

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

September 20, 2015
SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS



Thou didst abolish death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst bid Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.



Sunday After Holy Cross

On This day, we also Commemorate:
Sophia & her three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love
Eustathios and family Eustathios, Arb. Of
Thessolonica



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-joyce 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, Emily Christy, Maria Hagen, Lynn Lucher, Jimmy Smith

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Tone.

By means of Your Cross, O Lord, You abolished death. To the robber You opened Paradise. The lamentation of the myrrh-bearing women You transformed, and You gave Your Apostles the order to proclaim to all that You had risen, O Christ our God, and granted the world Your great mercy.

Apolytikion for the Saints in the Fourth Tone.

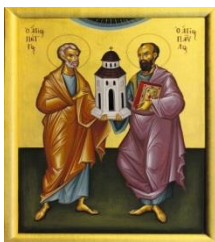
Your Martyrs, O Lord, were worthily awarded by You * the crowns of incorruption, in that they contested for You our immortal God. * Since they possessed Your power, they defeated the tyrants, * dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. * O Christ God, at their fervent entreaties, save our souls.

Apolytikion for the Cross in the First Tone.

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance; grant vict'ry to the faithful against the adversaries of the faith, and protect Your people by Your holy Cross.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Tone.

You who were lifted on the cross voluntarily, * O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions * upon Your new community to which You gave Your name. * Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your power, * granting them the victories against their adversaries. * And for an ally, Lord, may they have You, * peace as their armor, the trophy invincible.



EPISTLE READING

St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.

Psalm 28.11,1

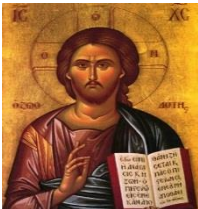
The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

BRETHREN, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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Ἀδελφοί, εἰδότες ὅτι οὐ δικαιοῦται ἄνθρωπος ἐξ ἔργων νόμου, ἐὰν μὴ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐπιστεύσαμεν, ἵνα δικαιωθῶμεν ἐκ πίστεως Χριστοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων νόμου· διότι οὐ δικαιωθήσεται ἐξ ἔργων νόμου πᾶσα σὰρξ. Εἰ δέ, ζητοῦντες δικαιωθῆναι ἐν Χριστῷ, εὐρέθημεν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἁμαρτωλοί, ἄρα Χριστὸς ἁμαρτίας διάκονος; Μὴ γένοιτο. Εἰ γὰρ ἂν κατέλυσα, ταῦτα πάλιν οἰκοδομῶ, παραβάτην ἑμαυτὸν συνίστημι. Ἐγὼ γὰρ διὰ νόμου νόμῳ ἀπέθανον, ἵνα θεῷ ζήσω. Χριστῷ συνεσταύρωμαι· ζῶ δέ, οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὃ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῆ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.



GOSPEL READING

The Gospel of Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."



Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἐλθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλη τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι, ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσῃ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, οὗτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἂν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὃς γὰρ ἂν ἐπαισχυθῇ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἀμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυθήσεται αὐτὸν ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἁγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσὶ τινες τῶν ὧδε ἐστηκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.



Message from the Archbishop of America, †DEMETRIOS

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are confronted on a daily basis with the tragedy of conflict in our world, the struggles and suffering of refugees, and the violence and death associated with terrorism and genocide. We see and hear reports of the tremendous challenges faced by people who are being expelled from their homes and countries, who are seeking basic provisions and security, and who are in need of hope and comfort.

As Greek Orthodox Christians, we are very aware of these challenges, and we are called in the love of God to respond to these great needs. We also offer our prayers and support in our remembrance of the great tragedies that have befallen our forbearers. This month marks the anniversary of two periods of intense persecution, suffering, and loss of life and property by Greeks in Asia Minor.

This month is the sixtieth anniversary of the riots in Constantinople in 1955 which resulted in the damage, destruction, and looting of thousands of Greek businesses and homes and scores of churches, monasteries and schools. People were killed or injured, cemeteries were desecrated, and crosses were vandalized. Almost every Greek Orthodox Church property was targeted, including the Patriarchal cemetery and Balukli, where sepulchers and vaults were violated. This orchestrated act of violence and terrorism caused great injury to the Greek people in Constantinople and surrounding areas, and resulted in tens of thousands of Greeks leaving Turkey.

The Greek refugees from the pogrom of 1955 were among the millions who died or left Turkey during the first half of the twentieth century, many being forcefully expelled during the Asia Minor Catastrophe of 1922. In September of that year the Greeks of Smyrna were brutally attacked, and their homes, businesses, and churches burned. Thousands fled, with many perishing due to limited means of escape. Just as we are seeing today many refugees and victims of conflict, so then ancestral lands were stolen, homes and livelihoods were destroyed, and security, freedom, and well-being were lost.

In remembrance of the victims of these great tragedies, I ask the parishes of our Holy Archdiocese to conduct memorial services on Sunday, September 20. Let us also remember in solemnity the struggles and sufferings of millions of Greek refugees, recognizing the impact these events have had on Greece, Cyprus, and communities around the world. I also ask that you offer prayers for the millions of refugees who are experiencing great loss and threats today. Our forbearers found strength and hope through their faith and in their resiliency in the face of death. As we have known suffering within our communities and our heritage, we can share in their suffering; and as we have found comfort and hope in Christ, we can share comfort and hope with those who have lost so much.

With paternal love in Him,

†DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America



Welcome to all visitors who are worshipping with us this morning. Please join us for Fellowship Hour afterwards in the Blue House.

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, Sept 20 Sunday After Holy Cross
8:45 a.m. Orthos
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday School Children
Will be dismissed for
Classes after Communion

Wed., Sept 23 10:00 a.m. -Bible Study
6:30 p.m. - Vespers

Sat., Sept 26 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Please see Events Calendar and Announcements at the front desk for more information on church activities.

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For Today:

Ushers: David Chapman, Helen McCart
Welcoming Ministry: Michelle Boyd
Fellowship Hosted by Marina Raymond

Parish Council of 2015: John Patrick, President; Harald Hagen, Vice President; David Chapman, Secretary; Chris Foxhall, Treasurer; Anthony Birozes, Kosta Bozzuto, Marie Chapman, Helen McCart, Johnny Melts, Greg Pappas, Plutarch Vamvakias, Len Vanerstrom

Acolytes: Jacob and Jimmy Atkinson, David Druffner, Mike & Peter Jordanopolos, Spiro Kefalas, Christos Kaloudis, Thomas Miller, Jacob Sparks, Mike Trainor, Alex & Niko Tzevelekos, Christos Zourzoukis **Senior Acolytes:** Johnny Melts, Mike Manos, Dean Pryles

Please say a special prayer for the following

Individuals: Parras Ashe, Bill, Maryann, J. Andropoulos, J. Consos, A. Dukas, V. Jones, D. Sarandis, and K. Yalanzon

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.

Stewardship Commitment for 2015—93

George & Maria Andros
Jim & Angie Andropoulos
Sarante & Julie Athenson
Tori Avery
Deane & Stephen Barnard
Anthony & Mary Birozes
Mabel Antigone Birozes
Renee Birozes
Lisa Boston
Deborah Bowen
David & Michelle Boyd
Kosta & Carolyn Bozzuto
Maria & Sean Carney
Athena Catapano
David & Marie Chapman
Russell & Chyrise Chason
Julie Chokos
Giles & Emily Christie
Rick & Jan Christy
Connie Condos
John & Shelia Consos
John & Athena Donkar
Keith & Mary Druffner
Quay & Trissie Farr
Chris & Liz Foxhall
William & Hayley Fulbright
Bill & Margaret Gasper
Rob & Carey Gilbert
Robert & Jennifer Guano
Harald & Stamatia Hagen
Michael & Ann Costakis Hayes
Robert & Ana Henning
Harriet Howell
Steven & Linda Hutka
Melanie & Panagiotis Jordanopoulos
Jennie Johnson
Vasilios & Mary Kaloudis
Jim Kanellos
Tasso & Laura Kefalas
Soula Levendakis &
Theodoros Kazazakis
Alex Levantis
Leon & Frances Lopez
David & Lynne Lucher
Archie & Florence Lytle
Tina Maheras
Bill & Margaret Manos
Bill & Audrey Marianes

Paul Markatos
Riley Todd & Elizabeth Marvos
Al & Helen McCart
Johnny & Becky Melts
Bill & Mary Milam
Matt & Athena Miller
Nikolaos Moissiadis & Family
Patricia Morris
Nick & Teddie Panos
Constantinos & Evelyn Pantazopoulos
Gregory Pappas
Gus Pappas
Tom and Lillian Pappas
John & Evon Patrick
Michele Perry
Mihai & Heidi Popa
Fr. Barnabas & Pres. Connie Powell
Pam Powers
Vic & Suzi Pryles
Luke and Liz Ralston
Marina Raymond
Aftan Romanczak
Mary Samaltanos
Dina Sarandis
Takanori & Kathryn Shoji
Effie Skiouris
James Smith
Estelle Sofikitis
George & Anna Sofikitis
Dennis & Laura Sparks
O'Brien Statham
James Stockdill
Koko & Carol Tadros
Steven & Thalia Thompson
Nick & Eva Thrasivoulou
Ed & Anne Trainor
Greg & Evie Tzevelekos
Eleanor Vamvakias
Plutarch & Tina Vamvakias
Len Vanerstrom
Rusty & Christine Waldron
Tim & Diane Walters
Jacob & Katherine Wilson
Katherine & Sam Yalanzon
George & Thalia Bruno-Zazanis
John and Mildred Zourzoukis