



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΤΑΞΙΑΡΧΩΝ
TAXIARCHAE/ARCHANGELS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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December 17, 2023

11th Sunday of Matthew

Orthros 8:45/Liturgy 9:30 AM.

Epistle Reading

St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Luke 14:16-24.

Memorial

40 day – Athena Filios

40 day – Nicholas Markantonis

3 year – Evdokia Lianos

Trisagion

3 month – Penelope Hrisikos

Evangelia & Evangelos Kounelis (4 & 52 year)

George Righellis

Vasiliki & Anthony Karamas

Joe, Clara & William Boisvert

WEEKDAY SERVICES - Καθημερινές Λειτουργίες:

Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoipikoos - every Thurs. at 6PM

Christmas Eve - Sunday, Dec. 24, Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM.

Christmas Day - 9AM. Nativity of Our Lord Festal Matins (Only).



HYMNS OF THE DAY

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord by His Might, has created a Dominion. He has conquered death by death, and become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades, and has granted the world great mercy.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιτίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion for 11th Sun. of Luke in the Second Mode

You justified the forefathers in faith, and through them betrothed yourself, aforetime, to the Church taken from out of the Gentiles. The saints boast in glory. For from their seed, there exists a noble crop, who is she who without seed has given You birth. By their intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Ἐν πίστει τοὺς Προπάτορας ἐδικαίωσας, τὴν ἐξ Ἐθνῶν δι' αὐτῶν προμνηστευσάμενος Ἐκκλησίαν. Καυχῶνται ἐν δόξῃ οἱ Ἅγιοι, οἱ ἐκ σπέρματος αὐτῶν, ὑπάρχει καρπὸς εὐκλεῆς, ἡ ἀσπόρως τεκοῦσά σε. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, σώσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν Προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Receiving Holy Communion - We welcome to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy those Christians who are from other Christian Denominations and who are not fully united with us. Sadly, it is a consequence of the divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend to you an invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is the work or action of the celebrating Community signifying a oneness of faith, life, and worship of the believing Community. Reception of Holy Communion by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must pray. **However, all present** are welcome to partake of the Antidoro (blessed bread) which is distributed at the end of the Liturgy.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Fourth Mode. Daniel 3.26,27.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11.

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Epistle Reading

Προκείμενον. Fourth Mode. Δαυιήλ 3.26-27.

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.

τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα Πρὸς Κολοσσαεῖς 3:4-11.

Ἀδελφοί, ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς φανερωθῇ, ἡ ζωὴ ἡμῶν, τότε καὶ ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν δόξῃ. Νεκρώσατε οὖν τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, πορνείαν, ἀκαθαρσίαν, πάθος, ἐπιθυμίαν κακὴν, καὶ τὴν πλεονεξίαν, ἣτις ἐστὶν εἰδωλολατρεία, δι' ἣ ἔρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας· ἐν οἷς καὶ ὑμεῖς περιεπατήσατέ ποτε, ὅτε ἐζήτε ἐν αὐτοῖς. Νυνὶ δὲ ἀπόθεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς τὰ πάντα, ὀργὴν, θυμὸν, κακίαν, βλασφημίαν, αἰσχρολογίαν ἐκ τοῦ στόματος ὑμῶν· μὴ ψεύδεσθε εἰς ἀλλήλους, ἀπεκδυσάμενοι τὸν παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον σὺν ταῖς πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν νέον, τὸν ἀνακαινούμενον εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν κατ' εἰκόνα τοῦ κτίσαντος αὐτόν· ὅπου οὐκ ἔστι Ἕλλην καὶ Ἰουδαῖος, περιτομὴ καὶ ἀκροβυστία, βάρβαρος, Σκύθης, δοῦλος, ἐλεύθερος· ἀλλὰ τὰ πάντα καὶ ἐν πᾶσιν Χριστὸς.

GOSPEL

The Reading is from Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

GOSPEL

Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 14:16-24

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπός τις ἐποίησε δεῖπνον μέγα καὶ ἐκάλεσε πολλούς· καὶ ἀπέστειλε τὸν δοῦλον αὐτοῦ τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ δεῖπνου εἰπεῖν τοῖς κεκλημένοις· ἔρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἔτοιμά ἐστι πάντα. καὶ ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς παραιτεῖσθαι πάντες. ὁ πρῶτος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀγρὸν ἠγόρασα, καὶ ἔχω ἀνάγκην ἐξελθεῖν καὶ ἰδεῖν αὐτόν· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· ζεύγη βοῶν ἠγόρασα πέντε, καὶ πορεύομαι δοκιμάσαι αὐτά· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· γυναῖκα ἐγήμη, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο οὐ δύναμαι ἔλθειν. καὶ παραγενόμενος, ὁ δοῦλος ἐκείνος ἀπήγγειλε τῷ κυρίῳ αὐτοῦ ταῦτα. τότε ὀργισθεὶς ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης εἶπε τῷ δούλῳ αὐτοῦ· ἔξελθε ταχέως εἰς τὰς πλατείας καὶ ῥύμας τῆς πόλεως, καὶ τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ ἀναπήρους καὶ χωλοὺς καὶ τυφλοὺς εἰσάγαγε ὧδε. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ δοῦλος· κύριε, γέγονεν ὡς ἐπέταξας, καὶ ἔτι τόπος ἐστί. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ κύριος πρὸς τὸν δοῦλον· ἔξελθε εἰς τὰς ὁδοὺς καὶ φραγμοὺς καὶ ἀνάγκασον εἰσελθεῖν, ἵνα γεμισθῇ ὁ οἶκος μου. λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐκείνων τῶν κεκλημένων γευσεταί μου τοῦ δεῖπνου. Πολλοὶ γὰρ εἰσιν κλητοί, ὀλίγοι δὲ ἐκλεκτοί.

Christmas through Epiphany Services

Christmas Eve - Sunday, Dec. 24, Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM.

Christmas Day - 9:00 AM. The Nativity of Our Lord Festal Matins (Only).

St. Basil - Mon., Jan. 1st, Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:30AM.

Eve of Epiphany - Fri., Jan. 5, Vesperal Liturgy, Blessing of the Waters 6PM.

Epiphany - Sat., Jan. 6, Orthros, Divine Liturgy of St Basil: Agiasmos 8:30AM.

Saints & Feast Days



December 17

11th Sunday of Luke

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.



December 17

Dionysius of Zakynthos

The holy hierarch, Saint Dionysius, who was born and reared on Zakynthos, was the son of pious and wealthy parents, Mocius and Paulina by name. In his youth he entered the ancient monastery of the Strophada Islands, which lie south of Zakynthos, and there he donned the monastic habit. Later, he was appointed Archbishop of Aegina, and adorned its throne for a considerable time. Thereafter he returned to his homeland. One incident in his life especially reveals to what virtue he attained. A man came to him in desperation, witnessing that he had committed a murder, and was being pursued by the slain man's family. He asked Saint Dionysius to give him refuge. The Saint agreed to this, upon learning that it was his own brother whom the man had slain, he said nothing, but concealing the agony of his grief, hid him. When the Saint's kinsmen arrived at the monastery, he told them that the Murderer had gone by such and such a way. When they had departed, he admonished the man concerning the gravity of his sin, instructed him in repentance, and sent him off in peace having forgiven him his brother's murder. According to local tradition, this man later returned and became a monk at this same monastery. Saint Dionysius reposed in peace in 1621, leaving behind his sacred and incorrupt relics as a treasure for his fellow citizens.

SERMON

THE FOREFATHERS OF THE LORD

Today's Sunday is dedicated to the memory of the holy Forefathers of the Lord Jesus Christ; to those persons of the sacred history of the Old Testament, Abraham and the Patriarchs, Moses and the Prophets, who became God's accomplices in Christ's work for the salvation of men. The Forefathers are considered ancestors of the Lord, as far as His human nature is concerned, since they were forefathers of the Most Holy Theotokos. That is why in the dismissal hymn of today's feast, the Church chants: "The Saints boast in glory that from of their seed, there is a noble fruit, she who bore you seedlessly". That is, the holy Forefathers boast in the divine glory, because from their genealogical succession comes from the glorious fruit, the Most Holy Theotokos, who gave birth without seed, from the Holy Spirit, the Son of God incarnate.

The Faithful are Glorified in the Presence of God

Therefore, the Church - in her effort to prepare us for the conscientious celebration of the Nativity of Christ, has appointed, in addition to other spiritual means (fasting, the sacred forty-day Liturgies, relevant hymns, etc.), that Epistle and Gospel readings be read in the Divine Liturgy that speak to us about the manifestation of Christ should be read at the Divine Liturgy. Thus, today we heard the Apostle Paul proclaim with emphasis that "when Christ is revealed, our life, then we also with him will be revealed in glory", that is, when Christ, who is our true life, will be revealed, then you too, the faithful, will appear with Him glorified in

His presence. Of course, here the Apostle is not referring to the first manifestation of Christ in the world, which he was when he was writing his Epistle to the Colossians, it was a historical event, but to His Second and His glorious Coming, at the end times, at the close of the ages.

As, however, the request of the Lord's prayer "Thy Kingdom come" means that man foretastes, he experiences in his heart, the presence of the Kingdom of God, whose final rule has not yet been accomplished, in a similar manner, he also foretastes the glorious manifestation of Christ, which will be realized in all its fullness in the future. Then when the believers will also appear together with Christ glorified in His Kingdom. That is, the complete fruit of the Nativity, of the incarnation of Christ, is found still in the future; then when the final rebirth of people and creation will take place. Then when the faithful, as glorified members of the Body of Christ, will see him as a light and will become viewers of the ineffable beauty of His Person, similar to Him (1 John 3:2); gods by grace, gods, holy, incorrupt, immortal, Christ-like, partakers of the glory of God, full of the Holy Spirit.

Man's Renewal

So, for this reason, when we are celebrating the Birth of Christ, we are essentially celebrating our own rebirth, whose main characteristic is kinship with God. This is realized through the incarnation of the Lord and our participation in His life, through the Mysteries of the Church and especially through the Divine Eucharist. Thus, the Apostle exhorts the believers to put off the old man and to put on the new one, which is constantly renewed in order for him to reach the true knowledge of God. In Paul's theological thought and experience, the old man is juxtaposed to the new one, the new man.

The old man, we could say that he is the man who does not let Christ recreate his being, but prefers to live far from Him, in sin and the desires that give birth to death. On the contrary, the person, who with faith, repentance, and the feeling that he is a cell of the Church, he unites with Christ, he is renewed in the image of his Creator, the Lord Jesus, and he becomes a "new creation", a new man, a "partaker of the divine nature" (2 Pet. 1:4). Of course, the person born again in Christ is not something that he "is", but who is constantly striving to "become", to overcome sin, which plunges man into deep confusion and inward darkness, and to live according to God, dependent on the Spirit of God, truly free. Let us pray to always have the living faith that God, who in the life of Jesus Christ became a man, He assumes our whole being to renew it and that He sanctifies not only each one of us separately, but also our relationships with other people.

We Welcome All Who Worship with Us Today!

Memorial

40 day – *Athena Filios*

40 day – *Nicholas Markantonis*

3 year – *Evdokia Lianos*

Trisagion

3 month – *Penelope Hrisikos*

Evangelia & Evangelos Kounelis (4 & 52 year)

George Righellis

Vasiliki & Anthony Karamas

Joe, Clara & William Boisvert

May their memory be eternal. Αιώνια η Μνήμη!

Coffee Fellowship is sponsored by the *Lianos family & the Markantonis family* in memory of their loved ones.

If you would like to sponsor a Coffee Fellowship, please contact the Office.

Sunday School Announcements

Important dates:



Giving Tree Deadline Today- Place the wrapped gifts with the ornament attached to it under the tree.

The gifts will be delivered to the Dimock Center in Boston & other nearby organizations.

Christmas Pageant: December 17th

No Sunday School: December 24 and December 31.

H.B.B.U. TOY DROP OFF AT HELLENIC COLLEGE GYM
50 GODDARD AVE, BROOKLINE, MA 02445
DROP OFF TIMES: 12/10 & 12/17 2PM-5PM
ALTERNATE DROPOFF: TAXIARCHAE CHURCH, WATERTOWN

CELEBRATING
20+ YEARS OF THE
ANTHONY PITTS
TOY DRIVE!

**DEADLINE TODAY
DROP OFF YOUR
DONATIONS HERE
AT THE TAXIARCHAE!**

Thank you

SUPPORTING CHILDREN OF NECS - NEW ENGLAND COMMUNITY SERVICES
A TOY DRIVE BY ANTHONY PITTS, METROPOLIS OF BOSTON HEAD BASKETBALL REFEREE
GIFTS FOR AGES: NEWBORN TO 15 YEARS

TEDDY CLASSIC CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

TODAY

Taxiarchae Greek School Bake Sale

Sunday, December 17th
following the Liturgy

Celebrate the festive season
with cookies and pastries
and help us support the school!

If you wish to bake something
please email me:
athurner@goarchangels.com



2023-2024 Capital Improvement Campaign Fund

\$150,000

\$75,000

\$0



We're reaching out to our Parishioners for help with some of the needed improvements to our Church infrastructure and we would be honored if you could contribute. Your donation, no matter how large or small, will help us reach our goal!

If you can donate, please visit the Church website click on the donate button then choose Capital Improvement Fund from the dropdown menu or mail a check to the Church office. We appreciate your support!

DONATE TODAY!

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN



As part of the Church Capital Improvement Campaign the next item that will be completed is the parking lot starting on November 13th.

At the fall General Assembly meeting we discussed the Church Capital Improvement Campaign and the need to raise \$150,000. To date we have raised \$11,000, we will use approved monies from the operations account for needed improvements but will need to repay the operations account once we have raised the money. Please visit the Church website, click on donate then choose Capital Improvement Campaign to help us meet our goal.

THANK YOU
To all who donated to the
Watertown Food Pantry Toy Drive.

You helped your Watertown neighbors have
Christmas gifts for their children!





METROPOLIS of BOSTON CAMP

WINTER CAMP 2024

SO CHILL, WE NEEDED TWO
Grades 6-12 | Register on November 27th

Winter Camp Session 1 Winter Camp Session 2
 ARRIVE: Friday, January 19 ARRIVE: Saturday, February 17
 DEPART: Sunday, January 21 DEPART: Monday, February 19

**FALL CAMP SOLD OUT IN LESS THAN 60 SECONDS!
 DON'T DELAY IN REGISTERING!**



WINTER CAMP FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

TOUR DE TOOKY	PAT'S PEAK SKI MOUNTAIN
Maple Syrup Factory	Skiing
Cow Milking Farm	Snowboarding
Ice Skating / Ice Fishing	Tubing

metropolisofbostoncamp.org



CROSSROAD

Are you a high school **junior** or **senior**?

Fill your
summer
 with what **counts**

Join one of our **four sessions:**

- SESSION 1** | Boston June 8-18
- SESSION 2** | Northern California June 18-28
- SESSION 3** | Boston June 22-July 2
- SESSION 4** | Chicago July 6-16

APPLICATION DEADLINES
 Priority: January 16, 2024
 Regular: February 20, 2024



Youth Ministry

Ongoing FOOD DRIVE - Collecting for the Watertown Food Pantry

Your donation of food items can be put on the table, located in the Lobby.

We will deliver them to the Watertown Food Pantry every Tuesday.

Thank you for helping your local community!

ESPECIALLY NEEDED - CANS OF TUNA & BREAKFAST CEREAL.

As always, the Food Pantry is still in need of school snacks.

LOVE DOES NOT HURT.

INCREASED STATISTICS ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
[HTTPS://WWW.NEJM.ORG/DOI/FULL/10.1056/NEJMP2024046](https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMP2024046)

A pandemic within a pandemic: There are more cases of violence in the home than ever before. This means more families living in crisis.

We are collecting for monthly drop-offs each second Monday of the month, beginning with December 14th.

Items requested are:

- Sanitary napkins
- Shampoo
- Vaseline
- Cocoa butter
- Baby shampoo
- Baby lotion
- Deodorant
- Tooth brushes
- Tooth paste

With any questions, please contact

Christina Kourkoulis at CKourkoulis@goarchangels.org

**RECOGNIZE.
REPORT.
PREVENT.**

FINEX HOUSE

+Finex House
PO Box 300670
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
<https://www.finexhouse.org>

Taxiarchae Hellenic Cultural Center

Planning a party or reception? Our beautiful venues are now updated and ready for any & all of your event needs, up to 500 people.

For information and assistance in planning your future event, please call Irene Apostolou Cobb at the Church Office at 617-924-8182 or email: functionmanager@goarchangels.com



DREAM IT AND IT
CAN COME TRUE!
YOUR EVENT CAN BE
EVERYTHING
YOU WISHED.

