

Announcements and Activities

Mid-Pentecost Liturgy— Wednesday, at 9AM.

Great Vespers— Saturday, at 5:30PM

Divine Liturgy— Sunday, at 10AM.

Spring Food Fare— our Spring event took place on Saturday. We are grateful for all who helped make the event a smashing success. Thank you for your service to your church. As the quote of St. Seraphim, hung in the hall way of the social hall reads: "Everything to do with the Church is like an inner fire enkindling us, and looking after it is the best work of all."

Parish Council—will next meet on Sunday, after Divine Liturgy.

Mortgage Drive— Last year we met our pledge goal of 20K and church matching funds of 20K. Our goal was to do the mortgage reduction for 2 consecutive years and see if we can't retire the mortgage in 2023. We are now under 70 K. If we can gather a similar amount in this drive, we will likely pay the mortgage off in 2023. We already have around 2K designated for the drive. Let's throw the Mortgage Reduction Red Thermometer on the wall in the Hall over the top and be able to say that this facility is totally in possession of God and His people. More about this as we move along.

Church School/Adult Ed.— Last session before the Summer Break through September, on May 29th..

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Nina and Ephrosinia. Next Sunday's coffee hour will be sponsored by Olga H. and Larissa

Pray for... Hierarch Nikolai (Soraich)—battling cancer. Samir's friend, **Johnny**, who has been improving in the battle to save his sight. **Brian**, Sunday's brother. **George and Alex**, health problems. **All those who have lost their lives or are suffering as a result of the current Pandemic**. **Archimandrite Alexander**— Fr. Lawrence's long-time father confessor, who reposed. **Our Vladyka Benjamin**— battling on-set parkinsons. **Tsige Roman and Abraham**— I know we are always mindful of Tsige, but please continue to pray for the work and for Ethiopia, torn by civil war, with all the problems that go with a regional terror. **Reposed Jonathan T. George and Alesis**, Brother and Daughter of Peter and Irene S. **Matushka Ioanna R. reposed. Matushka Priscilla, ill. Anya J**— a longtime friend of the parish who is ill. **Stephen F.**— battling back pain. **John F.**— battling cancer. **Archpriest Anthony**— battling cancer. **Julie**— sister of Kathy M., battling health problems. **Rhoda's requests for Douglas and Kayana. Reposed Constance**— the mother of Andrew F. **Will**— reposed, Michael T.'s brother-in-law. **Reposed Vadim. Christian**— undergoing some medical testing. The reposed— **Novice Nonna, Robbie**— cancer. **Raphael**, cancer. **Child Aidan**— seizures. **Child Henry. Robbie** the cousin of Brian R., who reposed after a battle with cancer. **Louis Joseph M.**, is now home and, thank God, ready to come to church again. **Victor T. reposed on Holy Saturday. Christine**—reposed on Holy Saturday.

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Gospels for the last two Sundays told us about the appearances of the Risen One. They were as if filled with the light of Christ's Resurrection: the wonderful appearances to the disciples, to Thomas, to the myrrhbearers. But today's Gospel starts with a dismal, horrible picture: there is no brightness, no light. At the Sheep Gate there was a pool which had five porches. "In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered... For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years" (Jn. 5:2-5).

Just picture this: thirty-eight years in such a terrible condition, in pain and suffering, without a doctor, without care, without medicine, and maybe even often without food. And this unfortunate man bore all this because he wanted to be well. He tried to enter the water after it was troubled, but he had no one to help him, was late, and did not receive healing. And so passed thirty-eight years. Why this is a human lifetime! Suddenly everything changed. Jesus came up to him and said: "Rise, take up thy bed and walk..." and he walked (Jn. 5:8,9).

What happened? What took place? What happened is that the reason for his sickness was removed. Christ revealed this reason when He met this man in the temple and said to him: "Behold, thou art made whole: *sin no more*, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (Jn. 5:14). Here is the reason — sin. Sin is the reason for all evil, for all our sufferings, for all our sicknesses. Yes, sin...sin alone. And Christ is the only one who can destroy it, who can forgive. But this is under one condition: "*Sin no more.*"

We have lived through the Passion days, we have lived through the very death of Christ, the death of the Lamb of God, Who takes upon Himself the sin of the world. This means our sin, too. He, the Only Sinless One, has become the sacrifice for us before our Heavenly Father. And now we are walking in the Easter joy of the Risen Christ. And so week after week. But still we stumble, fall, sin. But let us not despond; let us turn to Him.

(Taken from the Year of Grace of the Lord, by A Monk of the Eastern Church)

From the Lives of the Saints... SAINT ACHILLES, BISHOP OF LARISSA

Achilles, the great hierarch and miracle-worker, was born in Cappadocia. He participated in the First Ecumenical Council [Nicaea, 325 A.D.], at which he shamed the heretics and commanded great astonishment by his learning as well as by his sanctity. Picking up a rock, St. Achilles shouted to the Arians: "If Christ is a creation of God, as you say, then command oil to flow from this rock." The heretics remained silent and were amazed at such a request from St. Achilles. Then the saint said: "And if the Son of God is equal to the Father, as we believe, let oil flow from this rock." And, indeed, oil did flow to the amazement of all. St. Achilles reposed peacefully in Larissa in the year 330 A.D. When the Macedonian King Samuel conquered Thessaly he translated the relics of Achilles to Prespa, to an island in a lake, which even today is called Achilles or Ailus.

Taken from the Prologue of Ochrid, Compiled and Written, asdfasdf

"There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives" (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)