

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians Chapter 3, Verse 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.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke Chapter 14, Verses 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.'"

**Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Three:** Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death, and first-born of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Εὐφραίνεσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιᾶσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας Ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** Today following Divine Liturgy we will hold our Parish Council Election. All pledged parishioners in good standing are encouraged to come participate and cast their votes for Parish Council candidates running for the 2024 Board. Please check-in with the Election Committee at their table to cast your vote.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TODAY:** For the first time since 2019 we will enjoy a Christmas Program featuring the youth of our community! We thank Mia Fanourgiakis and the Elpida program for coming together to give us our first Christmas program in years. Please enjoy the wonderful carols and story of Christmas as presented by Elpida today following Divine Liturgy. Christ is born! Glorify Him!

**GREEK DANCE LUNCHEON TODAY:** We thank our Greek Dance program for hosting a wonderful luncheon today following Divine Liturgy. All proceeds from today's luncheon and raffle will go towards our Dance program as they prepare for another outing at FDF this February. Tickets are still available for purchase today so stop by, enjoy an excellent meal, great *parea*, and support our Greek Dancers!

#### **PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES:**

-Scholarships are being offered for the spring semester from the Philoptochos and Vellis Family. Access scholarship requirements and application on the church's website. Submission deadline is December 17th.

-Christmas pastries available for purchase (kourambiethes, melomakarona and baklava) during coffee hour if supplies last on Dec 17th.

-Order your vasilopita during coffee hour or online. Last day to order is Dec 17th. Order pickup is Dec 30th from 10a-1p at church.

-Annual Crab Feed Friday, January 26, 2024. Save the date. More info to follow.

**Kontakion of the Christmas Fast:** Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορόρητως. Χόρρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

