SYNAXARION: Xenia, Deaconess of Rome; Vavylas the Holy Martyr, Xenia of St. Petersburg, Fool-For-Christ; Philo the Wonderworker, Bishop of Karpasia in Cyprus

Resurrectional Apolytikion (Pl 4th Mode): From Above did You descend O Christ our God. For us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be relieved from passions in this world. You who are our Resurrection and our Life: Glory to You, O Lord.

Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist: The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you O Forerunner the witness of the Lord is sufficient. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the prophets. Since you were granted to baptize in the river, the One Whom they proclaimed. Therefore, you strove for truth, proclaiming with joy the Good News, even to those in Hades: that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sins of the world, and grants to us His great mercy.

Kontakion: O You Who sanctified by Your birth a Virgin womb, and blessed the hands of Simeon as seemed most appropriate, You came indeed to save us all, O Christ our God. Wherefore bring peace to our nation in time of hostility, and secure in strength, the rulers You have truly loved, as the only one Who loves mankind.

Memorial Service: Basil Charles Chrissafis (40 Days)
Epistle Reading is from 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Gospel Reading is from Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

If you want to make sure we have your birthdate on file, please call the office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birthdays</th>
<th>Namedays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jaxon Horack—Jan 24</td>
<td>Filon, Xeni, Zosimas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artemise Giallourakis - Jan 25</td>
<td>Gregory, Margaret</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niko Koulianos - Jan 25</td>
<td>Jan 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeline Moran - Jan 25</td>
<td>Xenofon, Haris, Palladios</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ana Mourer - Jan 25</td>
<td>Jan 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellie Kate Papataros - Jan 25</td>
<td>Varsamina - Jan 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taytum Parker - Jan 25</td>
<td>Avra, Chrysi, Mavros, Trion, Ierarhon - Jan 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Mellon Lynn - Jan 26</td>
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<td>Vasia Christopoulos - Jan 27</td>
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<td>Karter Lenardos - Jan 27</td>
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<td>Alec Papadakis - Jan 27</td>
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**Upcoming Services & Events**

**Sunday, January 24**  
14th Sunday of Luke  
Orthros 8:45 a.m.  
Goya  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

**Monday, January 25**  
St. Gregory the Theologian  
Orthros 9:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, January 26**  
Women’s Bible Study  
Suffering Book Study  
10:30 a.m.  
6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 27**  
Paraklesis Service  
6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 28**  
Griefshare  
6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, January 30**  
Three Hierarchs  
Orthros 8:45 a.m.  
Sunday School Teacher Retreat  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  
11:15 a.m.

**Sunday, January 31**  
Orthros 8:45 a.m.  
Prayer for Teachers  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

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**Stewardship 2021 Update**

As of Friday, January 22, we have received **206** stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of **$351,843.00** for 2021.

Don’t forget to fill out your form and send it into the office!

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**Orthodoxy 101 Class will begin in February**

This will be a Four-week course of study on Monday nights to make people aware of the basics of being an Orthodox Christian. The classes will be part lecture, part discussion, with lots of time for questions and answers. The class will meet in the church each week from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The four sessions will be done as follows:

- **Monday, February 8** - A Tour of the Orthodox Church
- **Monday, February 15** - Orthodox Spirituality, Introduction to Sacraments
- **Monday, February 22** - The Divine Liturgy, A Teaching Liturgy
- **Monday, March 1** - Orthodox Traditions

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**Sunday School Opens In Person on January 24**

On January 24th, we are starting IN PERSON Sunday School for our Toddler 2’s—6th Grade. These classes will be conducted AFTER Holy Communion, every Sunday, for the remainder of the School Year! We will also continue to send out our VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL lessons every week. Students and teachers will wear masks in their classrooms and we will do the best we can to social distance. We will have hand sanitizers in each room and the rooms will be cleaned regularly. We will not have classes for our Middle and High Schoolers, but we do expect them to attend church in person or virtually, complete the weekly lesson on the Gospel Reading provided by Fr. Stavros, and attend GOYA meetings.

The classes will be broken up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toddler 2’s, Pre-K3, and Pre-K4</td>
<td>Alexis Scarfoliero and Denise Panos</td>
<td>Pre-School Classroom (on the right as you exit Church Side Doors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Graders</td>
<td>Debbie Nicklow and her daughters</td>
<td>Sunday School classroom in the Old Administration Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd through 6th Graders</td>
<td>Vickie Peckham and other teachers</td>
<td>Zahiras/Music Room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project**

**January 24—30**

*So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day.*  
II Corinthians 4:16

For those of us who are over 30, we’ve all had moments when we’ve “felt our age.” We are not young and as full of vitality as we once were. Should this be cause for despair? NO! Because as St. Paul writes in II Corinthians 4:16, even “though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day.” Through Christ, there is an opportunity to be renewed spiritually every day. Do I wish I had my 30-year-old body back? Absolutely, especially my metabolism. Do I wish I had my 30-year-old mind back? NO! Because I’m a lot more intelligent than I was back then, I know a lot more now. Do I wish I had my 30-year-old sense of God back? Absolutely not! I am much more in tune with God now than I ever was back then. I suspect as I get older, my body will waste away more and more with each passing year. However, I also anticipate that I will grow closer and closer to God, at least that is my goal. We can’t stop our outer nature from wasting away. We can certainly slow that down with eating better and exercising. But we can’t stop it. What we absolutely can do is be renewed in our inner nature, constantly, and at any time. Any age is a good age to grow closer to God. And something it is the ones who have the most infirm bodies that are the closest to God. So don’t only focus on the outer nature—what you wear, how much you weight, etc.—focus on the inner nature, and work to bring it ever closer to God.
Update and Announcements

Sunday School Opens Up — Join us January 24 for our In Person Sunday School! We will continue to offer virtual Sunday School in addition for those unable to participate in person, and encourage to work with the provided materials in each bulletin. See our e-mail for further details.

Click here for the lesson and challenge for today!

Looking for Ushers — We are looking for more ushers to help at the Divine Services of our church. If you are interested, please email Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com.

Monday, January 25, St. Gregory the Theologian — One of the Three Hierarchs, also lived in the 4th century. He was a friend and contemporary of St. Basil and St. John Chrysostom. He was an accomplished speaker and writer, was the Bishop of Nazianzos and was one of the Bishops who presided at the Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople in 381, which finalized the Nicene Creed that we recite to this day.

Monday Night Bible Study — with Charlie will be held on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bible study is held via Zoom. If you are not part of the Monday night Bible study and would like to join in, please contact Charlie at chambos@stjohnpta.org and he will add you.

Women’s Bible Study will meet in January on Tuesday, January 26 — We are studying the Epistle of St. James. We meet via ZOOM. Fr. Stavros leads this group. If you would like to join our women’s Bible study group, please contact Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com and he will add you to the Zoom link. At some point, we will be resuming in person, however when we do, there will continue to be a zoom option.

When God Is Not There, a Book Study on Suffering, January 26 — “The world we live in has been called a ‘vale of tears’, a ‘place of weeping’ — perhaps with good reason. This book records simple events and conversations, all the while grappling with difficult questions. Its aim is to convey the sense of the discreet yet persuasive presence of the true God precisely in situations where He is not visible: in pain, in disability, in the tragedies of life, in inexcusable death, as His comes across in true events and is reflected in the lives of real people.” Alex Limberatos will be hosting a Zoom Book Study on Tuesday Nights at 6:30 p.m. starting January 26 in six sessions. If you are interested in joining, please e-mail Alex at alex@stjohnpta.org or call the office phone. Books will be provided.

Paraklesis Services Resuming each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. — We are going to resume our weekly Paraklesis Service this Wednesday (and on each Wednesday) from 6:00-7:15 p.m. We will continue to pray for each person in our community by name.

GriefShare Ministry Continues — It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you’ve lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you’ve probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions. “Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you’re shivering.” GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements: Video seminar with experts, support group discussion with focus, and personal study and reflection. We continue to offer hybrid meetings both in person in the Administration Building and via Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, ending on Thursday, April 22. If you are interested, please contact either the church office (813-876-8830 or office@stjohnpta.org) or Donna Hambos (813-843-8412 or dhambos@msn.com). Books for the program will be provided. Donation for the book suggested but not required. Open to all family and friends. GriefShare remains open enrollment with support towards healing and hope. You can begin at any time. If you attended last semester and missed a day or two, you can come for those days or repeat the whole thing.

Saturday, January 30, The Three Hierarchs — The Three Hierarchs are St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom. Each had his own feastday and all are honored together on January 30, ironically because of a controversy over which was the greatest. (Imagine a church meeting where we debated which saints were the most important!) Each of them lived in the 4th Century, each was an accomplished writer and speaker, each was a Bishop, each authored a Liturgy and each is remembered prominently in the history of our church to this day. The Three Hierarchs are Patron Saints of Teachers and Education.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Gilda Parascandola, Kathy & Andrew Bouzines; Anastasia; Amanda, Andrew, Colton, Miranda, Charlotte Elizabeth, Niha, Nabeel, Michael, Amal, John, Elaine, Olga, Virginia Georgiou, Ron Myer, Toulas Tsalos, Fr. Pat Legato, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Tony Economou, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Tina Chakonas, Ann Demas, Alex Martinez, Adriana Martinez, Aaron Martinez, Christina Noel Kouzes Houch, Evangeline Xeroteres, Nichole Ross, Daniel Ross, Daniella Ross, Ashley Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Chris, Debbie, James, Avery, Lily, Jacob, Jesse, Ann, Rosario, Antonia Caffentzis, Alissa, John, Angela, Joey, Christine Scourtes, Steven, Matthew & Family, Phyllis, John Zelatis, Reagan, Peter Zacharis, Alexandra Ferrarolis, Leon & Despina Bosham, Cindy Xenick, Mary Ellen Evdemon, Marie Sofia Panagopoulos, Maria Hursey, Chris Vamvakias, John Myer, Mike Trims, Robert and Alice Stoccardo, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Anastasia Smyrnakis, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Ana Mourer, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Anne Sakellas, Denise Badrane, Sia Blankenship, Don Payne, Zhanar Temelkova, Stanislava Terzieva, James, Jude and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.
AHEPA Mother Lodge Chapter No. 1 Educational Fund, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE for Academic Year 2021-22

Scholarships range from $1000 to $3000
APPLY ONLINE at www.ahepaATLscholarship.org
Application deadline—11:59 p.m., EST, March 31, 2021

ACADEMIC and ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0 or 83 out of 100 and be planning to be enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university for the 2021-22 academic year to be eligible.

AREA OF CONSIDERATION and RESIDENCY / OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Note that students attending college in the designated areas listed below but who are not from these locations are considered “out of area” and are ONLY eligible to apply for the Johnny N. Economy Scholarship which has no residency requirement.

- Three scholarships are available for students attending Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Applicants must reside in the geographical area within the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta and plan to attend Holy Cross School of Theology.
- The Johnny N. Economy Scholarship is available to all students. Applicants must submit an additional essay on a topic of their choosing regarding Hellenism. This scholarship has no residency requirement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: applications@ahepaATLscholarship.org

The mission of the Mother Lodge Chapter No. 1 Educational Fund, Inc. is to provide both scholastic achievement and financial need scholarships to students pursuing post high school education. In addition, the Fund strives to strengthen community and country by promoting education through the development and implementation of various comprehensive programs.

The Foundation is a tax-exempt Charitable Foundation established in Atlanta, Georgia in 1986 to promote, encourage and advance education at the college, university, and graduate and professional school levels. It serves the Cultural and Educational Programs of AHEPA Chapter 1, DOP Chapter 53 & AHEPA Chapter 519. *

* AHEPA: American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association; DOP: Daughters Of Penelope