

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024**

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**

**RIGHTEOUS ARTEMON**

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Hebrews Chapter 11, Verses 24-26, 32-40: Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John Chapter 1, Verses 43-51: At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

**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](mailto:elenitoubanos@gmail.com)

**TODAYS COFFEE HOUR:** Under our new invitational program, today's Coffee Hour is being hosted by Mrs. Irene Vafiades. We thank Irene for her generosity and look forward to seeing all of you for refreshments following Divine Liturgy today!

**FEAST DAY SERVICES:** Tonight at 6pm we will celebrate Great Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation followed by Lenten refreshments. Tomorrow we will celebrate Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for our Feast Day. Orthros will begin at 9am with Divine Liturgy to follow around 10:15am, followed by a Philipotchos Luncheon. We look forward to celebrating our Feast Day with you.

**LENTEN SERVICES THIS WEEK:** Presanctified Liturgy, Wednesday March 27th at 10am and Salutations, Friday March 29 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/non-dairy cream/sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (e.g., donuts, bagels & jam, small sandwiches, fruit/vegetable platters and assorted dips, or other similar items. *Note: during the Lenten season was ask that the food items be suitable for the Lenten fast – i.e., no meat or dairy, please.*) 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

