Father's Message

God does not want those whom He will save, who seek His mercy, to be ignoramuses, unmanly, cowardly, or spiritually untested. It is a matter of divine inheritance stored up for experienced Christians. So He places temptations before us so that our obedience to His commandments may be demonstrated. His illumination is within us; knowledge of His will is taught by the Scriptures; furthermore, our conscience guides us like a compass. All of the above enlighten us in the face of temptations. But when evil prevails over our will, we do not obey His commandments.

We were created with free will, and free will cannot be controlled by others. As such, if we feared God, we would not fall into temptation. If we did not love ourselves more than God, we would not tend towards sin. But His goodness did not leave our falls without a rectifying remedy, whereby we return once again and a victory occurs in spite of our fall.

All who compel themselves to be saved, the Scriptures call righteous, justified by faith. God will not let them fall, for they are struggling properly. He will not let them be tempted beyond their strength when they are making every effort to be patient. But when we are cowardly and lukewarm, when we have a slothful will, this constitutes an occasion for a temptation beyond our strength.

Your grumbling is sinful; it is a result of self-love and unmanliness. Have patience in everything; thank God; blame your lukewarmness, and not God, Who was crucified for you and, consequently, must love you. Since He loves you, how can He let you fall into temptation? Seek forgiveness from Him, and secure yourself with patience.

Elder Ephraim of Philotheou and Arizona
From "Counsels from the Holy Mountain"
My beloved,

In only a few short weeks, we begin Holy and Great Lent. In the passage above, Geronda Ephraim emphasizes, as do all of the hesychastic fathers and mothers, free will. Free will is the gift given us by the Creator to work on our salvation. We have the ability to turn our lives over to God, to strive for Theosis (unity with God), by making a simple decision of transformation. Christ tells us to deny ourselves, take up our Cross, and follow after Him. If we make the effort to turn our lives around, to participate in God’s love for us, we will surely obtain salvation.

It takes courage and strength to follow the Lord – but we have already been given the map and guideposts for this path. The map is the Mystical life in the Body of Christ, His Holy Orthodox Church; the guideposts are the Mysteria, the Sacraments, especially during Lent of Holy Communion and Holy Confession. Many roadblocks will be put in front of us, but by following this path, these will be overcome. God’s love is for all humanity, and for all time: it’s there to be taken freely. Turn to Him, follow Him, and join your brothers and sisters on this joyous journey to Christ’s Resurrection and our Salvation.

During Great Lent, Repentance and Confession will be offered after Monday evening Great Compline and Saturday evening Great Vespers. Holy Communion will be offered at least twice each week, at Sunday Divine Liturgy and Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy.

With paternal love in Christ,

✠ Father Andreas
PARISH MINISTRY DIRECTORY

PARISH COUNCIL: Georgia Maheras (President) – georgiajohn@gmail.com; 857-234-5171(c)
  Justin Griffing (V-Pres.) – justin.m.griffing@gmail.com; 802-503-5480
  Roy Barnes (Secretary) – rbarnes12543@student.mbits.edu; 802-497-0543
  Vasilios Contis (Treasurer) – vcontis@msn.com; 802-662-4396
  Paul Henninge – phenninge@gmail.com; 802-865-2321(c)
  Dave Hunt – 2dhunts@gmail.com; 802-524-2620
  Lynn Lambesis – llambesis@hotmail.com; 802-527-0016
  Nectar Rorris – 802-863-4375
  Sotos Papaseraphim – sotosandmaria@gmail.com; 802-878-1163
  Nick Pitt – nvpitt@gmail.com; 802-734-3316
  Nancy Trombley – nancy05464@myfairpoint.net; 802-652-0249

EDUCATION COORDINATOR: Georgia Maheras

PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD: President, Presvytera Anthe Athas

ORDER of AHEPA: President, Dr. John Tampas

PROTOPSALTIS: Presvytera Mary Papayiannis

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – Georgia Maheras, Parish Council President

Opportunities

2017 is a year of opportunity for all of us—we can all make a difference. The Parish Council is starting off the year by making a difference. The first is that we are publishing our full meeting schedule for 2017 in this Bulletin. We invite all Parishioners to attend our meetings if you are interested. If you are unable to attend, our meeting minutes will be posted on the Church’s website (www.gocvt.org).

We are also going to provide monthly financial information in the weekly Bulletins that are distributed electronically and in hard copy on Sundays (this will be provided on the last Sunday of each month). You should receive your 2016 tax statement from the Church by 2/15- let us know if you don’t receive yours. We also have new leaders in each of our committees and invite you to participate in the committees by contacting the committee leads. These committees are key to our community:

Communications (Justin Griffing): Manages communications and outreach including the website.

Fundraising (Nick Pitt): Responsible for fundraising, including Festival and Take-Out Dinners.

Finance (Paul Henninge): Assist in managing the investments and assets of the Parish. This includes coordination with the Community Center Committee and the Pappas Estate Committee.

Planning (Justin Griffing): Strategic Planning for the Parish as a whole.

Stewardship (Dave Hunt): Responsible for Stewardship campaigns and outreach.

Environment (Angelike Contis): Responsible for the Parish’s environmental position.

Each one of us can make a difference. We can teach Sunday School, we can attend Bible Study, we can read the Bible at home, we can join a Committee, we can sing at Church, we can participate in Philoptochos, we can host coffee hour. What will you do?
TO ALL THE WOMEN (and Men) OF OUR PARISH ♥ ♥♥

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, IS GO RED SUNDAY ... PLEASE WEAR SOMETHING RED

(A PIN OR A SCARF OR BLOUSE IS SUFFICIENT – A TIE – YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE ALL DECKED OUT IN RED)

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR SPREADING AWARENESS OF HEART DISEASE AS THE #1 CAUSE OF DEATH IN AMERICAN WOMEN.

You do a wonderful service when you sponsor

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee /Fellowship Hour after the Divine Liturgy is a way of deepening our feeling of Community.

What Do I Need to Bring

-1 quart of whole milk
-2 half gallons of juice like apple, orange
-Snacks - for about 40-50 people.
  Example: Dessert, Cheese and crackers,
  Bagels & cream cheese, Fruit (cut up).

You do not need to bring coffee, sugar, dishes, or napkins. These are provided at Church.

During the fasting periods of the Church, please be careful to avoid bringing meat or dairy products for coffee hour. Hummus and crackers/pita bread, peanut butter and jelly are examples of what have been brought during those times.

Ladies of Philoptochos are glad to help if you need some in the kitchen.  -If you have any questions, please call
Presvytera Anthe Athas (865-4416).

Philoptochos News and Announcements

The Philoptochos Society is the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

Our Patron Saints are Cosmas and Damian – Nov 1

Come and join us in doing the charity of our Orthodox Christian faith in this place.
SAVE THE DATE

Join us from 9am-12pm on April 8th for a **Sunday School Retreat** on the Saturday of Lazarus

Make Lazaropita

Fold Palms into Crosses

Learn about Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Kids should be prepared to get messy!

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**Parish Council Meeting Schedule 2017**

- February 7th at 5:15
- March 14th at 5:15
- April 2nd after Church (12)
- May 9th at 5:15
- June 6th at 5:15
- July 9th after Church (12)
- August 8th at 5:15
- September 5th at 5:15
- October 1st after Church (12)
- November 7th at 5:15
- December 5th at 5:15

All meetings are at Church in the Hall
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<td>Sunday of the Publican &amp; Pharisee</td>
<td>Photos the Great</td>
<td>Meeting of our Lord</td>
<td>Ieromartyr Haralambos</td>
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<td>9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy &amp; Sunday School</td>
<td>5:00p Vespers</td>
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<td>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</td>
<td>Clergy Synaxis</td>
<td>1st Soul Saturday</td>
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<td>9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy &amp; Sunday School</td>
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<td>8:15a Orthros 9:00a Divine Liturgy &amp; Memorial Service 5:00p Great Vespers</td>
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<td>Meatfare Sunday</td>
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<td>9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy &amp; Sunday School 11:30a Apokreatiko Lunch</td>
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<td>Cheesefare Sunday</td>
<td>Clean Monday</td>
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<td>9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy &amp; Sunday School 5:00p Forgiveness Vespers</td>
<td>9:00a Orthros 7:00p Great Compline &amp; Confession Lent Begins</td>
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**Notes: Fasting Rules:**

- **Strict Fast** – No meat, dairy products (includes eggs), fish (shellfish is permitted), wine or olive oil may be consumed;
- **Wine & Oil Allowed** – No meat, dairy products or fish (shellfish is permitted) may be consumed;
- **Dairy Allowed** – No meat may be consumed.

Holy Mysterion of Repentance & Confession following Saturday Great Vespers, Clean Monday Great Compline, and by appointment.
### Notes: Fasting Rules:
- **Strict Fast** – No meat, dairy products (includes eggs), fish (shellfish is permitted), wine or olive oil may be consumed;
- **Wine & Oil Allowed** – No meat, dairy products or fish (shellfish is permitted) may be consumed;
- **Fish Allowed** – No meat or dairy products may be consumed.

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<td>9:00a Orthros &amp; Agiasmos</td>
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<td>7:00p Presanctified Liturgy</td>
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<td>7:00p 1st Salutations to the Theotokos</td>
<td>9:00a Divine Liturgy &amp; Memorial Service</td>
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<td>8:30p Small Compline with Great Canon</td>
<td>7:00p Great Compline</td>
<td>7:00p 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos</td>
<td>5:00p Great Vespers</td>
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#### March 2017

**Holy Mysterion of Repentance & Confession following Monday Great Compline, and by appointment.**
April 8th is our ANNUAL SPRING TAKE-OUT DINNER AND BAKE SALE

Bake Sale: 10am-7pm
Take-Out Dinner: 11am-7pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need people to help every day from April 3rd-April 8th to help with this major fundraiser for the Philoptochos and the Parish.

- Can you help the week of April 3rd with prep (baking, skewering, set-up)?

- Can you help by taking a shift on April 8th? Either serving, preparing food, washing dishes, clean-up, cashier?

Please sign up with either (or both!) the Philoptochos or Parish Council to let us know when you can help.