

perfection. After seventeen years, Anastasia was well known--among the Christians as a great ascetic, and among the pagans as a rare beauty. Probus, the pagan governor heard of Anastasia and sent his soldiers to bring her to him. For two hours, the good Abbess Sophia counseled Anastasia how to keep the Faith, how to resist flattering deceits, and how to endure torture. Anastasia said to her: "My heart is ready to suffer for Christ; my soul is ready to die for my Sweet Jesus." Brought before the governor, Anastasia openly expressed her faith in Christ the Lord, and when the governor tried to turn her away from the Faith--first by promises and then by threats--the martyr said to him: "I am ready to die for my Lord not only once, but--oh, if it were only possible--a hundred times!" When they stripped her naked to humiliate her, she cried out to the servants: "Whip me, cut me up and tear me apart, cover my naked body with wounds and cover my shame with blood!" She was beaten, torn and cut up. On two occasions she felt a great thirst and asked for water, and a Christian, Cyril, gave her a drink, for which he was blessed by the martyr of Christ and beheaded by the pagans. Anastasia's breasts and tongue were severed, but an angel of God appeared and sustained her. Finally, she was beheaded outside the city. Blessed Sophia found her body and buried it honorably. Anastasia was crowned with the wreath of martyrdom during the reign of Decius.

Reflection

But he that endureth to the end shall be saved (Matthew 10:22), said the Lord. Faith is the only light of endurance, for endurance in and of itself implies unbearable darkness. Faith is the shining star in this darkness; faith eases the sharpness of suffering; it bears on its wings all the weight of endurance. St. Abramius gives us a beautiful example of perseverance in endurance. The vexation that the devil caused him by a multitude of temptations and terrors would have driven lesser men to leave one place for another. But Abramius did not want to move, so as not to give the evil demon a cause to rejoice; he remained in his place and defeated the devil. The bishop of that region sent Abramius to a pagan village to convert the villagers to the Christian Faith. After long hesitation, Abramius set out, saying: "Let it be as God wills—I will go out of obedience." He first built a church in that village. Then he smashed all the idols in plain sight of the villagers. They beat him and whipped him half to death, and drove him from their village. But he prayed to God with tears for them, that the Lord would open the eyes of their hearts to know the truth of Christ. And so the pagans continually beat and abused him over the course of three years, but he constantly prayed to God for them, and was not angered with them, enduring in the Faith as a firm rock. And only after three years of labor, tears, forgiveness and faith, was he rewarded. Suddenly, the consciences of the villagers were awakened and they all came together to Abramius, bowing before him, and receiving the Christian Faith from him.

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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October 29, 2023

Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

Apostolic Reading: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: St. Luke 8:41-56

Services: *Sunday*-8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *Weekdays* 8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy when scheduled.

Saints of the Day: 7th Sunday of Luke. Venerable-martyr Anastasia the Roman; Venerable Abraham and his niece Mary of Mesopotamia; New-hieromartyr Athanasios of Sparta; Venerable-martyr Timothy of Esphigmenou monastery on Athos; Abraham, bishop of Rostov.

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!

Apolytikion of the Archangels Tone 4

Supreme Commanders of the Hosts of the Heavens, we, the unworthy, implore and beseech You that by Your supplications You encircle us in the shelter of the wings of Your immaterial glory, guarding us who now fall down and cry to You with fervor: Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, as the great marshals of the heavenly hosts on high.

Kontakion to the Theotokos Tone 4

A protection of Christians unshameable * intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering * reject not * the prayerful cries of those who are in sin * instead come to us, for You are good * Your loving help bring unto us * who are crying in faith to you * Hasten to intercede * and speed now to supplicate* as a protection for all time * Theotokos, for those who honor you.

Divine Services

Wed. Nov. 1: Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for the Holy Unmercenary Healers Kosmas and Damian. Paraklesis 5pm

Sat. Nov. 4: Great Vespers 5pm

Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church

Holy Communion of the Orthodox Church is the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is *“With the fear of God, faith and love”* that we approach the Divine Mysteries. Therefore, Holy Communion is reserved only for those baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting, as prescribed by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church. We ask that women, before approaching to receive from the Holy Cup, in respect of our Lord, to please remove lipstick.

Women’s Nativity Fast Psalter Group

Today (October 29) is the last day to sign up for our 2nd Women’s Psalter for the upcoming Nativity Fast. Flyers with information and sign-up sheets are located by the candle stand in the Narthex. The Psalter Group will start on the first day of the Nativity Fast on Wednesday, November 15. We would love for you to sign up, join and be part of the wonderful blessings of this group. Please see Elaine Cunningham or Olga Sonnenburg for any questions you may have.

Church Bookstore

We have many wonderful books and beautiful Orthodox items for sale in the bookstore. The only way to know what is on offer is to come down and have a look at our newly “very organized” bookstore. When we read the lives of the saints, we gain two things. Firstly, the example of their struggles wakes us from the numbness of negligence and, secondly, when we read the lives of the saints with reverence, the saints intercede to Christ for us. ~Blessed Elder Arsenios the Cave-dweller (Co-struggler with St. Joseph the Hesychast)

Stewardship 2023

On Sunday, December 11, 2022, following services, our Chairperson Ruxandra Georgescu offered some words of inspiration for us to be faithful stewards of the Church. Please see Ruxandra for a 2023 packet.

Bishop Constantine to Visit AMGOC

His Grace Bishop Constantine will visit our community on Sunday, November 26. More details to follow.

Inquirers Welcome

Those visiting our parish are welcome to set up a time to speak with Fr. Dennis about the Orthodox faith. Please see Fr. Dennis. Following services or call him on his cell phone listed on the front of the bulletin.

Adult Ed Catechism Class

Following services and coffee hour on November 12, we will gather in the church for a half hour or so. *All are welcomed to attend!*

Capital Campaign Challenge Match

In order to better serve the needs of our parish and enable us to play a larger role our community, we need to seek a larger space. To that end, the General Assembly in June 2023 approved the use of \$54,000 of Festival funds this year to serve as a matching campaign for the Capital Campaign...meaning every dollar we donate between now and the end of the year will be matched by the Festival up to \$54,000. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to contribute toward this effort. Thank you!

Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

Oct. 29: Christine Guerin

Nov. 5: Vera Dabit

Nov. 12: Sponsor Needed

Nov. 19: Rose Timora

Women’s Fellowship

The women of our community are invited to a fellowship on November 11, 2023 at 2pm at the church. Please see Elaine Cunningham for more information.

Archangel Michael Community Christmas Outreach

Queen Palmer Elementary School (District 11) has a high number of low income families. This year, Archangel Michael will assist in providing Christmas gifts to 10 families in need. The Christmas Outreach will be conducted from November 5 - 26. Please see Rose Timora, Connie Stauffer or Tami Holmberg for further information. Flyers and details will be distributed next week, so stay tuned.

Church School

Church School will resumed on Sunday, Sept. 10. Please see Sara LaBrie for more information. Please allow the Church School students receive Holy Communion first as meets then.

Greek School

Alex Ellis offering Greek language classes free of charge. Classes resume on September 5, 2023 at 4:30 pm. 719.471.0157

Gold Dome Ball

On November 4th, the Assumption Cathedral will hold this event to celebrate their 117th Anniversary and the genesis of their Hellenic Community Center Kitchen Remodeling Project. Cost is \$150 per person with Cocktail Attire. For more information call 303.388.9314.

Saints of the Day

The Venerable Martyr Anastasia the Roman: She was born in Rome of noble parents, and was left an orphan at the age of three. As an orphan, she was taken to a convent near Rome where the abbess was Sophia, a nun of the highest level of