

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

CHEESE FARE SUNDAY

ALEXIOS MAN OF GOD

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Romans Chapter 13, Verses 11-14, Chapter 14 Verses 1-4: Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew Chapter 6, Verses 14-21: The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode pl. 4:

Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ Εὐσπλαγχνος, ταφήν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a threeday burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You!

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE SCHOLARSHIP: One of the main objectives of the Daughters of Penelope has been the promotion of education amongst the Hellenic community. The Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc. scholarships are awarded to qualifying students enrolled in graduate and undergraduate programs. Please see requirements and the application at: <https://dopfoundationinc.com/scholarships/apply-for-a-scholarship> The deadline to apply is April 1, 2024. For any questions regarding the scholarship please reach out to Eleni Toubanos via email: elenitoubanos@gmail.com

MEMORIAL SERVICES: Today's Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the souls of Paul Dakis, 6 months since his passing, and John Sarikakis, 22 years since his passing. May their memory be eternal! Αἰώνια ἡ μνήμη!

COFFEE HOUR TODAY: Today's Coffee Hour is being hosted by the Sarikakis and Dakis families in memory of Paul Dakis and John Sarikakis. We thank both of these families for generously hosting us today for refreshments following Divine Liturgy. May the memory of Paul and John be eternal!

APODEIPNON: Tomorrow, May 18th is the first day of Great Lent. We will begin the Lenten season with an Apodeipnon service at 4pm served by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. We look forward to beginning the Lenten period together. **Other Lenten Services this week include Presanctified Liturgy, Wednesday March 20th at 10am and Salutations, Friday March 22 at 6pm.** We look forward to worshipping with you.

AN INVITATION TO HOST COFFEE HOUR: As part of our previously announced revitalized coffee hour program, we're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) to sign up to host one or more coffee hours over the course of the year. We'll supply the coffee/cream/sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (e.g., pastries, donuts, bagels & cream cheese, small sandwiches, fruit/vegetable/cheese platters and assorted dips, or other similar items.) We're currently seeking hosts for the following Sundays: March 31, and April 7, 14 and 28. Please reach out to Irene Melitas (irene.melitas@annunciation.org, or, 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

STEWARDSHIP CALL: We are all blessed with certain gifts. It is important to develop these gifts, multiply them and offer them back to God. Please take a moment to fill out your annual Pledge card and don't forget to fill out the back offering your skills and talents!

ELPIDA LENTEN RETREAT: On Saturday, March 30th we will be hosting our second annual Elpida Lenten Retreat! We already have about 80 kids registered, be sure to register your children as well! In preparation for the Retreat, we are also asking for assistance from those who would be interested in prepping crafts for the children. Please contact Mia Fanourgiakis for information about registering or helping us prep our crafts! mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES: -March 25th, Monday-Please join Philoptochos in celebrating the Feast Day of the Annunciation with a luncheon immediately after the Liturgy. Reservations can be made by mail, on line or after church at the reservation table.

-Philoptochos Membership is ongoing. Become a new member or renew your membership. Your pledge helps us to continue our mission of helping those in need. Mail in the form or go to the church's website to complete.

-Save the date for our annual Mother's Day Luncheon on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

