

Special Hymns for the 14th Sunday of Matthew

Today's Resurrection Hymn:

To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Dismissal Hymn:

O Commanders of the Heavenly Host, we the unworthy beseech you, that that through your entreaties you will fortify us, guarding us in the shelter of the wings of your ethereal glory, even as we fervently bow before you crying: "Deliver us from all danger, as Commanders of the Powers on high!"

Dismissal Hymn for Sts. Constantine and Helen:

The form of Your Cross was seen in the sky by Your Apostle among the kings, O Lord. He received his calling, like Paul, not from man, and placed his imperial city in Your hands. Ever guard it in peace, O Loving God, through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos:

In your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of the corruption of death. And so your people, free of the guilt of their sins, celebrate crying, "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, who nourishes our life."

Jesus Once Said,

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I have wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!"

Matthew 23:37,38

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΔ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ Ανάμνησις Θαυματος Αρχαγγέλου Μιχαήλ

Αναστάσιμον Απολυτίκιον

Τόν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρί καί Πνευματι τόν εκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εις σωτηρίαν ημών, ανυμνήσωμεν πιστοί καί προσκυνήσωμεν. Οτι ηυδόκησε σαρκί ανελθειν εν τώ Σταυρώ καί θάνατον υπομειναι, καί εγειραι τούς τεθνεώτας εν τή ενδόξω αναστάσει αυτού.

Απολυτίκιον Αρχαγγέλου Μιχαήλ

Τών ουραμνίων στρατιών Αρχιστράτηγοι, δυσωπούμεν υμάς ημεις οι ανάξιοι, ινα ταις ημών δεήσεσι, τειχήσετε ημάς, σκέπη τών πτερύγων, τής αύλου υμών δόξης, φρουρούντες ημάς προσπιπτοντας εκτενώς καί βοώντας. Εκ τών κινδύνων λυτρώσασθε ημάς ως Ταξιάρχαι τών άνω Δυνάμεων

Απολυτίκιον Αγίου Κωνσταντίνου

Τού Σταυρού σου τόν τύπον εν ουρανώ θεασάμενος, καί ως ο Παύλος τήν κλήσιν ουκ εξ ανθρώπων δεξάμενος. Ο εν βασιλεύσιν Απόστολός σου, Κύριε, βασιλεύουσαν πόλιν τή χειρί σου παρέθετο. Ήν περίσωζε διά παντός εν ειρήνη, πρεσβεΐαις τής Θεοτόκου μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

Κοντάκιον τών Γενεθλίων τής Θεοτόκου

Ιωακείμ καί Άννα ονεισμού ατεκνίας καί Αδάμ καί Ευα εκ τής φθοράς τού θανάτου ηλευθερώθησαν, Αχραντε, εν τή αγία γεννήσει σου αυτήν εορτάζει και ο λαός σου. ενοχής τών ππαισμάτων λυτρωθείς εν τώ κράζειν σοι. Η στείρα τίκτει τήν Θεοτόκον και τροφόν τής ζωής ημών.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 6 14th Sunday of Matthew

Epistle: Heb. 2:2-10 (Pew Book, page 1421)

Gospel: Matt. 22:2-14 (Red Book, page 87)

Acolytes: Group 3 (Seraphim): A. Lountzis, A. Midouhas, A. Marmarou, E. Polyak, N. Lountzis, P. Daglis, J. Radwanski, A. Tilley, A. Lynch, C. Sasaran, N. Radwanski, N. Rohm, N. Kiritsis, E. Kiritsis

Council Members Welcoming: Athan Dialectos
Strat Marmarou

Council Members Ushering: Tony Phyrillas
Artie Fecera

Fellowship Hosts: Mr. and Mrs. Gary Rogers
Miss Christina Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Talotta
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Snyder

Tuesday, September 8

Parish Council at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 10

Bake Koulourakia at 9:00 a.m.

Pastitsio Prep at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 12

Cook Pastitsio and Mousaka at 9:00 a.m.

Next Sunday

Sunday, September 13 Sunday before Holy Cross

Acolytes: Group 4 (Archangels): V. Phyrillas, A. Futrick, M. Faust, A. Futrick, Jr. , G. Koumaras, T. Siegel, K. Schlageter, T. Hunsicker, A. Karetas, J. Wagner, C. Hunsicker, C. Kraras

Announcements

Crop Walk: Registration for the Annual Crop Walk, which raises money to help alleviate both world hunger and hunger in Berks County, will be held following the Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall on Sunday, September 13th, 20th and 27th. Please sign up to be a walker at the CROP Walk to be held October 11th at Grings Mill.

AHEPA Meeting will be held in the Church Hall on Thursday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School Pictures will be taken during Sunday School in the Church Hall on Sunday, September 20th.

Altar Boy Orientation will take place after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 20th.

Join **Philoctochos** on Tues. Sept. 22nd for a guided tour of the First Energy Stadium! Home of the Reading Fightin Phils! Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP by Sept. 15th: Ann Kraras:annhkraras@comcast.net 610-376-2184 OR Kathy Rohm: kathyrohrm52@gmail.com @ 610-678-5609.

The Centennial Commemorative Album will be available on Sunday September 20 and 27 during fellowship for those who want to pick up their copy.

Registration for Greek School will be September 20 and 27 during fellowship in the church hall.

If you are interested in attending **Adult Greek School** please contact the church office.

The Fall Bible Study will start on Wednesday, September 30th and will be a study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, found in the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 5 through 7. The study will be 8 sessions, concluding on December 9th.

To Hear the Word and Keep It

On Tuesday of this week we celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos, and we read one of Jesus Christ's most meaningful statements about who His true followers are.

It comes in a reading for the day, from Luke 11:27-28: "A woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts that You sucked!' But He said, 'Blessed rather are those hear the word of God and keep it!'"

This passage has been interpreted in diverse ways. Some Biblical interpreters see it as a rebuke to Mary, in which Christ denies any special place to her as His biological

mother and says it is only by keeping God's word that a person is blessed.

But the Orthodox Church has a different view, as did the early Church. That view is expressed in the ancient phrase, "The Virgin conceived through her ear." This is not a fundamental misunderstanding of how the process of human conception works, though some modern commentators seem to see it that way. It is a reflection of the way the Church understands the passage from Luke's Gospel. Jesus is not rebuffing His mother; rather He is pointing out that she is more than His biological parent—she is the great example of one who heard the word and kept it. She heard God's word for her at the angel Gabriel's visit, celebrated as the Annunciation. She was willing to keep, or carry out, God's word that she was to be the mother of His Son. It's in this way that she "conceived through her ear"—by agreeing to the word she heard, and bearing the Son of God.

The day after we celebrate the Nativity of the Virgin, we remember her parents Joachim and Anna. Like other Biblical couples before them, Joachim and Anna were aging and childless. As it was for those other couples, childlessness was a great heartache for these two. In fact, it brought them not only sadness but also humiliation. It's traditionally understood that Joachim was turned away when he came to offer prayers because he had no children. Anna's sorrow must have been even deeper because of her husband's experience.

Joachim and Anna's longing for a child was fulfilled. The Church's placing of their commemoration on the day after the feast of that child's nativity reminds us that Mary's birth was a normal human one. She was not immaculately conceived, and she was not born to eminent people. Yet she would become the Mother of God, the most exalted example of one who receives God's grace having heard and kept His word.

In Orthodox worship we are constantly offered the chance to hear words of Scripture. Beautiful melodies entice our ears to pay attention to the hymns with their rich theology. So our hearing of the word is helped along in many ways. The keeping of the word, though, is entirely up to us.

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
1001 East Wyomissing Boulevard
Reading, PA 19611
The Weekly Church Bulletin

Fr. Thomas Pappalas Dn. James Elliker
Church Phone: 610-374-7511 FAX: 610-374-5890

Sunday, September 6, 2015
14th Sunday of Matthew

