

WEEKLY PEW BULLETIN

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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The Lord's Day—Sunday of All Saints

Martyrs Lucillian & Paula: Athanasios the Wonderworker

ALL SAINTS DAY

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown in a physical body, it is raised in a spiritual body. -1 Cor. 15: 41-44.

Saint Paul, the Hebrew of Hebrews, the one who personally experienced the Resurrected Christ, poetically and profoundly illustrates the diversity of the splendour and glory of the Saints who are like the stars that reflect the order, beauty, majesty, wonder, and glory of God.

As the moon is brilliant and glorious because it reflects the brilliance of the sun, so, too, the Saints are glorious because they reflect the glory of God. The ancients saw in the stars their destiny, for they believed they were made of stardust. They saw the light of the stars overcoming the darkness, and they saw in the stars immortality. Hence, their gods were enshrined in the constellations and were forever constant.

As Christians, we are called to reflect the Glory of God, and observing the heavens, we discern eternal truths in God's Blue Print for a cosmic transfiguration in the One Who is the Creator of the Cosmos, the Light of Light, and True God of True God, our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ. As man is a microcosm of the cosmos, being a composite of star dust and the dust of the earth, he is also called to be something that is at once humble and yet, destined for divinity. Bowing down in prayer, he can rise to glory. Humbly condescending, he can ascend in glory. In suffering, he can be glorified; in death, he can live. The stars always shine bright against the backdrop of the night, and the black curtain of the night is always drawn back to reveal the light of the day. Like an open book, we read nature-

-God's Handwriting--and divine our destiny--His Purpose for us.

For us, Christ is the Eternal Dawn and the Sun of Righteousness. He is our Resurrection, our Light, and our Life. In His Infinite Wisdom, He created each of us unique and for a purpose, as He created every colour, shape, and hue. The white capped mountain is more majestic because it towers over a deep verdant valley. Each of us is different, but each of us has something to offer. Each of us has our own strengths and weaknesses, but one's strength compensates for another's weakness. Each of us different, but each of us called to glory.

The Saints of the Church were not perfect, but they were perfected in Christ. They offered what they had and what they were. Paul was a persecutor, but he offered his zeal. Peter was a denier, but he offered his strength. Thomas was a doubter, but he offered his reason. Each of us has something to offer. Each of us is called, for we are all called to be Saints and reflect the glory of God. Like stars that share the same nature, we humans share the same nature, and we each differ from one another glory as the stars different from one another in size and brilliance. After all, the Greek word for saint literally means "not of the earth," for indeed, though made from the earth, we are destined for the heaven--the heavens that Paul read and the heavens that declare the glory of God.

As no man or star is the same, no Saint is the same. We are diverse and unique, and yet, we share the same nature. As Jesus Christ assumed and united our human nature, the Holy Spirit reveals the diversity of persons. In Christ, we are One; in the Holy Spirit, we are diverse. We are many persons who share one human nature, as God is Three Persons in One Divine Nature, and Jesus Christ Who reconciles all things, is two natures (divine and human) in one Person. In Christ, we both die and live, but we die once with Him in order to live for eternity with Him. In Christ, we are united with Him and with one another. In Christ, the God-Man, we find our authenticity and destiny.

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First Eothinon Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

The Disciples hastened to the mountain for the Lord's ascension from the earth; and there the Lord appeared to them. They worshipped Him, and were instructed about the universal authority He was given; and they were sent out to the whole world to preach the resurrection from the dead and the restoration to heaven. And He, who never lies, promised to be with them forever; He is Christ our God and the Savior of our souls.

Plagal Fourth Tone Apolytikion

From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. "Glory to You," O Lord. (p. 127 of Liturgy Hymnal)

Apolytikion of All Saints

Throughout the world your Church is adorned with the blood of the martyrs as with royal purple and fine linen. Through them she cries out to You, Christ our God: "Grant your lasting peace to all the world and bestow on our souls Your great mercy." (p. 175 of Hymnal)

The Apolytikion of Pentecost

Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made wise men of poor fishermen, by sending down upon them Your Holy Spirit, and through them, You caught the whole world. O Lov-

On the Sunday after Pentecost when Christ established His Church for the salvation of the world, we commemorate All Saints--those who were, those in the process of becoming, and those who will be. We honour their respective gifts and talents that they offered in the service of others for the glory of God. They each offered something different; some offered more; some offered less; but they all offered something to the best of their abilities, for others, for the right reason, and for the glory of God. Offering whatever they had to God through others in gratitude, joy, and Faith, God leveraged their offering by the Power of the Holy Spirit to effect miracles.

This happened first and foremost because they offered, gave, and shared. In this way, they imitated God the Giver of Life, and they thus reflected His Glory as luminous stars in the constellation of Orthodoxy. Therefore, today, we commemorate All Saints, praying to imitate their example by offering ourselves to God as only each of us can uniquely do in the way God created us to do.

This is also the Sunday in which we remember the 150 Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Synod in Constantinople in 381 A.D. They came together to combat the heresies that taught that the Holy Spirit (the Third Person of the Holy Trinity) was not truly God; just as the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Synod combated the heresies that the Logos (the Second Person of the Holy Trinity) was not truly God. This Sunday takes place after the Great Feast of Pentecost when God sent down the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Apostles and established His Church and after the Feast of Holy Spirit that we commemorate on the synaxis (Gathering) the day after Pentecost.

This is most fitting, illustrative, and didactic for us, for Pentecost is also known as Trinity Sunday. As spoken through Prophets, the Holy Spirit, working together as One with Father and Son, reveals the Light of Light, True of God, Trinity, One Essence. The Spirit is the bond of unity which establishes the Church and unites the Apostles, for only unity, concord, harmony, and peace occur with the transforming and reconciling presence and light of the Divine Holy Spirit.

Praying we all abide in and reflect His Bright Shining Light, as the stars above,

†Father Jim



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

To have a name added to the prayer list, please contact Esther Tsikos (727) 736-3409 or email her at esthertsikos@tampabay.rr.com. Please pray for the following people: Frederica, Alfred, Eoanna, Anastasios, Christine, Marianna, Faye, Irene, Manoli, George, Jaxton, Katherine, Dino, Jeremy, Joanne, Maria, Helen, Mary, Liz, Gus, Alexander, Elias, Fr. Petro, Presv. Christine, Catherine, Alex, Michael, Anna, Elizabeth, Angie, Katie, Emanuel, Andrea, Jim, Harriet, Diane, Eleftheria, Maria, Diane, George, Demetri, Eleni, Stella, Joanna, Gary, Georgia, Steve, Amanda, Arlene, Diane.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

er of mankind, Glory to You. (p. 172 of Hymnal)

Kontakion for Sunday of All Saints

To You, O Lord, Creator of the universe, the world offers the God-bearing martyrs as the first fruits of creation. Through their prayers, and through those of the Theotokos, keep Your Church in perfect peace, O Savior rich in mercy. (p. 283 of Liturgy Hymnal)

Epistle: All Saints

Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1,2 (p. 93)

Gospel: All Saints

Matthew 10:32,33, 37,38; 19:27-30 (p. 197)

Communion Hymn for All Saints

Exalt, you just, in the Lord; from the up-right praise is fitting. (3x) (p. 323 of Liturgy Hymnal, Psalm 32)

Creed in English



Sunday, June 3

8:45 am Orthros (Matins)
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
12:30 pm GOYA Volleyball Practice
3:00 pm GOYA Basketball Practice

Monday, June 4

Vacation Church School (VCS)
6:15 pm PTO Meeting

Tuesday, June 5

Vacation Church School (VCS)
6:30 pm Master Calendar Planning Meeting

Wednesday, June 6

Vacation Church School (VCS)
1:00 pm Leisure Timers
5:00 pm Adult Basketball

Thursday, June 7

Vacation Church School (VCS)



Friday, June 8

Vacation Church School (VCS)
St. John GOYA Olympics (Tampa)

Sunday, June 10

8:45 am Orthros (Matins)
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
12:30 pm GOYA Volleyball Practice
3:00 pm GOYA Basketball Practice

COFFEE HOUR IS SPONSORED BY:

THE ORTHODOX MEN'S CLUB

DURING COFFEE HOUR:

WELCOME TABLE,
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TABLE (LOCATED IN
CHURCHNASIUM)



OUR 2018 STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS

Goal:\$450,000 **Received:**\$220,322 **Remaining:**\$229,677

Please help our community reach its stewardship goal by fulfilling your pledge, increasing your pledge, or making a pledge. Thank you!



The 2018 Stewardship Campaign includes a new program titled “Doing the Work of Christ One Day at a Time”. This program encourages everyone to Sponsor a Day to help defray the daily cost of operating our church. Please consider supporting our program. Sponsor a Day forms are available at the Pangari (Church) or in the Front Office. We would like to thank the following Stewards:

Five Day Sponsors

Anonymous

Joseph & Anna Kokolakis

Markos & Sevi Lagos

Three Day Sponsors

Anonymous

Theodore & Filitsa Vlahos

Two Day Sponsors

Frederic & Elizabeth Haeussler

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