

THE "ROCK" AND THE "CHOSEN VESSEL"

It is fitting that our Church chooses to honor her two greatest Apostles on the same day. PETER, whose missionary labors centered on winning converts from Judaism, is often referred to as the "ROCK" because of his strong, firm faith. It was Peter, who boldly proclaimed his belief that Jesus was "the Son of the living God" in response to Christ's direct question: "And who do you say I am?" PAUL, who concentrated his ministry on taking the Gospel to the Gentiles -- those who were not Jews -- is commonly called the "CHOSEN VESSEL" of Christ's Church. Paul, in his own words, "labored more than any other Apostle." Through his tireless preaching, the early Church grew and expanded at a rapid rate.

It must be said, however, that BOTH of these Apostles once fell woefully short of living up to the accolades they now receive. We might even consider them to have been dismal failures in their early years! Despite his boasting, Peter's faith was weak. Remember how he tried to walk on the sea as Christ did, only to sink when his fears overcame his faith? Who could ever forget the shameful way he thrice denied that he even knew who Jesus was? In his own youth, Paul had no intention of winning souls for Christ. On the contrary, we know that he aggressively persecuted those who professed to be Christians, personally being responsible for the arrest and conviction of many believers.

Sts. Peter and Paul were both touched by the Lord and became changed men. They became totally committed to their divine commission. Nothing short of martyrdom was able to prevent them from carrying the message of the Saviour that they loved to all parts of the known world.

In one of his sermons, St. John Chrysostom calls Sts. Peter and Paul "... true pillars of the Church and the foundation and trumpets of the divine teachings of Christ." These words truly capture and define the significance these saints played in the life of the Church.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

O foremost of the Apostles and

to the world and great mercy to our souls.



teachers of the world, intercede ye with

the Master of all, that He grants peace

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY
THE 4th SUNDAY OF MATTHEW
July 2, 2023.

WELCOME ALL VISITORS:

Happy 4th of July to everyone in the community as we celebrate the independence of our country. On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our Visitors for joining us today in our sacred worship service. If you need any assistance please notify any of the Parish Council members. You are also invited to attend the Coffee Hour which is sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos Society after Church. God Bless our Visitors and may your stay here be pleasant and memorable. Please don't hesitate to come again.

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

A 7 year Memorial Service will be chanted today in memory of our brother in Christ, Christopher Karamanos. May his soul rest in peace and may his memory be eternal.

COFFEE HOUR:

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos Society. We would like to thank the Ladies Philoptochos Society for their generous offering to the Church. Everyone is invited to come and share fellowship during the Coffee Hour.

SPECIAL VISITORS:

Also visiting today are Fr. Michael's children and grandchildren. John and Nomiki Halkias and their 2 children, Katerina and little Georgie. We also have Lazaros and Sam Pastrikos and their 3 children, Cooper Michael, Theo John and Athan Athanasios. May their stay here in North Wildwood be memorable.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

All our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2023 membership and join in weekly worship and to support of our parish "Stewardship Program" and ministries. The annual minimum enrollment offering is \$750 per family, and \$500 for single people. Please complete the parish membership registry forms that are available in the Narthex. Families that are in arrears are invited to reinstate their membership and participation in our parish life and ministries.

KOINONIA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

We have established our (NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER) which is named "KOINONIA". This newsletter was distributed via email. Going forward, please send all Church event related pictures via email to the Church Secretary, Julie Reeb, at frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com Most importantly, in order for our parishioners to be able to read the Newsletter, you must submit your E-mails so we can send the newsletter out to your computers. You can submit these to the email listed above or you can give this information to our Parish Council Secretary, William Mitchell. We will also have a few newsletters printed for those who have no computers or smart phones.

LITURGICAL SUMMER HOURS:

From June through September, worship services are on the summer schedule.

8:30 AM -ORTHOS 9:30 AM - DIVINE LITURGY

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS:

Altar Boys are needed. In an endeavor to reach out to the next generation of Orthodox Children in our community and prepare them as our future leaders, Fr. Michael would like to invite all boys (ages 7 and above) to join the Altar Boys Church Group. An Altar Boy Seminar conducted by Fr. Michael, will be held on Saturday July 22th, at 11:00 am. The day will begin with a formal meeting that will review our responsibilities at the Altar during the Divine Liturgy and Orthos Services. Also the children will independently be able to ask questions to Fr. Michael and share their ideas in ways which we can better communicate with each other. Altar Boy attire must include a white shirt, slacks, a tie, and black shoes (please no sneakers). If any parent would like to send their child or children to help in the altar, please contact Fr. Michael at (609)522-0152 or email at frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com with the following information: Parents name(s), child's name(s), address, city and state, email address, home and/or cell phone to register. Please make every effort to attend. Serving the Altar is a labor of love that gives each child the opportunity to serve the Lord in a spiritual capacity.

YOUTH GROUP PROGRAM:

Since the children are out of school for their summer vacation, Fr. Michael would like to continue to have the Youth Program even in the summer months. This event will happen once a month on Saturday July 29th at 1:00 PM.

At the end of the Divine Eulogy, Fr. Michael will chant the Doxology and Prayer Service for the 4th of July Celebration.

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 8:5-13

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, εἰσελθόντι δὲ αὐτῷ εἰς Καπερναοὺμ προσήλθεν αὐτῷ ἑκατόνταρχος παρακαλῶν αὐτόν καὶ λέγων· Κύριε, ὁ παῖς μου βέβληται ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ παραλυτικός, δεινῶς βασανιζόμενος· καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ἐγὼ ἔλθων θεραπεύσω αὐτόν· καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ ἑκατόνταρχος ἔφη· Κύριε, οὐκ εἰμὶ ἱκανὸς ἵνα μου ὑπὸ τὴν στέγην εἰσέλθῃς· ἀλλὰ μόνον εἰπέ λόγῳ, καὶ ἰαθήσεται ὁ παῖς μου· καὶ γὰρ ἐγὼ ἄνθρωπός εἰμι ὑπὸ ἐξουσίᾳ, ἔχων ὑπ' ἐμαυτὸν στρατιώτας, καὶ λέγω τούτῳ, πορεύθητι, καὶ πορεύεται, καὶ ἄλλῳ, ἔρχου, καὶ ἔρχεται, καὶ τῷ δούλῳ μου, ποιήσον τοῦτο, καὶ ποιεῖ· ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐθαύμασε καὶ εἶπε τοῖς ἀκολουθοῦσιν· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, οὐδὲ ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ τοσαύτην πίστιν εὗρον· λέγω δὲ ὑμῖν ὅτι πολλοὶ ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν καὶ δυσμῶν ἥξουσι καὶ ἀνάκλιθήσονται μετὰ Ἀβραάμ καὶ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν, οἱ δὲ υἱοὶ τῆς βασιλείας ἐκβληθήσονται εἰς τὸ σκότος· τὸ ἐξώτερον· ἐκεῖ ἔσται ὁ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁ βρυγμὸς τῶν ὀδόντων· καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῷ ἑκατοντάρχῳ· ὕπαγε, καὶ ὡς ἐπίστευσας γεννηθήτω σοι· καὶ ἰάθη ὁ παῖς αὐτοῦ ἐν τῇ ᾠρᾷ ἐκεῖνῃ.

The Gospel of Matthew 8:5-13

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we are informing our parishioners that we are now in the month of June and there are many of you who have not sent in their Stewardship Pledge to the Church. The Christian work of our church is made possible through the support of its stewards. The ministries of our church can only be sustained by the generous support of our Stewards. There is no other source of support for the ministries of our Church. Your commitment to Stewardship is vital to the success of our ministries. The contributions you make have very tangible benefits for our community. They are critical not only in supporting our parish's ministries and operating expenses, but also in allowing us to engage in a range of new projects and programs for the future of our children and our community. Our goal this year is to double our Stewardship members and we can accomplish this by just doing our personal obligation to the church by filling out your Stewardship Pledge card and send it in to the church. If you are a Steward we thank you for your support. If you have been a steward in the past, please recommit. And if you have never had the opportunity to become a Steward, for whatever reason, do it now. Only through faith and commitment can our Community thrive. The Stewardship Committee has all the confidence that you will respond to this call, just as you always take every opportunity to honor our friendship with your ever-present care and support. Your active support is what allows our church to freely give so much back to our spiritual family, and to the greater community.

Κυριακή Δ' Ματθαίου / 4th Sunday of Matthew

ΤΟ ΠΡΩΤΟΝ ΑΝΤΙΦΩΝΟΝ

1. Εὐλόγει, ἡ ψυχὴ μου, τὸν κύριον καὶ πάντα τὰ ἐντός μου, τὸ ὄνομα τὸ ἅγιον αὐτοῦ·
2. Εὐλόγει, ἡ ψυχὴ μου, τὸν κύριον καὶ μὴ ἐπιλανθάνου πάσας τὰς ἀνταποδόσεις αὐτοῦ·
3. Κύριος ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἡτοίμασεν τὸν θρόνον αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἡ βασιλεία αὐτοῦ πάντων δεσπόζει.

ΤΟ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΝ ΑΝΤΙΦΩΝΟΝ

1. Αἶνει, ἡ ψυχὴ μου, τὸν κύριον· αἰνέσω κύριον ἐν τῇ ζωῇ μου, ψαλῶ τῷ θεῷ μου, ἕως ὑπάρχω.
2. Μακάριος οὗ ὁ θεὸς Ἰακώβ βοηθός αὐτοῦ, ἡ ἐλπίς αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ κύριον τὸν θεὸν αὐτοῦ.
3. Βασιλεύσει κύριος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ὁ θεός σου, Σιών, εἰς γενεὰν καὶ γενεάν.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον: Ἦχος γ'.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Κοντάκιον: Ἦχος α'.

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε. Μὴ παρίδης ἁμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθὴ, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγάζόντων σοι Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα αἰεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμῶντων σε.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON (From Psalm 102)

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.
2. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.
3. The Lord has prepared his throne in the heavens; and His kingdom rules over all.

THE SECOND ANTIPHON (From Psalm 145)

1. Praise the Lord, O my soul. While I live will I praise the Lord; I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.
2. Happy is he that has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.
3. The Lord shall reign for ever; even your God, O Zion, unto all generations.

Apolytikion Resurrectional: Tone 3.

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

Kontakion: Tone 2.

Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Θεία Λειτουργία - Κυρ, 2 Ιουλ

ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΤΗΣ

Εβρ 9:1-7

Ἀδελφοί, εἶχεν ἡ πρώτη σκηνὴ δικαιοῦματα λατρείας τό τε Ἅγιον κοσμικόν. Σκηνὴ γὰρ κατεσκευάσθη ἡ πρώτη ἐν ᾗ ἡ τε λυχνία καὶ ἡ τράπεζα καὶ ἡ πρόθεσις τῶν ἄρτων, ἥτις λέγεται Ἅγια. Μετὰ δὲ τὸ δεύτερον καταπέτασμα σκηνὴ ἡ λεγομένη Ἅγια Ἁγίων, χρυσοῦν ἔχουσα θυμιατήριον καὶ τὴν κιβωτὸν τῆς διαθήκης περικεκαλυμμένην πάντοθεν χρυσίῳ, ἐν ᾗ στάμνος χρυσοῦ ἔχουσα τὸ μάννα καὶ ἡ ῥάβδος Ἀαρὼν ἡ βλαστήσασα καὶ αἱ πλάκες τῆς διαθήκης, ὑπεράνω δὲ αὐτῆς Χερουβὶμ δόξης κατασκιάζοντα τὸ ἱλαστήριον· περὶ ὧν οὐκ ἔστι νῦν λέγειν κατὰ μέρος. Τούτων δὲ οὕτω κατεσκευασμένων εἰς μὲν τὴν πρώτην σκηνὴν διὰ παντὸς εἰσίσαιν οἱ ἱερεῖς τὰς λατρείας ἐπιτελοῦντες, εἰς δὲ τὴν δευτέραν ἅπαξ τοῦ ἐνιαυτοῦ μόνος ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς, οὐ χωρὶς αἵματος, ὃ προσφέρει ὑπὲρ ἑαυτοῦ καὶ τῶν τοῦ λαοῦ ἀγνοημάτων.

READER

Heb. 9:1-7

Brethren, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people. [RSV]

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies for amber waves of grain, - For purple mountain majesties - above the fruited plain! - America, - America! God shed his grace on thee. And crown thy good with Brotherhood. - From sea to shinning sea.

AMERICA

My country, tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims pride from every mountain side, let freedom ring! Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing; Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

God Bless America, land that I love, stand beside her and guide her thru the night with the light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans, white with foam, God Bless America, My home sweet home, God bless America, my home sweet home.

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord, He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored, He has loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword His Truth is marching on. Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His Truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps His day is marching on. Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His Truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me: As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free, While God is marching on. Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory, Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY DOXOLOGY -JULY 4th

PRIEST: Blessed is our God, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: AMEN!

PEOPLE: THE RECITATION OF THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

Glory to You who has shown us the Light!

Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will among people!

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for the splendor of your glory!

Lord, King, heavenly God, Father Almighty, Lord, Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit!

Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world.

Have mercy on us, You who take away the sins of the world.

Accept our prayer, You who are enthroned at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

Let Your mercy be upon us, Lord even as we put our hope in You.

Blessed are you. O Lord, teach me your statutes. (3 Times)

Lord, You have been for us a refuge from generation to generation.

Extend Your mercy to those who confess You.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 Times).

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and always and forever and ever. Amen!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

PRIEST: Have mercy on us O God, with your great goodness, we pray to you hear us and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy. (3 times)

PRIEST: Again we pray for our *Archbishop Elpidophoros* and all the members of our clergy brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy. (3 Times)

PRIEST: Again we pray for our nation, our president *and* the members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our

government, the armed forces and all federal, state and local civil officials.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy. (3 Times)

PRIEST: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, safekeeping, protection, pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all the devote and Orthodox Christians, all who join us in sacred worship and all our founders, members, visitors, vacationers, council members, organizations, contributors, supporters and generous benefactors of this holy church.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy. (3 Times)

PRIEST: Again, we pray that this holy church and this city, state and nation and every city and land will be safely preserved against terrorism, violence, pestilence, famine, earthquake, storms, fires, against war, enemy invasion, terroristic attacks and religious fanatics, civil strife and sudden death and that our good and loving God will be merciful and gracious and hear our entreaties and mercifully deliver us from all violence, evil and His righteous chastisement.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy. (3 Times)

Priest: Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the sound of the prayer of us sinners and will have mercy on us.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy. (3 Times)

PRIEST: Again we pray for all those who bring generous offerings, all those who serve and do good works for the benefit of this holy church, all those who work, those who contribute time, talent and treasure, those who sing, those who teach and all who are present here awaiting Your great and abundant mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy. (3 Times)

PRIEST: Hear us, O God, our Redeemer, you who are the hope of all humanity from the earth and the seas and show mercy, O Master, overlooking all our sins and have mercy on us.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy. (3 Times)

PRIEST: For you are a great, merciful and loving God, and to you we give glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now, always and to the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen!

PRIEST: Let us pray to the Lord:

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: "O Lord our God, creator, sustainer, redeemer and sovereign ruler of the universe and all nations that inhabit the earth, on this day honoring the founding of our nation we specially thank you for conferring special blessings on America and for making the United States a true champion of liberty, freedom and democracy and justice.

On this national day observing our founding we petition you to grant eternal repose to the souls of our fathers, brothers, sisters and all our noble ancestors who have died for our freedom. We petition your special grace on the men and women in our armed forces to serve to preserve and protect us against hostile powers throughout the world. We also petition your special grace on our president Barak Obama all the members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our federal, state and local governments and all civic authorities.

For you are the Prince of Peace and the Savior of our souls and to you we give glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and to the ages of ages. "

PEOPLE: Amen!

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.