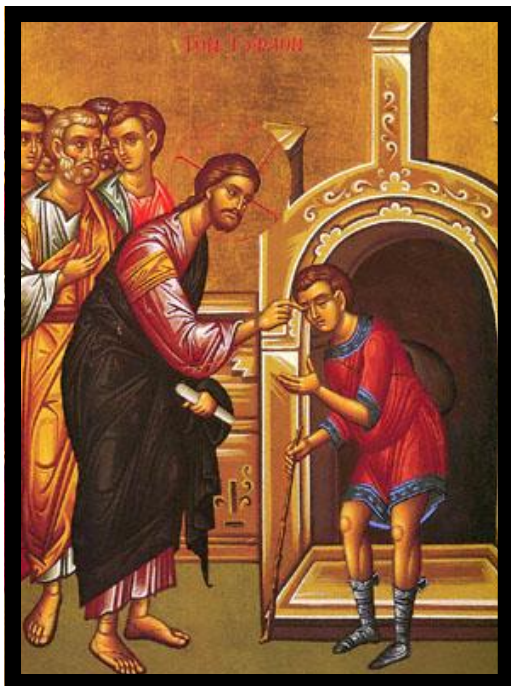


SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN MAY 20TH, 2012



STS. RAPHAEL, NICHOLAS AND IRENE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Rev. Fr. Barnabas Powell, Proistamenos
Paul Bilson, Psaltis**

**3074 Bethelview Road † Cumming GA 30040
(770) 781-5250 cell (770) 861-3544 www.stsrni.org**

We are an intentional Orthodox Christian Community for North Georgia!

WORSHIP

Eighth Gospel/Tone - Plagal First

Christos Anesti!

We are so very glad you have joined us today, and we pray you will be inspired and encouraged by your time with us.

The Orthodox worship service is an ancient and timeless expression of how people have loved, served and worshipped God for many centuries, but it may be a bit of a different experience for you. Please feel free to use a service book or not and simply allow the words of the service to wash over you.

The central act of our worship culminates in people receiving communion. This is a very special time for us all and we have some specific beliefs about our communion together. This is why we never impose this service on those who are not prepared or are not baptized Orthodox. This service may raise questions in your mind. Please feel free to ask Fr. Barnabas anything you wish after the service.

At the end of the service EVERYONE is invited to come forward and receive a portion of the “blessed bread” from Fr. Barnabas. No one should leave church “hungry!”

*Know you are welcome and we are glad you are here.
May God bless you and your family.*

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.

6 Month Memorial - in loving memory of John Sofikitis is offered today by his wife, Stella Sofikitis, and son & “daughter”, George & Anna.
May His Memory be Eternal!

Prosforo: Is lovingly offered by the Prosforo Ministry Team

Schedule for the Week

Wednesday, May 23rd - 10 a.m. Study of the Gospel of John
6:30 p.m. Vespers followed by “Exploring the Liturgy”

Saturday, May 26th - 5 p.m. Great Vespers
Confessions will be heard following Great Vespers by Fr. Paul

SAVE THE DATE — SUNDAY, JUNE 3rd — PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING — PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND — IMPORTANT DECISIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH NEED TO BE MADE

ACOLYTES

James Blane, Nathan Frazier, Spiros Kefalas, Dean Pryles, Nicholas Pryles, Mike Manos, Giovanni Ray, Tommy Roberts, Luke Sulyma, Mike Trainor, Connor Walters, Roney Walters, Thomas Miller and Christos Zourzoukis

TODAY WE REMEMBER

Sunday of the Blind Man

Reading: The Lord Jesus was coming from the Temple on the Sabbath, when, while walking in the way, He saw the blind man mentioned in today's Gospel. This man had been born thus from his mother's womb, that is, he had been born without eyes (see Saint John Chrysostom, Homily LVI on Matthew; Saint Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book V:15; and the second Exorcism of Saint Basil the Great). When the disciples saw this, they asked their Teacher, "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" They asked this because when the Lord had healed the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, He had told him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14); so they wondered, if sickness was caused by sin, what sin could have been the cause of his being born without eyes. But the Lord answered that this was for the glory of God. Then the God-man spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam (which means "sent") was a well-known spring in Jerusalem used by the inhabitants for its waters, which flowed to the eastern side of the city and collected in a large pool called "the Pool of Siloam." Therefore, the Saviour sent the blind man to this pool that he might wash his eyes, which had been anointed with the clay-not that the pool's water had such power, but that the faith and obedience of the one sent might be made manifest, and that the miracle might become more remarkable and known to all, and leave no room for doubt. Thus, the blind man believed in Jesus' words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and returned, no longer blind, but having eyes and seeing. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, "Since time began, never was it heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind," although the Lord had already healed the blind eyes of many. Because he now had eyes, some even doubted that he was the same person (John 9:8-9); and it was still lively in their remembrance when Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus, for they said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have caused that even this man should not have died?" Saint John Chrysostom gives a thorough and brilliant exposition of our Lord's meeting with the woman of Samaria, the healing of the paralytic, and the miracle of the blind man in his commentaries on the Gospel of Saint John.

Kontakion in the Fourth Tone: I come to You, O Christ, as the man blind from birth. With the eyes of my soul blinded, I cry out to You in repentance, "You are the resplendent Light of those in darkness."

We Also Remember

**The Holy Martyr Thalleus
Mark the Hermit
Father Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow**

Please pray for those faithful who are currently in need of our most fervent intercessions: **Andrew, Archie, Bill, Bill, Carrie, Demetra, Dina, Donna, Efthymios, Elaine, Elizabeth, Christina, Gus, Heidi, Igli, James, Jerry, Joe, John, Maria, Michael, Nomiki, Oni, Paul, Peter, Sarah, Taki, Tara and Violeta**

**Parish Council On Duty - Harriet Howell & Harald Hagen
Welcoming Ministry - Tina Maheras - Ushering Ministry - Philoptochos**

EPISTLE READING

The Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34



IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

Α Ω

GOSPEL READING

The Reading is from John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe": and he worshiped him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOYA BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. BARNABAS

TONIGHT, May 20th, 5-6:00 p.m.

@ home of Tommy Roberts
1755 Hawk View Court, Cumming 30041
770-888-7064

†††††

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday, May 23rd, 6:30 p.m.

Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension

Sunday, May 27th—Archpastoral visit by His Eminence
Metropolitan ALEXIOS†

A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 2nd

Saturday of Souls

Orthros 9 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

Forms for names to be memorialized are available in the Narthex and can be given to Father Barnabas or a Parish Council Member.

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WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday morning and evening Bible study classes have resumed. The morning (10 a.m.) class is studying the Gospel of John and the evening class (after Vespers) is “Exploring the Liturgy.”

All are invited to attend.

†††††

Sts. RNI Choir

Practice — Tuesday, May 22nd, 6:45 p.m.

Contact Marie Chapman for more information.
770-205-7220 or mommystargater@comcast.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREEK SCHOOL

Wednesday, May 23rd - 6:30 p.m.— Adults and Level 1 Classes Only

No Preschool Classes will be held.

Please contact HellenicStudies@stsrni.org for more information.



Metropolis of Atlanta Greece Relief Kits Appeal

The GOYA will be collecting items to assemble Medical Kits. If you'd like to donate (monetary or any of the items listed below), a collection box can be found in the Narthex.

Medical Kits

To assemble a Medical Kit you will need 10 items of your choice listed below

- Acetaminophen Pain Reliever (e.g. Tylenol/Excedrin)
- Adhesive Bandages
- Alcohol Wipes
- Antibacterial Soap, Hand Sanitizers or Wipes
- Antibiotic Ointment or Packets (e.g. Neosporin)
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Band Aids
- Bandage Dressings
- Bandage Strips
- Blunt Dressing Scissors
- Bug Bite Lotion
- Burn Ointment
- Cortisone 1% Cream
- Disposable Gloves
- Dressing Tape
- Elastic Bandages
- Facial Tissues
- First Aid Cream
- Gauze
- Ibuprofen Pain Reliever (e.g. Motrin/Advil)
- Safety Pins
- Sunscreen
- Tweezers
- Vaseline

1. Put the completed **Medical Kit** in a plastic shoe size box 13" x 7 ½" x 4 ½"
2. Put completed kits in a cardboard box. Clearly mark the outside of the box with the words

"Medical Kits" and quantity of Kits in the box.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Philoptochos will be serving lunch at “The Place” on
Wednesday, May 30th.

Set up begins at 10:30 a.m. and we’re done by 1 p.m.

Contact Helen McCart @ 678-947-4771 or 404-428-4336 for more
information on how you can help.

Please come and help to serve those less fortunate.

Wednesday, May 23rd, following the Vespers Divine Liturgy

Tupperware Party in the Blue House

Hosted by Presvytera Connie to benefit Philoptochos

All are welcome.

†††††

Book Club

The Book Club will be on vacation Saturday, May 27th

For more information call Lisa Boston at 770-826-1212 or myakunda@yahoo.com or
contact Donna Smith at missmagnoliasmoxie@gmail.com ([note new email address](#)).

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**Prosforo Baking will take place on Friday, May 25th, beginning
at 9 a.m. All are welcome to come & help.**

**Contact Stamatia Hagen for more information @
mamma2maria@aol.com**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you for joining us in the Lord’s vineyard this year! Your
prayers and support have been a great encouragement. Our
greatest needs for the future growth of this ministry are teachers
and craft assistants. To become a part of this great work, please
contact me at myakunda@yahoo.com. Thank you again,

Lisa Boston

On behalf of the local Cretan Chapter "SAMARIA",

The Battle of Crete Remembered

Today, we mark the 71st anniversary of the Battle of Crete which began on May 20, 1941 with the invasion of this Greek island by Nazi Germans. We commemorate the loss of Christian lives during this important battle of World War II.

Today's prayers are in honor of the many brave Greeks--military and civilian--who fought against these invaders, turned what the Germans thought would be a quick battle into a ten day campaign, and caused the costly postponement of German plans to invade Russia. Everywhere on the island, Cretan civilians, armed and otherwise, joined the battle with whatever weapons were at hand. In some cases, ancient rifles which had last been used against the Turks were dug up from their hiding places and pressed into action. In other cases, Cretan civilians went into action armed only with what they could gather from their kitchens or barns, and many German parachutists were knifed or clubbed to death in the olive groves that dotted the island. The Cretans soon supplemented their makeshift weapons with captured German small arms. Their actions were not limited to harassment--the civil population also played a significant role in the Greek counter-attacks at Kastelli and Paleochora. Civilian action also checked the Germans to the north and west of Heraklion.

After one day of fighting, the Germans had suffered appalling casualties and none of their objectives had been achieved. The next day, through miscommunication and the failure of Allied commanders to grasp the situation, the Greek airfield at Maleme in western Crete fell to the Germans, enabling the invaders to fly in reinforcements and eventually overwhelm the Allied forces.

The Battle of Crete was unprecedented in three respects: it was the first-ever mainly airborne invasion; it was the first time the Allies made significant use of intelligence from the deciphered German Enigma code; and it was the first time invading German troops encountered mass resistance from a civilian population. In light of the heavy casualties suffered by the parachutists, Germany's dictator, Adolf Hitler, forbade further large scale airborne operations. However, the Allies were impressed by the potential of paratroopers, started to build their own airborne divisions, and used them successfully years later during the invasion of Normandy.

May the memory of those who lost their lives this day always be eternal!

THE GOSPEL OF STEWARDSHIP 101 & 102

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2012 @ STS. RNI, 10 A.M.

IGNITING THE FLAME OF TRUE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Presented by Bill Marianes & George Matthews

A parish that practices true Orthodox Christian Stewardship is truly on fire and can achieve the unimaginable as it emulates the kingdom of God. It is the challenge of every parish council, stewardship committee and Clergyman to ensure that each parish practices true stewardship and affords every parishioner the opportunity to maximize their commitment of time, talent and treasures to God's work. The question is how best to implement a truly successful stewardship program?

The National Stewardship Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, together with the Metropolis of Atlanta, have created a unique and inspirational educational experience to help the parish counsels, stewardship committees and Priests implement a highly successful and new approach to stewardship. This program is a high energy, very entertaining and interactive four-hour program that includes ample time for very specific questions and answers tailored to the unique needs of each parish. Participants will learn what true stewardship is and how to organize your parish to maximize results through implementing 3 critical stewardship principles, 2 dynamic stewardship tactics and 3 effective communications strategies.

The experienced facilitators are Bill Marianes and George Matthews of the National Stewardship Ministries and Archdiocese Council. This successful program was piloted in the Metropolis of Atlanta and then rolled out to rave reviews at the Archdiocese Clergy/Laity Assemblies in Washington, DC and Atlanta, GA. Since then, Bill and George have traveled the country energizing communities with this highly effective and spiritually based Christian stewardship approach that can substantially improve a parish's results. The conventional wisdom is that "insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result." Many parishes have realized a degree of insanity with their unsuccessful or stagnant stewardship programs. This new stewardship vision will help break the chains that bind us to less effective (or ineffective) stewardship practices and will help create an environment that maximizes the results our communities experience.

To receive the most from this dynamic stewardship program, the Priest, all members of the parish council and stewardship committee and ministry leaders of a parish should attend so that they can all understand how to reorganize the local parish and stewardship program to maximize their effectiveness. Please contact the host parish priest or parish council to obtain further information regarding this exciting and very entertaining program that will be delivered near you. It is the honor of the Archdiocese National Stewardship Ministries and the stewards who participate in these programs to offer the good word of how to ignite the flame of stewardship in your community as a part of our greater calling to serve God and His Holy Greek Orthodox Church.

***Much is required from the person to whom much is given;
much more is required from the person to whom much more is given. (Luke 12:48)***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February-March-April 2012

Income / Expense Summary

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Diff +/-</u>
February	\$25,525.29	\$21,359.52	\$ 4,165.77
March	\$17,109.33	\$18,363.16	(\$ 1,253.83)
April	\$18,333.23	\$22,028.60	(\$ 3,695.37)
Totals	\$60,867.85	\$61,751.28	(\$ 783.43)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Our 2011-2012 Fellowship Hour Donation Campaign has begun. We hope you have enjoyed the refreshments provided over the past year and will continue to support the Fellowship Committee's efforts to serve you each Sunday.

For the 2011-2012 year, donations have been made by the following families:

Andropoulos
Birozes
Bozzuto
Chapman
Chihlas
Doulgerakis
Druffner
Hayes
Johnson
Jordan
Kanellos
Kefalas
Klock

Kostulakos
Koulouvaris
Livaditis
Lytle
Manos
Marvos
McCart
Melts
Milam
Miller
Moissiades
Morris
Panos

Pappas
Patrick
Pardinas
Philoptochos
Pournaras
Powell
Pryles
Ray
Sulyma
Trainor
Willis

2012

PARISH COUNCIL

Dennis Kostulakos (President), John Patrick (Vice President), Paul Ray (Secretary),
Vic Pryles (Treasurer), David Chapman, Harald Hagen,
Harriet Howell, Florence Lytle and Mary Roberts

Saints Raphael, Nicholas & Irene Greek Orthodox Church

Our Vision & Mission

Our *vision* as Saints Raphael, Nicholas & Irene Greek Orthodox Church is to grow as a family in Christ.
Our *mission* as a Greek Orthodox Church is to serve God and neighbor, strengthen the family and reach out to the community.

To date the 86 stewards below have returned
Stewardship Commitment Cards for 2012.
Total Pledges to Date: \$157,819.76 - Average Pledge: \$1,901.44



Nicholas & Varvara Alexiou	Emanuel Manos
Jim & Angie Andropoulos	William & Margaret Manos
Richard & Sophia Bethune	Riley & Elizabeth Marvos
Paul & Elaine Bilson	Al & Helen McCart
Anthony & Mary Birozes	Johnny & Becky Melts
Renee Birozes	Bill & Mary Milam
Katherine Blanos	Matt & Athena Miller
Joseph (Ike) Bonnelli-Barbara Selwa	Nik Moissiades
Jordan & Lisa Boston	Patricia Morris
Niko & Helen Bouboulis	Nick & Teddie Panos
Kosta & Carolyn Bozzuto	Constantinos & Evelyn Pantazopoulos
Thalia Bruno	Gus & Albie Pappas
Athena Catapano	John & Evon Patrick
David & Marie Chapman	Lawson & Susan Plummer
Grace Chihlas	Mihai & Heidi Popa
Julie Chokos	Fr. Barnabas & Pres. Connie Powell
Arthur Costakis	Pam Powers
Jamie Crossno	Katherine Prattes
Dean & Jenny Demos	Vic & Suzi Pryles
Wesley & Donna Dennison	Paul & Gigi Ray
Keith & Mary Druffner	Earl & Marina Raymond
Quay & Trissie Farr	David & Mary Roberts
Chris & Liz Foxhall	Jimmy & Pat Roney
Dan & Sonia Frazier	Bill & Debbie Sarandis
Paul & Caroline Geertgens	Dina Sarandis
Robert & Jennifer Guano	Taka & Kathryn Shoji
Kevin & Allison Hammond	Eric & Donna Smith
Christine Hatcher	George & Anna Sofikitis
Michael & Ann Hayes	Stamatia (Estelle) Sofikitis
Harriet Howell	Dennis & Laura Sparks
Mark & Jennie Johnson	Robert & Alexis Sulyma
Eleni Jordan	Tohotmos & Carol Tadros
Bill & Mary Kaloudis	Mike & Estelle Theodosion
Jim Kanellos	Nikolaos & Eva Thrasivoulou
Maria Kalou Kardomateas	Ed & Anne Trainor
Theodoros & Aphrodite Kazazakis-Levendakis	James & Jane Vlahos
Tasso & Laura Kefalas	Plutarch & Tina Vamvakias
Jackie Klock	Tim & Diane Walters
Dennis & Ginny Kostulakos	Steve & Smara Wolff
Louis & Dianne Koulouvaris	Sam & Katherine Yalanzon
Alex & Melpo Levantis	
Leon & Frances Lopez	
Archie & Florence Lytle	
Connie Machoudy	
Harry & Tina Maheras	
Kiki Manolakis	