

Message from Fr. Michael...

Dear Beloved Faithful:

As we embark on this new ecclesiastical year in worship of our Lord offering Him praise, thanksgiving, and worship for His great mercy and love for us. In our hymns and prayers on this day, we ask for Him for all that we need for life and service to His Holy Church while seeking to walk in communion with Him. As we make a commitment of prayer, our participation in the commemorations and observances of the Church, we make an offering of worship and praise to Him. Subsequently, we find renewed hope in an abundant prayerful life in Christ.

On this blessed ecclesiastical milestone, we ask our Lord, "Bless the crown of this year with Your goodness" (Psalm 65:11). We know that His goodness is true and enduring. His goodness is rooted in His love for us, and in this goodness He nurtures and sustains our lives. As we place our trust in God, our lives become filled with His goodness. The end result is that we become witnesses of the joy He has granted us.

We entreat the Lord to keep us in peace. Although we recognize that peace is a cherished condition for tranquility and security in our lives in this world, we understand that this peace is often temporary and often challenged. Indeed, we seek peaceful times, but we understand that true peace comes from Christ. Our Lord said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

It is in His goodness and peace that we also ask our Lord to bless all of our efforts in the opening year and to "guide the work of our hands." As our prayerful and spiritual life move forward in His direction, in all that we do ensures that we will produce great spiritual fruit in our lives and the lives of others. In dedicating ourselves to the Lord, we keep our hearts and minds in His will. He fills our actions and words with His holiness and grace. When we acknowledge Christ in all our ways, our goals and intentions are pure, lives are transformed, and He is glorified. His everlasting glory brightly shine on you, giving you His grace and love throughout this new ecclesiastical year. Let us start fresh and renew our spiritual lives.

Prayerfully in His service,

+Fr. Michael

Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedeia



After the death of the 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia, their Bishop Anthimus fled to a certain village to care for his remaining flock. The Emperor Maximian sent men in search of him. When they found him, he promised to show Anthimus to them, but first took them in as guests, fed them, and only then made himself known to them. Amazed at his kindness, the soldiers promised him to tell Maximian that they had not found him. But Anthimus went willingly with them, and converting them by his admonitions, baptized them on the way. He boldly

confessed his Faith before Maximian, and after frightful tortures was beheaded in the year 303 or 304.

September 03

Holy Father Theoctistus and his fellow struggler Euthymius the Great

Saint Theoctistus, a monk at the Palestinian lavra of Pharan, embraced a more severe life in the wilderness with his friend Saint Euthymius the Great. They founded a monastery, of which Theoctistus was the abbot. He reposed in deep old age in 451.

Kontakion of Righteous Theoctistus and Euthymius

Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Thou didst preserve the dignity of thy soul free of every stain, which as God's creature, thou wholly didst dedicate unto the Lord, O righteous one; and divinely enlightened, thou didst rise to the pinnacle of true godliness, O godly Theoctistus, confirming thy name in very deed.

FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Michalena (Skiadas) Sukenik, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, and Presbyteria Magdalena Michalopoulos. Please notify Fr. Michael if you have anyone else who should be included for special prayers. May they be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas has directed me to send out a communication to the faithful regarding Hurricane Harvey and where to send monetary donations. In a recent press release from the Archdiocese, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios has asked all faithful Orthodox Christians to contribute their donations directly to the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Donations may be made online at www.iocc.org or the link may be found on the Metropolis of Detroit website homepage. Also, parishes may choose to collect monetary donations through individuals, organizations, or special collection trays. Checks from parishes and individuals should be made payable to the "IOCC US Emergency Response Fund" noting Hurricane Harvey in the memo line. Please send these donations to the IOCC directly.

The address is:

IOCC
110 West Road
Suite 360
Baltimore, MD 21204

Annual Church Golf Tournament/Golf Outing (The Pastichio Open)
September 24th, 2017 - Endwell Greens 1:30 pm start. Dinner to follow at Riverdale Banquet House. \$80/Golfer and \$320 foursome/team. All are invited to sign up.

Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us, to grow in Christ and in our Orthodox Faith. For any spiritual, religious, or sacramental matters, please contact Fr. Michael (607) 795-1474. For any building, facility or church property issues, please contact Parish Council President Steve Anastos, (607) 296-9799. Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.