

TODAY'S ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Sunday after Christmas – Κυριακή μετά τήν Χριστοῦ Γέννησιν

The Holy and Just Joseph the Betrothed, David the King and James the Brother of the Lord.

Our Holy Mothers Anysia of Thessaloniki, and Theodora of Caesarea.

Τῶν Ἁγίων καὶ δικαίων Ἰωσήφ τοῦ Μνήστορος, Δαυῖδ τοῦ Βασιλέως, καὶ Ἰακώβ τοῦ Ἀδελφοθέου.

Τῆς Ἁγίας Μάρτυρος Ἀνυσίας, τῆς ἐν Θεσσαλονίκῃ. Τῆς Ὁσίας Θεοδώρας, τῆς ἀπὸ Καισαρείας.

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΗΜΕΡΑΣ – DISMISSAL HYMNS OF THE DAY

Apolytikion of the Second Plagal Tone Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντὸν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπήντησας τῇ παρθένῳ, δωροῦμενος τὴν ζωὴν, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

The Angelic powers stood around Your tomb, and the guards became as dead; and Mary stood in the Sepulcher, seeking Your immaculate Body. You despoiled Hades and were not corrupted by it; You did meet the Virgin, granting life. Risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to You.

Apolytikion for the Birth of Christ Ἡ γέννησις σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως, ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἄστερος ἐδιδάσκοντο σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shined upon the world the light of knowledge; for by your Birth they who worshipped the stars by a star were taught to worship You, the Sun of righteousness, and to know You, the Dawn from Above; Lord, glory to You.

Apolytikion of Joseph the Betrothed Εὐαγγελίζου Ἰωσήφ, τῷ Δαυῖδ τὰ θαύματα τῷ Θεοπάτορι, Παρθένον εἶδες κυφορήσασαν, μετὰ Μάγων προσεκύνησας, μετὰ Ποιμένων ἐδοξολόγησας' δι' Ἀγγέλου χρηματισθεὶς, ἰκέτευε Χριστὸν τὸν Θεόν, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Apolytikion of the Holy Taxiarchs Τῶν οὐρανίων στρατιῶν Ἀρχιστράτηγοι, δυσωποῦμεν ὑμᾶς ἡμεῖς οἱ ἀνάξιοι, ἵνα ταῖς ὑμῶν δεήσεσι, τειχίσητε ἡμᾶς, σκέπη τῶν πτερυγῶν, τῆς ἀῦλου ὑμῶν δόξης, φρουροῦντες ἡμᾶς προσπίπτοντας, ἐκτενῶς καὶ βοῶντας' Ἐκ τῶν κινδύνων λυτρώσασθε ἡμᾶς, ὡς Ταξιάρχαι τῶν ἄνω Δυνάμεων.

Apolytikion of St. Haralambos As a pillar unshakable of the Church of Christ, and an ever-radiant lamp to the universe, were you, O wise Haralambos; you illumined the world through martyrdom; you dispelled the moonless night of the idols, o blessed one. Therefore with boldness before Christ, intercede that we may be saved.

KONTAKION ΤΗΣ ΗΜΕΡΑΣ – KONTAKION OF THE DAY

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἄστερος ὁδοιποροῦσι' δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεός.

The Virgin on this day gives birth to Him who is transcendent in essence; and the earth offers a cave to Him who is unapproachable; Angels with shepherds give glory; the Magi do journey with a star; for to us is born a young Child, the pre-eternal God.

HOLY TAXIARHAI AND SAINT HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

7373 CALDWELL AVENUE, NILES, ILLINOIS 60714 -- PHONE (847) 647-8880

Web: SaintHaralambosGOC.org

Fr. Constantine P. Botsis, Proistamenos

Deacon John G. Suhayda

Fr. George Lamberis, Synefemerios

Nick Harisiadis, Protopsaltis

Strive to excel in building up the church! (1 Cor. 14:12)

Week of December 30-January 6, 2019

A PRAYER FOR THE START OF THE NEW YEAR

O Lord our God, who have established all seasons and times by your own authority, Who are unoriginate and unending, who conceive existing things beyond all time, who are Yourself without change or alteration yet are the fullness of times which have been, which are and are yet to be, who, with ineffable long-suffering, make us worthy to come to this new year; Yourself, O all-good Master, bless the beginning thereof by your divine grace.

Grant gentle showers unto fruitfulness of the earth. Send healthful and seasonable weather for man and beast. Grant us to begin the new year in steadfast peace and harmony, crowned with the glory of earthly good things and, by the light of your commandments, to graciously pass the days with a seemly disposition, leading a virtuous life.

Preserve well our holy Church. Strengthen and confirm our nation by the might of your hand. Rear the infants, guide the young, support the aged, collect the scattered and unite them to your holy Church. May your kingdom come upon us, a kingdom of all ages, the kingdom of goodness, righteousness and peace. And make us worthy, with one mouth and one heart, to praise and glorify You, the unoriginate and everlasting God, in Trinity, unto ages of ages. Amen.

BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The St. Haralambos Parish Council invites you to today's coffee fellowship hour, offered in memory of Frank Bexes.

PROSPHORA—We thank Mrs. Litsa Pagonis, Mrs. Lily Kretsos and the Sikoral Family for offering today's prospora. Next week, the prospora will be offered by the Lygiros Family and Mrs. Joanna Vasilarakis (Tues, Jan 1), Mrs. Susan Barron, Mrs. Eleni Papacostas and Mrs. Kathy Karagiannis (Sat, Jan 5) and Mrs. Anna Futris, Mrs. Demetra Anastasiadis, Mrs. Litsa Kalogeros, Mrs. Koula Karamaniolas, Mrs. Maria Megremis and Mrs. Amalia Deligiannis (Sun, Jan 6).

MEMORIAL SERVICES TODAY

9 days—H. Spiro Couris 40 days—Georgia Bexes 1 year—Frank Bexes
1 year—Vasiliki Frentzos 1 year—Anthony Anton

Memorial services are offered for the eternal rest of persons who have fallen asleep in the Lord. There are some days when Memorials are not permitted—please call the church office before planning. Memorials take place at 40 days, at 6 months, at 1 year and at 3 years. After three years have passed, the departed are more properly remembered on the Saturdays of the Souls.

Please also remember that we have discontinued the custom of placing candles in the *kolyva*.

SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY Congratulations to.....

..... Georgia Lymberopoulos and Vasilios Kalas for their wedding yesterday at St. Haralambos!
NA ZHSEOYN!

HOW TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION—Orthodox Christians in good standing are encouraged to receive Holy Communion, provided they have prepared themselves spiritually, mentally and physically.

On the day of receiving Holy Communion, it is not proper to eat or drink anything before coming to church. After receiving, wipe your lips on the cloth, step back carefully, hand the cloth to the next person and make the sign of the Cross as you step away.

BLESSING OF HOMES—It is an annual custom in the Epiphany Season (Epiphany is Sunday, January 6) to bless our homes with the Agiasmos of Epiphany. If you would like to have your home blessed by the priest, please call the church office (847-647-8880).

OUR SISTER PARISH OF ST. BASIL IN CHICAGO invites you to Great Vespers tomorrow evening, December 31st, and Divine Liturgy on Tuesday morning, January 1st, in honor of St. Basil the Great. (Divine Liturgy WILL be celebrated on January 1st at St. Haralambos.)

MARCH FOR LIFE—The Chicago March for Life will take place SUNDAY, January 13, at the Federal Plaza in Chicago, starting at 2:00. The Orthodox Church will be represented! You are invited to join our Orthodox brothers and sisters in making a statement that we believe LIFE IS SACRED. ALL LIVES MATTER!

SANCTITY OF LIFE PRAYER SERVICE & PRESENTATION will take place on Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 6:30 pm at **St Peter and St. Paul OCA Church in Burr Ridge, IL**. As Orthodox Christians we believe that life is sacred! This an opportunity for us to gather together and pray that God enlighten all people to honor life!

DEAR FRIENDS AND VISITORS: Welcome to Saint Haralambos! We hope that your worship experience with us is prayerful and uplifting. Please seek out our ushers if you have any questions!

Ανακοινώσεις

2019 STEWARDSHIP: ΠΡΩΤΑ Ο ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ— Πιστεύουμε ότι έχετε λάβει τις πληροφορίες για το 2019 **Stewardship**. Προτείνουμε να σκευθείτε «Πρώτα ο Χριστός» καθώς κοιτάζουμε τις ανάγκες μας στο 2019 και λογαριάζουμε το ποσό του Stewardship που θέλουμε να προσφέρουμε. Σας παροτρύνουμε να σκευθείτε μηνιαίες δόσεις. Με το ποσό μόνο των \$93 το μήνα από όλους τους stewards μας, μπορούμε να καλύψουμε τις ανάγκες μας. Για τους περισσότερους είναι ένα ποσό εφικτό! Με την ειλικρινή προσφορά σας προς το **Stewardship**, παρακαλούμε όπως ενδυναμώσετε την εκκλησία σας δια να μπορέσει να εξυπηρετήσει καλύτερα εσάς, την οικογένειά σας και όλους όσους χρειάζονται την βοήθειά μας!

ΑΝΗΜΠΟΡΑ ΑΤΟΜΑ-Παρακαλούμε όπως πληροφορήσετε το γραφείο της εκκλησίας δια τους ηλικιωμένους ή αρρώστους που θέλουν να λάβουν την Θείαν Κοινωνίαν και δεν δύνανται να έλθουν στην εκκλησία, ούτως ώστε να τους πάμε την Θείαν Κοινωνίαν όπου διαμένουν.

ΣΧΕΤΙΚΑ ΜΕ ΤΗΝ ΩΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΦΕ—Κάθε Κυριακή μετά το τέλος της Θείας Λειτουργίας διάφορες οργανώσεις της εκκλησίας προσφέρουν καφέ με σκοπό να μας δώσουν την ευκαιρία να γνωρίσουμε καλύτερα ο ένας τον άλλον. Προσκαλούνται όλοι να έχουν καφέ ή γλυκά ή κάποια φρούτα. *Παρακαλούμε όπως μετά το πέρας της ώρας του καφέ να μαζέψετε τα πιάτα και τα ποτήρια σας από το τραπέζι!*

ΠΟΙΟΙ ΔΥΝΑΝΤΑΙ ΝΑ ΛΑΒΟΥΝ ΘΕΙΑΝ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΝ - Όταν λαμβάνομεν Θείαν Κοινωνίαν η οποιοδήποτε από τα άλλα Μυστήρια εκφράζομεν την αποδοχήν μας εις τα δογματικά και ηθικά διδάγματα της Ορθόδοξου μας Εκκλησίας. Διά τούτο, μόνον Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί οι οποίοι είναι εντάξει απέναντι της Εκκλησίας δύνανται να λάβουν μέρος εις τα Μυστήρια, όπως Θεία Κοινωνία και Ευχέλαιο, και δεν πρέπει να λαμβάνουν μέρος σε Μυστήρια σε μη Ορθόδοξες εκκλησίες. Διά οποιοδήποτε απορίες σας, παρακαλούμε να συζητήσετε με τον ιερέα σας.

ΤΡΟΠΟΙ ΚΑΛΗΣ ΣΥΜΠΕΡΙΦΟΡΑΣ ΕΝΤΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ:

Δια να είσαστε διακριτικοί έναντι των άλλων, εαν τυγχάνει να έχετε βαμμένα τα χείλη σας, παρακαλούμε όπως όταν ασπάζεσθε τις εικόνες ή όταν λαμβάνετε την Θείαν Κοινωνίαν, να προσέχετε να μην αφήνετε σημάδια. **Παρακαλούμε όπως διδάξετε** στα παιδιά σας ότι δεν είναι ευπρεπές να σταυρώνουν τα πόδια τους όταν κάθονται μέσα στην εκκλησία.

Δια να διατηρηθή αξιοπρεπής η ακολουθία και δια να μην αποσπάμε την προσοχή των άλλων, σας παρακαλούμε όπως κρατάτε κλειστά τα κινητά σας τηλέφωνα.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK		
Tues, Jan 1	ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY (St. Basil).....	8:30 am
Fri, Jan 4	Royal Hours of Theophany.....	9:00 am
	Bowling League.....	8:00 pm
Sat, Jan 5	Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of the Waters.....	8:30 am
	(DAY OF FASTING)	
Sun, Jan 6	Orthros and Divine Liturgy (THEOPHANY) and the Great Blessing of the Waters.....	8:30 am



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

Chicago Metropolis Mission, Vision, Values and Why Statements

On November 2-4, a group of 86 volunteers participated in a Strategic Planning Retreat for benefit of the Metropolis and achieved consensus on the following statements of identity and purpose:

“Why” Statement (why we exist)

To receive and share unconditional love, mercy, healing and peace, so that life has greater meaning and purpose.

Mission Statement

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago is a Christ-centered community that loves, guides, engages, and serves all people.

Core Values

- Christ-centered
- Integrity
- Service
- Humility
- Love
- Merciful
- Spiritual development
- Adaptable

Vision Statement

In 3-5 years, we will grow our Metropolis family through greater:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <u>F</u> ellowship & Welcoming | <u>L</u> eadership |
| <u>A</u> ccountability | <u>I</u> nvolved Youth & Emerging Adults |
| <u>M</u> inistries & Education | <u>E</u> ngagement on Critical Issues |
| <u>I</u> nnovation | <u>S</u> tewardship |

We need your help! Please visit <http://chicago.goarch.org/strategic-planning> and sign up to join a Strategic Planning Task Force by clicking the “Register to Participate” tab.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A STEWARDSHIP REMINDER—We hope you have received information about Stewardship for 2019! As we look forward to the challenges of the new year, we urge you to THINK CHRIST FIRST, then consider a *monthly* commitment of \$93. This is what is needed to cover our needs and it is realistic for most stewards!

If you have not yet made your 2018 commitment, please do so. We appreciate your support!

NEED A NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION? How about the Stewardship CHALLENGE that was sent in the Stewardship mailing.....?

ANNUAL VASILOPITA LUNCHEON—our St. Haralambos Vasilopita Luncheon will take place on Sunday, January 13th in our Community Center after Church services. The Vasilopita benefits our St. Basil’s Academy in Garrison, NY, and the Ladies of our Philoptochos invite you to attend! The “Vasilopita” is one of our honored Greek Orthodox customs, which we preserve for our children and future generations! Please make reservations for yourself and your family by calling the church office. We look forward to celebrating this together!

ST HARALAMBOS 68th ANNIVERSARY—On Sunday evening, February 10, we will celebrate our parish’s 68th Anniversary with a Festive Dinner Dance at the Meridian! More details are coming—Please mark the date and plan to attend with your family!

WINTER FANARI CAMP 2019— The Metropolis Youth Office is hosting Fanari Winter Camp on the weekend of March 22-24, 2019 at the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center! Camp will be offered for youth in the 6th through 11th grades! Winter Camp is limited to 75 campers. Visit www.fanaricamp.wordpress.com for more information.

RECEIVE A WEEKLY PARISH E-MAIL with information about upcoming parish and Metropolis events, service schedules and other useful information related to our community! If you would like to receive these messages, visit our website and click on the “Join Our E-mail Listserv” button. Fill out the necessary information to subscribe.



LET’S GO BOWLING! Friday, January 4 will be our first St. Haralambos Bowling Night! We had a great response and over 20 teams have registered. See you at the Brunswick Zone, 7333 Milwaukee Avenue in Niles. At 8:00 on Friday evening!



DONATION BOX —We are grateful to all who have placed contributions in the donation box in the narthex. These contributions are used to help people who come to us and need financial help. Your generosity during this Holiday Season is greatly appreciated. You have helped many people!

GOOD MANNERS ALWAYS IN STYLE!

Please understand that chewing gum in church is considered to be very discourteous and even vulgar. Your attention to this is greatly appreciated.

If your child is distracting to others, do not be embarrassed; they are only children. If they continue to disturb, however, you are requested to take your child to our “cry room.”

Be considerate! Please remove lipstick when reverencing the holy icons or receiving Holy Communion.

Please teach children that it is not proper to eat snacks, chew gum or cross their legs in church.

Please turn off cell-phones and video games during Church services.

Ἀπόστολος καὶ Εὐαγγέλιον τῆς Ἡμέρας

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β' Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου δ' 5-8

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσι, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκε. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγωνίσαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ Κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής, οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσι τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον α' 1-8

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ' ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις' ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· Φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ' Ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ. Ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται' καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπ' αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφύν αὐτοῦ' καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· Ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἰκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ. Ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι ἁγίῳ.

Today's Gospel and Epistle Readings

EPISTLE READING

2 Timothy 4: 5-8

Brethren, as for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight--" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." chosen."