MARCH, 2020
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF DENVER

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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502 SOUTH CHAPARRAL STREET, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401 MAILING
ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 343
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78403-0343

CHURCH PHONE: (361) 883-9843 - CHURCH FAX: (361) 883-9823
WEB PAGE: WWW.STNICHOLASGOC.NET

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.

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2020

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BULLETIN EDITOR: THALIA K. PLOMARITY
SUNDAY SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP
FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2020
ORTHROS - 9:00 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY - 10:00 A.M.

March 1  Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)
The Venerable Martyr Evdokia from Samaria.

EPISTLE: Romans 13:11-14;14:1-4
GOSPEL: Matthew 6:14-21

March 8  1st Sunday of Lent - Sunday of Orthodoxy
Our venerable Father Theophylaktos, Bishop of Nikomedia.
Hermes, Apostle; and the Venerable Dometios.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40
GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

March 15  2nd Sunday of Lent - Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas
The holy Martyr Agapios and those with him. The Holy New
Martyr Manuel of Sfakion.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3
GOSPEL: Mark 2:1-12

March 22  3rd Sunday of Lent - Sunday of the Holy Cross
The Holy Hieromartyr Basil, Presbyter of the Church of
Ankyra.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6
GOSPEL: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

March 29  4th Sunday of Lent - Sunday of St. John Climacus
The Holy Martyrs Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, Cyril the Deacon,
and those with them; and the Holy Martyrs Jonah, Barachesion
and those with them.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 6:13-20
GOSPEL: Mark 9:17-31
ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ
ΔΙΑ ΤΟ ΜΗΝΑ ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ ΤΟ 2020
ΟΡΘΡΟΣ - 9:00 Π.Μ.; ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ – 10:00 Π.Μ.

1 Μαρτίου
Κυριακή Γ’ Τής Τυρινής
Τής Αγίας Όσιομάρτυρος Ευδοκίας τής ἀπό Σαμαρειτῶν.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Ἄρωμαίους 13:11-14; 14:1-4
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Ματθαίου 6:14-21

8 Μαρτίου
Κυριακή Α’ Τῶν Νηστειῶν (Κυριακή Τής Ορθοδοξίας)
Τοῦ Ὁσίου Πατρὸς Ἦμων Θεοφυλάκτου, Ἐπισκόπου Ἀλκμηνίδος.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Ἐβραίους 11:24-26, 32-40
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Ἰωάννου 1:43-51

15 Μαρτίου
Κυριακή Β’ Τῶν Νηστειῶν
Τοῦ Ἁγίου Μάρτυρος Ζηνοβίου καὶ τῶν σύν αὐτῷ.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Ἐβραίους 1:10-14; 2:1-3
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Μάρκου 2:1-12

22 Μαρτίου
Κυριακή Γ’ Τῶν Νηστειῶν (Τῆς Σταυροπροσκυνήσεως)
Τοῦ Αγίου Ἱερομάρτυρος Βασιλείου, Πρεσβυτέρου τῆς Ἀγκυρανῶν Ἐκκλησίας.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Ἐβραίους 4:14-16; 5:1-6
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Μάρκου 8:34-38; 9:1

29 Μαρτίου
Κυριακή Δ’ Τῶν Νηστειῶν
Τῶν Ἁγίων Μαρτύρων Μάρκου, Ἐπισκόπου Ἀρεθούσιας, Κυρίλλου Διακόνου καὶ τῶν σύν αὐτοῖς καὶ τῶν Αγίων Μαρτύρων Ἰωνᾶ, Βαραχησίου καὶ τῶν σύν αὐτοῖς.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Ἐβραίους 6:13-20
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Μάρκου 9:17-31
WEEKDAY SERVICES FOR
THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2020

2 March Monday Great Compline 6:00 p.m.
2 March Monday Great Compline 6:00 p.m.
4 March Wednesday Service of the 9th Hour 5:30 p.m.
4 March Wednesday 1st Presanctified Divine Liturgy 5:45 p.m.
6 March Friday Service of the 9th Hour 8:30 a.m.
6 March Friday 1st Presanctified Divine Liturgy 8:45 a.m.
6 March Friday 1st Salutations 7:00 p.m.
7 March Saturday 3rd Saturday of Souls
7 March Saturday Orthros 8:30 a.m.
7 March Saturday Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
7 March Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m.
9 March Monday Great Compline 6:00 p.m.
11 March Wednesday Service of the 9th Hour 5:30 p.m.
11 March Wednesday 2nd Presanctified Divine Liturgy 5:45 p.m.
13 March Friday Service of the 9th Hour 8:30 a.m.
13 March Friday 2nd Presanctified Divine Liturgy 8:45 p.m.
13 March Friday 2nd Salutations 7:00 p.m.
14 March Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m.
16 March Monday Great Compline 6:00 p.m.
18 March Wednesday Service of the 9th Hour 5:30 p.m.
18 March Wednesday 3rd Presanctified Divine Liturgy 5:45 p.m.
20 March Friday Service of the 9th Hour 8:30 a.m.
20 March Friday 3rd Presanctified Divine Liturgy 8:45 p.m.
20 March Friday 3rd Salutations 7:00 p.m.
21 March Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m.
23 March Monday Great Compline 6:00 p.m.
25 March Wednesday Feast of the Annunciation
25 March Wednesday Orthros 8:30 a.m.
25 March Wednesday Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
27 March Friday Service of the 9th Hour 8:30 a.m.
27 March Friday 4th Presanctified Divine Liturgy 8:45 p.m.
27 March Friday 4th Salutations 7:00 p.m.
28 March Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m.
30 March Monday Great Compline 6:00 p.m.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Μέρος του Μήνα</th>
<th>Εορτή ή Λειτουργία</th>
<th>Χρονικά</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Δευτέρα</td>
<td>Μέγα Άπόδειπνον 6:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Τετάρτη</td>
<td>Άκολουθία Ωρα Θ’ 5:30 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Τετάρτη</td>
<td>Α’ Λειτουργία τών Προηγιασμένων Δώρων 5:45 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Παρασκευή</td>
<td>Άκολουθία Ωρα Θ’ 8:30 π.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Παρασκευή</td>
<td>Α’ Λειτουργία τών Προηγιασμένων Δώρων 8:45 π.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Παρασκευή</td>
<td>Χαιρετισμή 7:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Σάββατο</td>
<td>Γ’ Ψυχοσάββατο</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Σάββατο</td>
<td>Όρθρος 8:30 π.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Σάββατο</td>
<td>Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Σάββατο</td>
<td>Μέγας Έσπερινός 6:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Δευτέρα</td>
<td>Μέγα Άπόδειπνον 6:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Τετάρτη</td>
<td>Άκολουθία Ωρα Θ’ 5:30 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Τετάρτη</td>
<td>Β’ Λειτουργία τών Προηγιασμένων Δώρων 5:45 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Παρασκευή</td>
<td>Άκολουθία Ωρα Θ’ 8:15 π.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Παρασκευή</td>
<td>Β’ Λειτουργία τών Προηγιασμένων Δώρων 8:30 π.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Παρασκευή</td>
<td>Β’ Χαιρετισμή 7:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Σάββατο</td>
<td>Μέγας Έσπερινός 6:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<td>16 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Δευτέρα</td>
<td>Μέγα Άπόδειπνον 6:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<td>18 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Τετάρτη</td>
<td>Άκολουθία Ωρα Θ’ 5:30 μ.μ.</td>
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<td>18 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Τετάρτη</td>
<td>Γ’ Λειτουργία τών Προηγιασμένων Δώρων 5:45 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Παρασκευή</td>
<td>Άκολουθία Ωρα Θ’ 8:15 π.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Παρασκευή</td>
<td>Β’ Λειτουργία τών Προηγιασμένων Δώρων 8:30 π.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Σάββατο</td>
<td>Μέγας Έσπερινός 6:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<td>23 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Δευτέρα</td>
<td>Μέγα Άπόδειπνον 6:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Τετάρτη</td>
<td>Ευαγγελισμός της Θεοτόκου</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Τετάρτη</td>
<td>Όρθρος 8:30 π.μ.</td>
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<td>25 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Τετάρτη</td>
<td>Θεία Λειτουργία 9:30 π.μ.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>27 Μαρτίου</td>
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<td>27 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Παρασκευή</td>
<td>Δ’ Χαιρετισμή 7:00 μ.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Σάββατο</td>
<td>Μέγα Έσπερινός 6:00 π.μ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Μαρτίου</td>
<td>Δευτέρα</td>
<td>Μέγα Άπόδειπνον 6:00 μ.μ.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NAMEDAYS FOR MARCH

We wish everyone who has a Feast Day in March "CHRONIA POLLA."

March 2nd .............................................................. SAINT EFTHALIA
Thalia K. Plomaritis

March 17th .............................................................. SAINT ALEXIOS
Alexis Karagas
Alexis Mays

March 25th ........................... THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY
THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY
Evangelina Paraskevas Guerra  Evangelos Chris Pollakis
Samantha Evangelista Jones  Evan Strates
Evan O’Bryant  Angelo George Vassilaras
Angelo Papakostas  Evan Varney
Angelo Petrakis
As we prepare to enter Great Lent and the Great Fast, let us reflect on the following words of our Metropolitan, His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, on the Great Fast.

As we enter into the holiest period of the year in preparation for the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we ask ourselves, "Why should we follow the discipline of fasting, which in essence is abstinence?" What is the purpose of it? Obviously, the purpose is that we may be ready to meet our Lord and to receive His promise of eternal life in His Kingdom.

We realize, according to Holy Scripture, that we were created to live forever; and that we will live eternally after the return of Christ to the earth, with our resurrected bodies reunited with our souls. The Lord therefore asks us to make our decision as to where we wish to live eternally. We have only two directions of which to choose. There is no other.

Mankind could not save itself on its own. Since man fell from his original pristine state to the imperfect state and consequently all of his descendants after him, he has tried time and again to reach his original condition. Every pagan religion in the world taught of man's eternal existence and ways in which one could live eternally. We can mention only the Egyptian culture which established the most elaborate way one could reach to the stars and to eternal life. All failed because the imperfect can never by its own efforts attain perfection.

We know the story. God in the Person of Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, out of His great love for us, came into the world in order to guide us toward Him. He tells us that His Kingdom has been prepared for us even before the world began. He entered into our human nature as one of us for the sole purpose of teaching us how we can reach perfection. He did this without interfering with our free will. For had He tampered with our free will, we would no longer be in His image. This is what distinguishes us from all other creatures of this world. We have been created in His image so that we may attain to His likeness, using our hearts and our minds to guide us. He created us to live with Him and to enjoy the works which He has created for us.

Great Lent is the most appropriate time on the church calendar to begin the process of meeting the Lord, especially during the holy and inspirational services of Holy Week and more so at His glorious Resurrection. Everything in life has a time of preparation, especially man. Since we are in the process of becoming — no one is, only God Is — the Church affords us the time-tested discipline of preparation for the most glorious and spectacular occurrence to have taken place in the cosmos: our Lord's defeat of the power of death and His Resurrection.
This preparation is the message of renewal. In His public ministry our Lord’s message was “Repent!” In the original language of the Gospels the exhortation of the Lord was and is: “Change your mind; change your ways; change your direction in life.” This concept of change simply said is to renew, to start over again through the right preparation.

The Church teaches us that even though we are born with an imperfect nature, we are intrinsically good. Even though through our fallen nature we have the inclination to sin, meaning to go contrary to the divine will, we can still reach sainthood which is the calling of all who accept Christ as Lord, God, and Savior. In other words, even though Christ came into the world to lead us back to Him, we have the freedom to choose whether we wish to follow Him or not. We know that He humbled Himself out of His great love for us and our eternal condition because we were led astray by the evil one who deceived our progenitors in the beginning. It was Satan who has been responsible for the horrors and catastrophes in the world and who wants us to break away from God, as he did in the angelic period of God’s creation. The saying is true, "Misery loves company."

We, who have chosen God, prefer to live with Him. God adopts us as His children, while Satan keeps us in slavery at all times. The decision is easy. The effort takes work. The beautiful thing about this, though, is that the Lord, His holy Mother, the Theotokos, and the saints who have gone before us help us to succeed.

How do we proceed in our preparation? We must prioritize our value system. God must always come first; everything and everyone else follow in their proper place. One of the basic steps in our preparation is to give more attention to our souls. We, unfortunately, do not give to our souls even equal time in our lives with our bodies. During the Lenten period we must converse with God, the ever-blessed Holy Trinity, on a daily basis and several times a day in private prayer. We should attend the special services that take place during the Great Fast along with the usual services and sacraments. Even making the sign of the Cross upon ourselves is a prayer.

Together with prayer, we must become selective in our diet and follow the teachings of the Church becoming vegetarians for several weeks. Physiologically this is good for the body. Theologically we remind ourselves of the Lord’s words that man does not live by bread alone. In other words, we give more time to the nourishment of our souls through increased prayer time contemplating the holiness of God. For we, also, are called to become holy. We were created to be heaven bound and not earth bound. Our Lord reminds us that we live in the world, but are not of the world. Our Lord’s prayer to the Father is clear when He says that He does not pray for the world, but for those who are being saved for His eternal Kingdom, our real and permanent home.
During this holy period we should increase our good works in helping others and to imitate Christ Who came not to be served, but to serve. If we want to find our true calling in life, it is exactly this: to serve others. The feeling of fulfillment is phenomenal when we serve others. We should also attend retreats that take place, thereby giving ourselves more time for spiritual nourishment.

All this preparation, as mentioned before, has one goal, and that is to meet our Lord, the Bridegroom of the Church, as He calls Himself regarding His Second Coming. The Parable of the Ten Virgins is a most-appropriate icon on which to reflect. Five virgins were wise and five were foolish. All were awaiting the Bridegroom, but only five were ready to receive Him.

Let us therefore enter into this refreshing period of renewal in our spiritual lives, as we prepare ourselves to experience the world-changing events in the life of our Lord which herald the coming of our permanent home in the heavenly realms with our Lord Jesus Christ. May this period of the Great Fast be most edifying and sanctifying for all of God's people.

May everyone have a Blessed Lent!

Fr. John Hayden Haby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Epistle Reading Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2020</td>
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<td>March 8, 2020</td>
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<td>March 15, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29, 2020</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“MARCH 25TH” LUNCHEON
“Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ”
LENTEN LUNCHEON

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Church Hall
After the Divine Liturgy

Lenten Luncheon

Poems will be recited by the children before the Luncheon.

Sponsored by the Parish Council
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
502 South Chaparral Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401
“MARCH 25TH”
GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The children of our Parish will recite poems in honor of Greek Independence Day.

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Church Nave.
EASTER DONATIONS

This year Orthodox Easter falls on **April 19, 2020**. 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday evening, April 12th</td>
<td>A frame of flowers for the Icon of the Nymphios Fotini Aspras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Wednesday, April 14th</td>
<td>All items needed for the Sacrament of Holy Unction (1 sack of flour and 1 small bottle olive oil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Thursday evening, April 15th</td>
<td>The wreath of flowers to be placed on the Cross during the Holy Passion Service (the Reading of the 12 Gospels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Thursday evening, April 15th</td>
<td>12 beeswax candles for the Reading of the 12 Gospels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Friday, April 16th</td>
<td>Flowers for the Kouyoukion Monetary donations from parishioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Friday, April 16th</td>
<td>Rose petals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday morning, April 17th</td>
<td>Bay leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday evening, April 17th</td>
<td>A frame of flowers for the Lavaron (Banner) of the Resurrection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday evening, April 17th</td>
<td>A frame of flowers for the Icon of the Anastasis (Resurrection) for the midnight Resurrection Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday evening, April 17th</td>
<td>The Paschal Candle Olga Plomarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday evening, April 18th</td>
<td>Easter Lilies J. R. and Maria Stendebach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**.
Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God, Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

Bearing in her womb the Uncontainable One, the blessed Virgin went with haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, where Zacharias had his dwelling; for she desired to find Elizabeth her kinswoman and rejoice together with her, because, as she had learned from the Archangel, Elizabeth had conceived in her old age. Furthermore, she wished to tell her of the great things that the Mighty One had been well-pleased to bring to pass in her, and she greeted Elizabeth and drew nigh to her. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her six-month-old babe, Saint John the Baptist, prophesied of the dawning of the spiritual Sun. Immediately, the aged Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord, and with a great voice blessed her and the Fruit that she held within herself. The Virgin also, moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior," and the rest, as the divine Luke hath recorded (1:39-55)

Ευαγγελισμός της Υπεραγίας Θεοτόκου
25 Μαρτίου

Σήμερα η εκκλησία μας γιορτάζει το χαρμόσυνο μήνυμα της θείας ενσάρκωσης, που με τόσο σαφή τρόπο μας το παρουσιάζει ο ευαγγελιστής Λουκάς στο Ευαγγέλιο του (κεφ. Α’ στίχ. 26-38). Την ήμερα αυτή, ο θεόσταλτος αρχάγγελος Γαβριήλ παρουσιάζεται στην Παρθένο Μαρία, στη Ναζαρέτ και της ανήγγειλε ότι θα γεννήσει το Σωτήρα του κόσμου, τον Ιησού Χριστό. Και όταν η Παρθένος αναρωτήθηκε πώς ήταν δυνατό να συλλάβει χωρίς άνδρα, ο αρχάγγελος της απάντησε ότι «το Άγιο Πνεύμα θα έλθει σε σένα και η δύναμη του Υψίστου θα σε επισκιάσει» Τότε η σεμνή κόρη, η Παρθένος Μαρία, του απάντησε γεννούλη, «Ιδού λοιπόν, η δούλη του Κυρίου. Ας γίνει το θέλημα Εκείνου». και καθώς ο Γαβριήλ εξαφανίστηκε από μπροστά της, συντελέστηκε το μεγαλύτερο μυστήριο της ανθρωπότητας. με τρόπο υπερφυσικό, η Παρθένος συνέλαβε στην άχραντη κοιλιά της, τον Υιό και Λόγο του Θεού· Εκείνον που με την εκουσία θυσία του επάνω στο Σταυρό, έσωσε το ανθρώπινο γένος από τον αιώνιο θάνατο και την καταστροφή στην οποία είχε οδηγηθεί μετά την πτώση των πρωτοπλάστων από τον παράδεισο και την εμφάνιση της αμαρτίας στον κόσμο.

Αξίζει, όμως, να δούμε πως οι εμπνευσμένοι υμνωδοί της Εκκλησίας μας έψαλαν το κοσμοσωτήριο άγγελμα: «Σήμερον χαράς Ευαγγέλια πανήγυρις τα κάτω τοις άνω συνάπτεται• ο Αδάμ καινουργείται η Εύα της πρώτης λύπης ελευθερούται και η σκηνή της καθ' ημάς ουσίας τη θεώσει του προσληφθέντος φυράματος ναός Θεού κεχρημάτικεν. Ω μυστήριον! ο τρόπος της κενώσεως άγνωστος, ο τρόπος της συλλήψεως αφράστος. Άγγελος λειτουργεί τω θαύματι παρθενική γαστήρ τον Υίον υποδέχεται, Πνεύμα άγιον καταπέμπεται Πατήρ άνωθεν ευδοκεί, και το συνάλλαγμα κατά κοινήν πραγματεύεται βούλησιν εν ω και δι' ου σωθέντες, συνωδά τω Γαβριήλ, προς την Παρθένον βοήθομεν χαίρε, κεχαριτωμένη, ο Κύριος μετά σου, εξ ης ή σωτηρία, Χριστός ο Θεός ημών, την καθ' ημάς προσλαβόμενος φύσιν προς εαυτόν έπανήγαγεν».

Οι αρχές της εορτής του Ευαγγελισμού δεν είναι επακριβώς γνωστές. Το γεγονός ότι η Αγία Ελένη έκτισε στη Ναζαρέτ βασιλική, στην οποία περιλαμβανόταν κατά παράδοση ο οίκος της Θεοτόκου, όπου αυτή δέχθηκε τον Ευαγγελισμό, επέδρασε ίσως στη σύσταση τοπικής εορτής. Οι πρώτες μαρτυρίες περί αυτής ευρίσκονται στον Άγιο Πρόκλο, Πατριάρχη Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, το 430 μ.Χ. και στο Πασχάλιον Χρονικόν (624 μ.Χ.), όπου χαρακτηρίζεται ως συσταθείσα στις 25 Μαρτίου από τους θεοφόρους δασκάλους. Η μεγαλοπρεπής πανήγυρις του Ευαγγελισμού ετελείτο από τους Βυζαντινούς στο ναό των Χαλκοπρατείων, όπου παρίσταντο και οι αυτοκράτορες.

http://www.saint.gr/93/saint.aspx
This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359.

His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.

https://www.goarch.org/chapel/calendar?month=3&year=2020&viewStyle=GridView&viewType=ViewReadings

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

On Sunday, March 8, 2020, we return to DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME. Turn your clocks FORWARD one hour. Please do not forget to change your clocks so you will not be late for Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. Divine Liturgy begins at 10:00 a.m.
Κυριακή Β’ Νηστειών – Γρηγορίου του Παλαμά
15 Μάρτιου

Ως συνέχεια της Α’ Κυριακής των Νηστειών, κατά την οποία γιορτάσαμε την αναστήλωση των ιερών εικόνων, η Εκκλησία μας όρισε την επόμενη Κυριακή να τιμάται η μνήμη του αγίου Γρηγορίου του Παλαμά, που υπήρξε ένας ομολογητής επίσκοπος της πόλης της Θεσσαλονίκης τον 14ο αιώνα.

Ο άγιος Γρηγόριος γεννήθηκε στη δύση της Βυζαντινής Αυτοκρατορίας, το 1297 και από πολύ νέος κατέφυγε στο Άγιο Όρος. Ήταν περίπου 40 ετών όταν ήρθε από το Άγιο Όρος στη Θεσσαλονίκη. Κι αυτό για να πολεμήσει τις αιρετικές διδασκαλίες ενός μοναχού, του Βαρλαάμ, που χλεύαζε κάποιες από τις διδασκαλίες των Πατέρων. Ο Βαρλαάμ υποστήριζε ότι ο Θεός προσεγγίζεται με τρόπο φιλοσοφικό και διανοητικό και υποτιμούσε την ασκητική ζωή και την καρδιακή προσευχή. Ο Γρηγόριος αντέκρουσε αποτελεσματικά την αίρεση και έγραφε ομιλίες και βιβλία γύρω από τα θέματα αυτά. Υποστήριξε ότι ο Θεός κατοικεί στην καρδιά του ανθρώπου που την έχει καθαρίσει με την άσκηση και την μετοχή στα μυστήρια της Εκκλησίας. Η καρδιακή προσευχή η οποία γίνεται μέσω της επανάληψης των απλών λόγων "Κύριε Ιησού Χριστέ ελέησόν με" καθαρίζει την καρδιά, φωτίζει τον νου και καθιστά τον άνθρωπο οίκο του Αγίου Πνεύματος.

Λίγο αργότερα πέθανε ο αυτοκράτορας Ανδρόνικος Γ’ ο Παλαιολόγος και υπήρχαν πολλοί που μάλωναν για τη διαδοχή του. Ο Γρηγόριος προσπάθησε να ειρηνεύσει όλους αυτούς που φιλονικούσαν και αυτό είχε ως αποτέλεσμα τη δίωξη του από τον Πατριάρχη Κωνσταντινούπολεως, που αναμένοντας στη δομή του έτος 1347, όταν άλλαξε ο Πατριάρχης. Ο Γρηγόριος εξελέγη αρχιεπίσκοπος Θεσσαλονίκης. Σε δύο διάσταμα του αρχιεπίσκοπου χάος, επιβίωσε επικρατώσα μια ομάδα, οι Ζηλωτές, που ήθελαν να αποσχιστούν από τον Πατριάρχη. Έτσι ο Γρηγόριος αναγκάστηκε να μείνει για τρία χρόνια στο Άγιο Όρος, μέχρι να επιβληθεί η τάξη. Εφθάσει στη Θεσσαλονίκη το 1350, το 1354, ο Πατριάρχης Κωνσταντινούπολης ανακηρύχθηκε η Ζηλωτεία και άλλοι τσεκούρισαν τους μουσουλμάνους να απομείνουν στην πόλη. Στο διάστημα αυτό έδωσε ομολογία πίστης ενισχύοντας τους χριστιανούς που είχαν απομείνει στις περιοχές όπου τον περιέφεραν οι Μουσουλμάνοι.

Από το 1355 μέχρι το 1359, κατά την οποία τον πήρε ο Θεός κοντά Του, ποιμάναε τον λαό της Θεσσαλονίκης και έγραψε πλήθος από θεολογικά συγγράμματα. Την κυρίως μνήμη του την τιμήσαμε την 14η Νοεμβρίου. Η Εκκλησία την προβάλλει και του δίνει εξέχουσα θέση τη Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή, επειδή δεν δίστασε να δώσει μαρτυρία σε όλες τις εξουσίες ομολογία πίστης. Ακόμη κι όταν βρισκόταν ή ζοή του σε κίνδυνο, όταν συκοφαντήθηκε, όταν φυλακίστηκε, ομολόγησε πάντα την πράγματι πίστη.

https://www.pemptousia.gr/2019/03/kiriaki-v-nistion-grigoriou-tou-p/
GOYA FUND RAISER:
The newly-formed GOYA chapter held a Pancake Breakfast fund raiser on February 16, 2020. Thank you to everyone who came and supported our youth.

APOKRIES LUNCHEON:
The Delphi Club held its annual Apokries Luncheon on February 23, 2020. Everyone had an enjoyable time.

ARTOCLASIA SERVICE:
On February 2, 2020, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple, an Artoclasia Service was given by Fotini Aspras.

ENGAGEMENT:
Konstantinos E. Papakostas, son of Angelo and Maria Papaskostas became engaged to Maria Exarchakis on February 21, 2020. Wedding details are forthcoming. Congratulations!

CONDOLENCES:
Stamatina Pahos, 89, fell asleep in the Lord on February 5, 2020. She is survived by her son George V. (Fotini) Pahos, daughters Maria Hrisos (Nikolaus) and Sofia (Constantinos) Vassilaras, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. A Trisagion Service was held on February 7, 2020. Funeral Services were held on February 8, 2020. May her memory be eternal!

Amelia Casas, 81, fell asleep in the Lord on February 14, 2020. She is survived by her daughters Angie (Bob) Crank of George West, Texas, Lydia (Ramon) Herrera of George West, Texas, Mary Jane Casas of George West, Texas; sons Alfredo Casas of Plainview, Texas, Isidro Casas, Jr., of George West, Texas, Jesse G. (San Juanita) Casas of Angleton, Texas; one brother, 15 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and six great-great grandchildren. May her memory be eternal!

TRISAGION SERVICES:
On February 1, 2020, a Trisagion Service was said for the repose of the Senior Officer Alan McCollum, of the Corpus Christi Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on January 31, 2020. May his memory be eternal!
COFFEE HOUR:
March 1, 2020 .......................................................... OPEN
March 8, 2020 .......................................................... OPEN
March 15, 2020 ..........40 DAY MEMORIAL FOR STAMATINA PAHOS
March 22, 2020 ...................................................... “March 25th” Luncheon
March 29, 2020 ........... 8 YEAR MEMORIAL VASILIE HARTOFILAX

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:
Congratulations to those who will be celebrating their wedding anniversary in March:

Todd and Tatiana Stegall ........................................... March 1, 2003
George and Filitsa Alexander ................................... March 2, 1975

BIRTHDAYS:
We congratulate the following who will celebrate their birthdays in March:

Maria Thodos McIver ............................................. March 1st
Rigopoula Talarantas ............................................. March 3rd
Soula Piperis ....................................................... March 3rd
Telly Gialouris ..................................................... March 5th
Riley Elaine Spencer ............................................ March 5th
Patricia Stoillis ................................................... March 5th
Miles Hamauei ..................................................... March 6th
Ioannis Maragakis ............................................... March 9th
Elizabeth Zampikos ............................................. March 11th
Irene Sakelli Daniska ............................................. March 11th
Mary Sissamis ..................................................... March 11th
Megan Paraskevas .............................................. March 12th
Jonah Mark Dennis .............................................. March 12th
Mihail Stegall ..................................................... March 13th
Peter Doas .......................................................... March 14th
Alexia Sitaras ..................................................... March 14th
Reverend Stelios Sitaras ........................................ March 15th
Braylen Amir Christopher Warren ......................... March 15th
Staci Paraskevas Jones ........................................ March 18th
Ibtisam Bandak .................................................... March 19th
Vasilios Piperis ................................................... March 19th
BIRTHDAYS:
Shermane Sissamis..........................................................March 20th
Becky Cofas .................................................................March 21st
Aurora Brown ..............................................................March 23rd
Dr. Charles W. Hrissikopoulos ........................................March 25th
Maria Spentzos ............................................................March 25th
Mariam Zannaras ..........................................................March 27th
Anthony Christian Hancock ...........................................March 27th
Frances Sissamis ..........................................................March 28th
Constance Plomarity Sanchez ........................................March 29th
Deanna Maloney ...........................................................March 30th
Carol Mays ....................................................................March 30th
Maria Stendebach ........................................................March 31st

IN LOVING MEMORY:
Each month we will mention our loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord during the month of March. If I have left anyone out please let me know so I can include them in the future.

(The Editor)
James Kandis.................................................................March 2, 1967
Angeline K. Chriss .........................................................March 2, 2017
Mary K. Lymberry .........................................................March 3, 1996
John G. Livaditis ............................................................March 4, 1968
Malamo P. Kirkikis .........................................................March 4, 1985
Estelle Smirles Spurgetis ...............................................March 4, 1988
Vasilios Lignos ..............................................................March 4, 2001
Maria Lignou .................................................................March 5, 2011
Reverend Constantine Hallick .......................................March 6, 1981
John Beylouni ...............................................................March 6, 1995
George M. Zampikos ......................................................March 6, 1962
Afrodity Orphanos ........................................................March 7, 1998
Nicholas Poris ...............................................................March 7, 2011
Anton Samman .............................................................March 8, 1958
Kalil Sary ......................................................................March 9, 1963
Anastasia Zampikos .......................................................March 9, 1985
Ioannis Halkias .............................................................March 10, 1990
Maria H. Sissamis ........................................................March 12, 1980
Pauline Kirkikis Demopulos ..........................................March 12, 1998
IN LOVING MEMORY, continued

- Constantine Mechealides .......................... March 13, 1992
- Theresa Harris .................................... March 14, 1984
- John Hristakos .................................... March 15, 1954
- Zoe Stolilis Corovinis .............................. March 15, 1991
- Donald H. Collins ................................. March 15, 1995
- Stephen Gerald Pool ............................... March 15, 2004
- Mary Ellen Sanchez ............................... March 15, 2008
- Charles Collier .................................... March 15, 2010
- Charles Christos ..................................... March 16, 1958
- Gust A. Kirkikis ..................................... March 16, 1964
- Evanthia Papkosta ................................... March 16, 1992
- Lili R. Harris Sharp ................................. March 19, 2017
- Sophia Hartofilax ................................. March 20, 1978
- George Tahinakos ................................... March 21, 1965
- Gust Tsesmelis ....................................... March 21, 1964
- John Bakhil ........................................... March 21, 1999
- Irene Mihailos ...................................... March 21, 2009
- Emmanuel Maragakis .............................. March 21, 2017
- Artemis Gaitanou ................................... March 22, 2012
- Helen Philpo ......................................... March 23, 1999
- Bette Brenna ......................................... March 23, 2015
- Theodore Gus Rogers .............................. March 24, 1986
- George Strates ....................................... March 24, 1950
- Spiro Papapetrou ................................... March 25, 1965
- Miss Mariam Van Horn ............................. March 26, 1985
- Mike Frangos ....................................... March 28, 1955
- Willie Mullins ....................................... March 28, 1989
- Nicoletta Cofas ..................................... March 28, 2008
- Helen Bournias ..................................... March 29, 1965
- George Papadopoulos ............................. March 29, 1961
- Vasilios Hartofilax ................................. March 29, 2011
- Elpiniki P. Cazamias ............................. March 30, 1995
- Savvas Eliades ..................................... March 30, 1995
- Marika Govatos .................................... March 30, 2009
- Sevastia Koutros .................................. March 31, 1990

May their memory be eternal
MARCH 2020 BULLETIN SPONSOR

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The Parish Council