την απελπιστεί. Έγινε ένας σκελετός από τη νηστεία. Κοινώνησε μια Σαρακοστή στην έρημο είδε μια σκιά περιπλανώμενη. Όταν αντελήφθη ότι ήταν μια γυναίκα, κάλυψε με το ιμάτιό του τη γύμνη της και πληροφορήθηκε με συγκίνηση τη θαυμαστή ζωή της. Επιστρέφοντας την κοινώνησε. Μετά ένα έτος τη βρήκε νεκρή. Αναφέρεται ότι ανεπαύθη μόλις κοινώνησε.

Κυκλοφορούσε σαν ένα αγρίμι της ερήμου. Η αφιλόξενη έρημος, η ξένη γη, πέτρες και σπηλιές υπήρξαν κατοικίες. Έζησε άλλα είκοσι τρία χρόνια δίχως τον φοβερό πόλεμο των λογισμών. Εξαυλώθηκε. Η περίφημη πόρνη έγινε η μεγαλύτερη ασκήτρια όλων των αιώνων.

Ο αββάς Ζωσιμάς ιεραποδημώντας μια Σαρακοστή στην έρημο είδε μια σκιά περιπλανώμενη. Όταν αντελήφθη ότι ήταν μια γυναίκα, κάλυψε με το ματί του τη γύμνη της και πληροφορήθηκε με συγκίνηση τη θαυμαστή ζωή της. Επιστρέφοντας την κοινώνησε. Μετά ένα έτος τη βρήκε νεκρή. Σ' ένα κεραμίδι είχε σημειώσει ότι ανεπαύθη μόλις κοινώνησε.

Η αμαρτία δεν είναι απλά η παράβαση του νόμου, αλλά έλλειψη αγάπης στον Θεό. Η αμαρτία φαντάζει πάντα πολύ οραία, λίγον ελκυστικό και σαγηνευτικό. Συλλαμβάνεται στο νου, αποδέχεται και διαπράττεται. Η αμαρτία συνηθίζει να στερεί τη μακάρια γαλήνη της ψυχής. Η συννεφιά που προηγείται της αμαρτίας, μετά τη διάπραξή της υποχωρεί και ο άνθρωπος βλέπει τη γυμνότητά του στενοχωρείται, θλίβεται κι έχει τύψεις. Η ουρά
του διαβόλου επεμβαίνει, ώστε ο άνθρωπος ν’ απογοητευτεί και να μη θέλει να μετανοήσει.

Ο μέγας ψυχοανατόμος, όσιος Ιωάννης της Αλίμακος, όρισε με καταπληκτική σαφήνεια τα στάδια της αμαρτίας: Προσβολή, συνδυασμός, συγκατάθεση, αιχμαλωσία, πάλη, πάθος. Το πάθος γίνεται συνήθεια αγαπητή και χρόνια που παρατώρει τον άνθρωπο δίχως αντιστάσεις. Η αμαρτία σκοτώνει τον άνθρωπο. Σήμερα θεωρείται αδιάφορο, έχει γίνει κανόνας, αν άνθρωπος νομίζει πως κάνοντας ό,τι θέλει είναι και ελεύθερος. Όποιος νόμος και αν υπηρετεί, η αμαρτία δεν θα παύσει να είναι αμαρτία και να ενοχλεί την ψυχή κάθε τίμιου, σοβαρού και ευσυνείδητου ανθρώπου. Φθάσαμε το αφύσικο να το λέμε φυσικό και το παράλογο λογικό. Αποτέλεσμα της αμαρτίας: αποξένωση, απομόνωση, κενό, μοναξία, απόγνωση και στενοχώρια.

Η οσία Μαρία συνδράμει στοργικά στη μεταστροφή όλων. Απέτυχε ως πόρνη και νίκησε ως ασκήτρια. Πρόκειται για τρομερά γενναία γυναίκα. Εμπνέει. Συνεγείρει τους αμαρτωλούς. Μη φοβάται κανείς τις λέξεις αλλά τις ανειρήνευτες πράξεις. Συνελήφθη η Μαρία της Σαρακοστή και η Αλεξανδρινή Μαρία μας σκουντά να προχωρήσουμε άφοβα. Μας παρακινεί προς επαναπροσανατολισμό και να μας πει εμπιστευτικά πως και οι πόρνες μπορούν να θέλουν να γίνουν όσιες...

Από Εφημερίδα «Μακεδονία» 13/4/2008

MARCH 25th CELEBRATION:
On March 24, 2019, after the Divine Liturgy, the children of our Parish recited poems and sang songs in honor of the Feast of the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day. We thank the parents for helping the children learn their poems and to recite them so beautifully and to Irene Daniska for coordinating the program. After to the program, a luncheon, sponsored by the Parish Council was held.

ACHIEVEMENT:
On March 5, 2019, at the Exxon Campus in Spring, Texas, Benjamin Witt was recognized by ExxonMobil and given the Advanced Professional Skills in Project Management award. Congratulations!

PILGRIMAGE:
On March 23, 2019, a group of parishioners made a pilgrimage to the Holy Archangels Monastery in Kendalia, Texas. All who attended were spiritually uplifted.

FLOWERS:
Margareta Fratila donated the frame of flowers around the icon of the Theotokos for the Salutation Services.

ARTOCLASIA:
On March 25, 2019, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, an Artoclasia Service with given by Irene Piperis for the health of her family.
On March 25, 2019, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, an Artoclasia Service with given by Penelope Livaditis for the health of her family.

GRADUATES:
In next month’s bulletin, we wish to recognize all of our parish’s graduates, from both high school and college, who will be graduating this spring. If you know of any student who is graduating this year, please contact Olga Plomarity at 815-1469 with the necessary information (name of student, date of graduation, school from which he or she is graduating, any honors received, and if from a college, degree received).

BIRTH:
Fr. George and Presvytera Ariadne Livaditis welcomed the birth of their second child on March 4, 2019. John Peter Livaditis weighed seven pounds, eight ounces and measured 21 inches. John is the grandson of Mihail and Penelope Livaditis. Congratulations.
CONDOLENCES:
On Saturday, March 23, 2019, Strate G. (Sam) Strates, 74, fell asleep in the Lord. He is survived by his sister Peggy Paraskevas, children Elaine Coleman Garcia, Peggy Strates, Georgianna DeLaGarza, Anastasia Strates, Evan Strates, and eight grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren and nieces and nephews. Memorial Services were held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 and the funeral was held on Wednesday, March 27, 2019. May his memory be eternal!

MEMORIAL AND TRISAGION SERVICES:
On Sunday, March 17, 2019, a Memorial Service was held for the repose of the soul of Vasilios Hartofilax. May his memory be eternal!

On Sunday, March 31, 2019, a Trisagion Service was held for the repose of the soul of Marika Govatos. May her memory be eternal!

COFFEE HOUR:
April 7, 2019................................................................. IRENE PIPERIS
April 14, 2019.......................................................... MEMORIAL FOR ANASTASIA PAHOS
April 21, 2019.............................. PHILOPTOCHOS – PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON
April 28, 2019............................................................... PASCHA

ANNIVERSARIES:
Congratulations to those who will be celebrating their wedding anniversary in April:
Adam and Natalie Hancock ........................................April 16, 1999
John and Becky Cofas ..................................................April 17, 2010

BIRTHDAYS:
We congratulate the following who will celebrate their birthdays in April:
Diana Zany Zenk .......................................................... April 3rd
Konstantinos Minas Talarantas................................. April 3rd
Aaron Angel Valverde .............................................. April 3rd
Carter Hogan ............................................................ April 5th
Karen Karagas .......................................................... April 5th
George Alexander .................................................... April 7th
Daniel Gentry ............................................................ April 7th
Latife Bechara Medina ............................................ April 8th
Maria Izzabella Zampikos ......................................... April 8th
Shannon Dennis ......................................................... April 10th
BIRTHDAYS, continued:

Mark Gentry ................................................................. April 11th
Mary G. Lymberry .......................................................... April 11th
Helia Antoniou .............................................................. April 14th
Samia Bechara Palfreyman ............................................... April 14th
Kailey Hamauei .............................................................. April 16th
Vasoula Loukanaris ....................................................... April 16th
Megan Stendebach .......................................................... April 16th
Ted Andreadis ............................................................... April 17th
Anna Maragakis ............................................................. April 20th
Sammy Strates ............................................................... April 22nd
George Aspras ............................................................... April 23rd
Matthew Guerra ............................................................. April 23rd
Anastasia Talarantas ...................................................... April 24th
Vasoula Loukanaris ....................................................... April 24th
Keisha Dirk ................................................................. April 26th
Katherine Lontos ........................................................... April 26th
Alla Karasovsak ............................................................. April 27th
Demetri Andreadis .......................................................... April 28th
Vasilios John Hartofilax .................................................. April 29th
Alexis Mays ................................................................. April 29th
Anna Piperis ................................................................. April 30th

IN LOVING MEMORY:

Each month we mention the names of our loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord during that month. If anyone has been out please let the Editor know so the names can include in the future. (The Editor)

Elias S. Kehagias (McAllen, Texas) .................................................. April 2, 1972
James Sarris ................................................................. April 4, 1965
Tom Koutchis ............................................................... April 4, 1976
Pete D. Stoilis ................................................................. April 4, 2014
Nellie Barnes ................................................................. April 5, 1990
Mike Emmanuel George (McAllen, Texas) ............................... April 5, 1980
John G. Spentzos ............................................................ April 5, 2013
Lucille Wilkinson (Mobile, Alabama) ........................................ April 6, 1998
Joanne Photakis ............................................................. April 7, 1990
Alex Paraskevas (Edinburg, Texas) ........................................ April 11, 1992
Sofia Halkias ................................................................. April 11, 2003
Mary Petrutsas .............................................................. April 14, 1962
IN LOVING MEMORY, continued:
Virginia Popa................................................................. April 14, 1964
Mrs. Jovita Valverde ...................................................... April 14, 2014
Pete Stoillis (Victoria, Texas) ............................................ April 14, 1984
Angie Kousakis (Alhambra, California) ................................ April 14, 2000
Alex A. Christos (Victoria, Texas) ...................................... April 16, 1974
Maria T. Kontsia ............................................................. April 16, 1958
Gust T. Trebellas ............................................................ April 17, 1979
James Evans ...................................................................... April 17, 1997
Horace Alexander ............................................................ April 17, 2006
Elaine Kontsia .................................................................. April 18, 1958
Anastasia Pahos .................................................................. April 18, 2011
Gail Ann Skarvellis Olson .................................................. April 18, 2009
Bessie Kousakis .................................................................. April 20, 1994
Sam Sallas .......................................................................... April 20, 1972
Freida K. Kapetanakis ....................................................... April 20, 1977
Gus Karey .......................................................................... April 21, 2011
Matina Bournias .................................................................. April 23, 2005
Steve Condos ....................................................................... April 24, 1991
Abraham Kassees .................................................................. April 24, 1960
Maria Varveris Zampikos .................................................... April 24, 2008
Presvytera Irene Sitaras ...................................................... April 24, 2013
Dr. Jerry Stachiw ............................................................... April 25, 2007
Catherine Sedar .................................................................... April 26, 1989
Nicholas Salas ..................................................................... April 26, 1961
Zoe Pollakis ......................................................................... April 27, 2012
Isabel Hill ........................................................................... April 28, 2005
Karsten Kavakos ............................................................... April 28, 2010
Stanley Nick Bournias ...................................................... April 29, 2003

May Their Memory be Eternal!
APRIL 2019 BULLETIN SPONSOR

If you wish to be a sponsor for the church bulletin, please send to the attention of the Monthly Bulletin Editor, your check in the amount of $25.00 for each listing each month, payable to “St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church” and clearly specify “Bulletin Sponsor” on the check. The names of the sponsors and any special announcement will appear in the appropriate monthly bulletin. Thank you.

The Parish Council