

SAINTS RAPHAEL, NICHOLAS, & IRENE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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[facebook.com/Sts Raphael, Nicholas and Irene Greek Orthodox Church](https://www.facebook.com/StsRaphaelNicholasandIreneGreekOrthodoxChurch)
Read our daily devotionals at www.FaithEncouraged.org

February 21, 2016



Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness.

Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights.

All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.



SUNDAY of the PUBLICAN and PHARISEE

On This day, we also Commemorate:

Timothy the Righteous; John III, Patriarch of Constantinople;
Eustathius, Bishop of Antioch,



DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Apolytikion for St. Raphael in the First Tone

To the offspring of Ithaca, the pride and joy of Lesvos, * monastic martyrs' glory, let us offer to Raphael our songs of praise; * for lately he appeared, and pours out cures and healings to us all. * Inexplicably he appears to believers, both in dreams and awake, who cry: * Glory to Christ who gave you His might. * Glory to Him who gave you miracles. * Glory to Him who through you fulfills our prayerful requests.

Apolytikion for St. Raphael in the Fourth Tone

Because of the finding of your holy relics, wise one, * the Island of Lesvos has been filled fully with the grace, * which God richly gave to you. * You, O devout martyr Raphael, paradoxically * appeared to many people, and you grant cures and healings. * And therefore we the faithful re-joice in all your miracles.

Apolytikion in honor of Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene

Having contended on Lesvos for the sake of Christ God, you have sanctified the island since the discovery of your sacred relics, O blessed ones; wherefore we honor you, O Godbearing Raphael, together with Nicholas and virgin Irene, as our divine protectors and intercessors with the Lord.

Singers and Chanters: Anthony Birozes, David Boyd, Marie Chapman, Maria Hagen, Lynn Lucher, Jimmy Smith, Todd Stewart

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal of the First Tone

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate * with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born * for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. * For in His goodness He was pleased * to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, * and to raise up those who had died, * by His glorious Resurrection.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

Let us flee the Pharisee's * exalted parlance; * let us learn the Publican's * humble demeanor, and with sighs * unto the Savior cry out and say, * To us be gracious, O only forgiving Lord.





EPISTLE READING

St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4.

Psalm 75.11,1

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

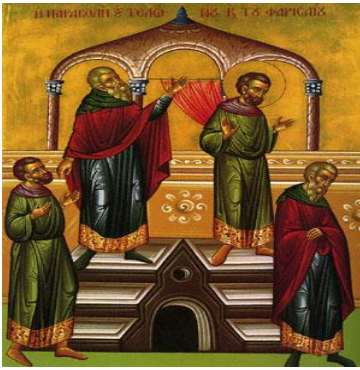
Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

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Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, παρηκολούθηκάς μου τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ, τῇ ἀγωγῇ, τῇ προθέσει, τῇ πίστει, τῇ μακροθυμίᾳ, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ ὑπομονῇ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς παθήμασιν, οἷά μοι ἐγένετο ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ, ἐν Ἰκονίῳ, ἐν Λύστροις, οἷους διωγμούς ὑπήνεγκα· καὶ ἐκ πάντων με ἐρρύσατο ὁ κύριος. Καὶ πάντες δὲ οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται. Πονηροὶ δὲ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χεῖρον, πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. Σὺ δὲ μένε ἐν οἷς ἔμαθες καὶ ἐπιστώθης, εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνος ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ ἱερὰ γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ δυνάμενά σε σοφίσει εἰς σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.





GOSPEL READING

The Gospel according to Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

†††††

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωποι δύο ἀνέβησαν εἰς τὸ ἱερόν προσεύξασθαι, ὁ εἷς Φαρισαῖος καὶ ὁ ἕτερος τελώνης. ὁ Φαρισαῖος σταθεὶς πρὸς ἑαυτὸν ταῦτα προσηύχετο· ὁ Θεός, εὐχαριστῶ σοι ὅτι οὐκ εἰμι ὡσπερ οἱ λοιποὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ἄρπαγες, ἄδικοι, μοιχοί, ἢ καὶ ὡς οὗτος ὁ τελώνης· νηστεύω δις τοῦ σαββάτου, ἀποδεκατῶ πάντα ὅσα κτῶμαι. καὶ ὁ τελώνης μακρόθεν ἐστὼς οὐκ ἤθελεν οὐδὲ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν ἐπάραι, ἀλλ' ἔτυπεν εἰς τὸ στήθος αὐτοῦ λέγων· ὁ Θεός, ἰλάσθητί μοι τῶ ἀμαρτωλῶ. λέγω ὑμῖν, κατέβη οὗτος δεδικαιωμένος εἰς τὸν οἶκόν αὐτοῦ ἢ γὰρ ἐκεῖνος· ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ὑψῶν ἑαυτὸν ταπεινωθήσεται, ὁ δὲ ταπεινῶν ἑαυτὸν ὑψωθήσεται.



PRAYERS BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure Body and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, known and unknown. And make me worthy without condemnation to partake of Your pure Mysteries for the forgiveness of sins and for life eternal. Amen.



How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my clothing will accuse me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul and save me.

Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these holy Gifts be to my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of soul and body and the pledge of the future life and kingdom. It is good for me to cling to God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

Receive me today, Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical Supper. I will not reveal Your mystery to Your adversaries. Nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas. But as the thief I confess to You: Lord, remember me in Your kingdom.



*>Welcome to all visitors who are worshiping with us this morning.
Please join us for Coffee Hour afterwards in the Parish Life Center ("PLC").
Additionally, for a donation of \$5.00 each , lunch of "Augolemono" (chicken/rice)
soup and salad will be served this Sunday.
Proceeds goes to the church operating fund.*

Father Barnabas is available to hear confession every Wednesday either before or after Vespers and by appointment. Please call or email the church office to request a time to meet with Father and avail yourself to this healing divine mystery of the Church.

Please call the Church office for more information:
(770) 781-5250.

TODAY, February 21 *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee – Triodion Begins*

8:45 a.m. - Orthos
10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Sunday School Classes begin after communion

2016 Ecclesiastical Calendars are in the Narthex. Please take one home with you.

Visit the Gift Shop for Inspiration and Gifts. As of March 1, 2016 Aftan Romanczak will be the ministry leader for the Gift Shop. Please direct all inquiries to him.

Wed., Feb. 24
10:00 a.m. – Cancelled - Bible Study – Book of Genesis
6:30 p.m. – Cancelled - Vespers

Sat. Feb 27
5:00 p.m. – Cancelled - Vespers

Are you interested in being a part of the Orthodox Church? If so, classes will be forming. Please call Admin Office or see Deborah Bowen to communicate your interest.

For Today:
Ushers: Parish Council Members
Welcoming Ministry: Marina Vanerstrom
Coffee Hour Hosted by the Athenson Family

Parish Council of 2016: Kosta Bozzuto, President; Greg Pappas, Vice President; Len Vanerstrom, Secretary; David Chapman, Treasurer; Sandy Athenson, Anthony Birozes, Marie Chapman, Chris Foxhall, Helen McCart, Johnny Melts, Anne Trainor, and Plutarch Vamvakias

Acolytes: Jacob and Jimmy Atkinson, David Druffner, Evan Eifert, Spiro Kefalas, Christos Kaloudis, Thomas Miller, Jacob Sparks, Mike Trainor, Alex & Niko Tzevelekos, Christos Zourzoukis, Senior Acolytes: Johnny Melts

Please say a special prayer for the following
Individuals: J. Andropoulos, Bill, C. Birozes, J. Havins, Mariann, Maria, M. Samaltanos; D. Sarandis, E. Sofikitis, Victor, Patsy and S. and K. Yalanzon

Dina Sarandis and Estelle Sofikitis who live at Oaks Senior Center on Post Road would love to have cards and visits from our parish.

***Friendly Reminder:** The Orthodox Church practices "close" communion. This means only Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared to receive the Eucharist should approach the Chalice at communion. If you have any questions, please see Fr. Barnabas after service.*

CALENDAR for February, March 2016 – revised as of 2/21/2016

** “PLC” means Parish Life Center

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Feb 21 - Sun	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	<u>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Tridion Begins</u> Orthos Divine Liturgy
Feb 24 - Wed	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Father Barnabas Out of Town Feb. 23 - 27 <u>Cancelled</u> - Bible Study - Book of Genesis (Library) <u>Cancelled - Vespers</u>
Feb 26 - Fri	4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Greek Class Greek Class
Feb 27 - Sat	4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Greek Class <u>Cancelled - Vespers</u>
Feb 28 - Sun	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.	<u>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</u> Orthos Divine Liturgy Faith Encouraged LIVE program at www.ancientfaith.com
Feb 29 - Mon	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts meeting (PLC) For more information contact Harald Hagen at mrhagen@yahoo.com or see bulletin board
March 1 - Tues		Father Barnabas at Winter Clergy Retreat in Salem, SC - March 1 – 3
March 2 - Wed	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	<u>Cancelled</u> – Bible Study Class <u>Cancelled – Vespers</u>
March 4 - Fri	4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Greek Language Class Greek Language Class Goyans’ Lock-in at PLC
March 5 - Sat	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<u>Saturday of Souls</u> Orthos Divine Liturgy Greek Language Class Vespers Glendi event at the PLC sponsored by the Philoptochos Ladies Society
March 6 - Sun	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Judgment Sunday (Meatfare) Orthos Divine Liturgy
March 7 – Mon	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts meeting (PLC)
March 8 - Tues	6:30 p.m.	9th Hour and Divine Liturgy – Forty Martyrs of Sebaste
March 9 - Wed	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Prosforo Baking (PLC) Bible Study (Library) Vespers
March 10 – Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Philoptochos Board Meeting (PLC)

March 11 - Fri	4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Greek Class Greek Class
March 12 - Sat	4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Saturday of Souls Greek Class Vespers Hope/Joy Pizza Night (PLC)
March 13 - Sun	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare) Orthos Divine Liturgy Faith Encouraged LIVE at www.ancientfaith.com
March 14 - Mon	7:00 p.m.	LENT BEGINS Boy Scouts meeting (PLC)
March 14 - Tues	noon	Ladies Fellowship Meeting at Mary Milam's home
March 16 - Wed	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Bible Study (Library) Presanctified Liturgy
March 17 - Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Philoptochos – General Meeting (PLC)
March 18 - Fri	4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Greek Class Greek Class Salutations to the Theotokos – Presanctified Liturgy Akathist Hymn – Part 1
March 19 - Sat	4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Saturday of Souls Greek Class Vespers
March 20 - Sun	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday of Orthodoxy Orthos Divine Liturgy
March 21 - Mon	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts Meeting (PLC)
March 23 - Wed	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Bible Study Presanctified Liturgy
March 25 - Fri	4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Greek Independence Day Greek Class Greek Class Annunciation of the Theotokos Akathist Hymn, Part 2
March 26 - Sat	4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Greek Class Vespers
March 27 - Sun	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.	Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas Orthos Divine Liturgy Faith Encouraged LIVE program at www.ancientfaith.com
March 28 - Mon	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts meeting (PLC)
March 30- Wed	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Bible Study (Library) Presanctified Liturgy

Notes and Thank You's

- If you have not filled out a **Stewardship card**, please do so. A new card should be filled out every year.
- The form for Saturday of Souls prayers is included in this bulletin. Please fill out and return to the administrative office.
- Flowers needed for the March 25 presentation of the **Annunciation of the Theotokos**. Two dozen white roses are needed. Please call admin office if you can help with this ministry.
- Please notice on the bulletin board outside the admin office is a list of **“to-dos” and needs** for the church facilities. If you can help with any of these items, please call the office at 770-781-5250.
- The ongoing **Sts RNI Bake Sale** - You can order anytime and receive fresh pastries or baked goods. See bulletin board for more information. Forms are in the PLC.
- **Saturday of Souls** – Helen McCart will be offering trays of Koliva for \$10 for the Saturday of Souls commemoration which is March 5, 12, and 19. Email Helen at helenmccart49@gmail.com to order.
- Mark your calendars for the **Glendi** event at the PLC on March 5 at 7:00 p.m. sponsored by the Philoptochos Ladies Society.
- Mark your calendar for **Vacation Church Camp** – June 13 – 17, 2016
- Please call Administrative Office to schedule your **House Blessing** with Father Barnabas.

GREAT NEWS: New Boy Scout Troop chartered by STS RNI -- JOIN TODAY!

The Troop meets weekly and does one weekend activity per month. Activities include camping, hiking, backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, shooting sports, archery, rappelling, geocaching, bicycling, service projects, sailing, cooking, career exploration, caving, skiing, personal growth and development, public speaking, project management, and much more. Boys aged 11-18.

Monday evenings from 7:00 pm until 8:30 p.m. at the new Parish Life Center.

Contact Harald Hagen. Website <http://troop805.trooptrack.com>

For more information see bulletin board or contact the administrative offices at 770-781-5250.

First Meeting at the PLC on Monday, Feb. 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the PLC

Saturday of Souls

Name of Person Requesting: _____

Names of Persons to be Remembered:

Return to Administrative office by March 1

Stewardship Commitment for 2016 – 61 as of 2/21/2016

Apesos, Matthew & Addy
Athenson, Sandy & Julie
Birozes, Anthony
Birozes, Renee
Bowen, Deborah
Boyd, David & Michelle
Bozzuto, Kosta & Carolyn
Chapman, David & Marie
Chason, Russell & Chyrisse
Christy, Rick & Jan
Consos, John
Donkar, John & Athena
Eifert, April & David
Farr, Quay & Trissie
Foxhall, Chris & Liz
Gasper, Bill & Margaret
Gilbert, Rob & Carey
Guano, Robert & Jennifer
Hatzispiros, Tasia & Fontasa
Henning, Robert & Ana
Hutka, Steven & Linda
Johnson, Jennie
Kaloudis, Vasilis & Mary
Kefalas, Tasso & Laura
Kefalas, Thalia
Klock, Jacqueline
Levantis, Alex & Melpo
Lopez, Leon & Frances
Lucher, David & Lynne
Maheras, Tina
Manos, Emanuel
Manos, William & Margaret
Marvos, Todd & Ann
McCart, Al & Helen
Melts, Johnny & Becky
Milam, Bill & Mary
Moissiadis, Nik & Argentina
Panos, Nicholas & Teddie
Pantazopoulos, Constantinos & Evelyn
Pappas, Greg
Pappas, Gus
Patrick, John & Evon
Perry, Michele
Popa, Mihai & Heidi
Powell, Father Barnabas & Presvytera Connie
Powers, Pam
Ralston, Luke & Liz

Sparks II, Dennis
Sparks, Dennis & Laura
Sparks, Jacob
Stewart, Todd
Trainor, Edward & Anne
Tyre, James & Sharon
Tubbs, Brian & Jennifer
Vamvakias, Eleanor
Vamvakias, Plutarch & Tina
Vanerstrom, Len & Marina
Waldron, Rusty & Christine
Walters, Tim & Diane
Zourzoukis, John & Mildred
Zukerino-Kazazakis-Levendakis

Please fill out a Stewardship Card for 2016. God's house needs your support. Forms are in the Narthex.



**Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene
Greek Orthodox Church**



We are an Intentional Orthodox Christian Community for North Georgia