

Sunday, June 17th, 2018
3rd Sunday of Matthew

A WORD FROM THE FATHERS

This is the way we should see Christ. He is our friend, our brother; He is whatever is good and beautiful. He is everything. Yet, He is still a friend and He shouts it out, 'You're my friends, don't you understand that? We're brothers. I'm not...I don't hold hell in my hands. I am not threatening you. I love you. I want you to enjoy life together with me.'

Christ is Everything. He is joy, He is life, He is light. He is the true light who makes man joyful, makes him soar with happiness; makes him see everything, everybody; makes him feel for everyone, to want everyone with him, everyone with Christ.

Love Christ and put nothing before His Love. Christ is Everything. He is the source of life, the ultimate desire, He is everything. Everything beautiful is in Christ.

Somebody who is Christ's must love Christ, and when he loves Christ he is delivered from the Devil, from hell, and from death.
-St Porphyrios of Kavsovalyvia

THIS WEEK AT ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

5:00 p.m. – Greek Fest Preparation
Everyone is needed; everyone is welcome

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

5:00 p.m. – Gold Coast Greek Fest

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

12:00 p.m. – Gold Coast Greek Fest

A NOTE TO VISITORS ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

We welcome to this celebration those Christians who are not united with us. It is a sad consequence of the divisions in Christianity that we *cannot* extend a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. We thank you, though, for joining us in prayer and invite you to partake of the blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We also invite you to join us for fellowship in the church hall after Liturgy.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR CATHEDRAL

Thank you to all of our Cathedral Stewards! Quarterly Stewardship Statements have been sent out to update everyone who pledged on their contributions to date. If you have a question about your pledge or contributions so far, please feel free to contact the Cathedral Office. Also, you can now donate online! Visit annunciationcathedralchicago.org/donate to set up one-time or recurring donations!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Father's Day to all of our Fathers and Godfathers today! Please join us downstairs after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Hour and fellowship - Coffee Hour today is sponsored by our Ladies Philoptochos.

GREEK FEST 2018 – DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This year's Greek Festival will be held ***this weekend!*** We need your help to make this year's Festival a success, and there are many ways to support the Festival – attending, participating in the raffle, becoming a Sponsor, and volunteering! A single raffle ticket may be purchased for \$25, and a book of 5 for \$100 – they can be purchased by contacting the Cathedral Office, by mail, or at the festival. Additionally, if you are interested in becoming a Festival Sponsor, donations can be made at the “Donate” link on our website. Please also plan on volunteering – many hands make for light work! ***Please visit our website and fill out our online volunteer form to sign up for the job and shift of your choosing!***

LOUKOUMADES MACHINE UPDATE

Looking forward towards the coming years, and especially towards our upcoming Greek Festival, it is time for us to replace our much-loved loukoumades machine. Our current machine has served us well for many years, but it is in need of replacement. After final review of all equipment and installation costs, the final amount for the machine is \$12,000. We have already raised \$1,283 – thank you to everyone who has already donated! Please contact Fr Stamati or the Church Office if you would like to make a contribution towards the new machine.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

When in the presence of dignitaries, or people we respect, we are always on our very best behavior. We don't want to offend them or present ourselves poorly in front of them. Imagine being in the presence of a king and arriving late or engaging in idle chatter! Sadly, we often act carelessly in the presence of our Heavenly King. When attending Divine Services we all have the responsibility of remembering in whose Presence we are, and maintaining proper decorum and atmosphere in the church. The very first thing to keep in mind is that we are to be at Divine Services on time – it is important to be in your place by the opening blessing (“Blessed is the kingdom...”) so that we do not miss out on receiving this blessing. No irreverent or irrelevant conversations should take place in the Narthex or in the church proper at any time which includes before, during and after services – Christ is in our midst!

THE FAST OF THE APOSTLES

The Fast of the Apostles continues this week, and ends on the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul (June 29th). The Apostles' Fast is a lighter, joyful fast, and fish is allowed every day – except on Wednesdays and Fridays. May our Lord Jesus Christ, through the prayers of Sts Peter, Paul, and all the Apostles, have mercy upon us, and grant us a spiritually uplifting fast!

TODAY'S READINGS AND HYMNS

SAINT PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 5:1-10

BRETHREN, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW 6:22-33

THE LORD SAID, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN THE SECOND TONE

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

SEASONAL KONTAKION IN THE SECOND TONE

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Chicago

*ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΙΕΡΑΣ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ
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FREE VALET PARKING AVAILABLE EVERY SUNDAY!

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to Annunciation Cathedral! We are glad you came, and we hope your visit was memorable and meaningful in every way. Our doors and hearts are always open to you. Please join us for fellowship following the liturgy and visit with our Clergy and with members of our parish council. They will answer questions you may have and provide you with information regarding the programs we offer.