

THE
CHAMPION

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM SAINT ATHANASIOS CHURCH



Holy Protection of the Theotokos
October 2020

MESSAGE FROM FR. PANAGIOTIS



In the 4th century, St. Basil the Great wrestled with the question of how Christians should be educated, and he established a principle which is perhaps the best example of true Christian living in a secular world. He gives us the example of the bee:

Let our use of books and learning in every case mirror the ‘icon’ of the honeybee. For such does not visit every flower in the same manner, neither does the honeybee attempt to fly off bearing the burden of the entire flower. Rather, once it derives that which is needful from the flower, it leaves the rest behind and takes flight. So, too, if we are wise, once we derive from learning what resonates with truth, we too shall leave the rest behind and take flight.¹

So we will apply this same image of the honeybee to society’s celebration of Halloween, harvesting the fruits of what it offers for our objective, while protecting ourselves from the damaging elements that lie within.² Specifically, I would like us to think about the pumpkin, and how the Halloween tradition of a jack-o-lantern can shed light on our understanding of Christ.

Carving a pumpkin into a jack-o-lantern is not unlike the work that Christ does within us. Think about the process of carving a pumpkin. We can’t just carve the face or the image that we want right from the start. First we have to open it up. We have to stick our hands inside and pull out all the sticky, unpleasant guts of the pumpkin. If we want to eat the seeds, we have to wash all that sticky stuff off before we can get to the useful part. Once the inside is nice and cleaned, we carve our design and lower in a candle.

Now think about the healing and cleansing work of Christ. We receive Him into our being through the sacraments, through prayer, through love, and He removes that which gunks up our inner being (our sins). He cleans us and washes us. He places His light within us, and as He reminded us in the Sermon on the Mount “No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket” (Matthew 5.15). Like the holes in a jack-o-lantern, when we are filled with Christ, we shine His light outside of ourselves to all who pass. Jack-o-lanterns cut through the darkness of Fall nights. Homes and street corners glow orange with the light of freshly carved pumpkins. They call to mind Christ’s words “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness” (John 8.12). We are the work of His hands, and so long as we keep His light burning within us, we will shine in the darkness and provide light to the world.

+ Fr. Panagiotis Boznos

¹ St. Basil, *Address to Young Men on the Right Use of Greek Literature*

² *ibid*

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

BY Foti Georgopoulos, PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Dear Parishioner,

I hope you are all doing well, are safe and healthy! It has been such an interesting year for all of us. As we entered the new Ecclesiastical year, I would like to thank all the parishioners that have been understanding and patience as we continue to follow the guidelines that the Metropolis has given us to allow services. Thank you also to all the parishioners that assist with cleaning the building after services. I pray that we can all soon be in Church together, participating in events, and ministries as a church family, without any restrictions. We all need to continue to have faith and pray that this pandemic will soon end!

Sunday School

Begins on September 20th. Due to state and local guidelines, classes will take place on Zoom. We had our meet and greet on September 20th. It was great to see all the kids come back and be excited for Sunday school. Thank you to all our teachers that will be teaching our youth this year. We wish the children and teachers a blessed Sunday school year.

Youth Events

Our Joy, Jr. Goya, and GOYA all had activities in the month of September. We will continue to have events for our youth for throughout the end of the year. Please be sure to sign up your kids for these ministries. It is a great way for them to be with their friends from church and also grow closer with the Church.

National Clergy Laity

This year the Archdiocese Clergy Laity took place via an online platform. Fr. Panagiotis, myself, Frank Demas, and Anna Caniglia participated in the Clergy Laity. It took place September 9th & 10th with meetings starting in the morning and ending in the evening. The Archdiocese presented the financials and the budget was approved for 2021 and 2022, as well as amendments to the UPR. The days consisted of Finance, administration meetings, and workshops for the different departments in our Archdiocese. The department workshops are always great as they provide us ideas and tools for parishes to make them grow larger.

Aurora Greek Fest

With the pandemic we are not going to be able to have our Fall – Aurora Greek Fest. I am currently speaking with City of Aurora and also Kane County Health department officials about the possibility of having a drive thru Aurora Greek Fest. There are many guidelines that we need to follow and have spoken to them constantly to see what is best for us to make this happen and if it is possible to have this event. Different cities and health departments throughout the State have different guidelines for each city and county.

Thank You!

I would like to thank our parishioners for your continued love and support for our Church. Many of you have made generous donations or have provided advance stewardship payments to assist with the Church finances during this challenging time. Be sure to use our Give+ App to send in your donations, or your stewardship pledge. We are thankful by your response and continued support!

Wishing you all a blessed and healthy month!

Foti



*Why do we honor God on Sunday at the beginning of the week
and not on the Sabbath at the end of the week? G.P.*

I started writing the answer to this and quickly realized that I am longwinded and could only cover half of the question in the allotted space. So, this month we will tackle why we no longer observe the Sabbath as our primary day of religious observance. Next month we will tackle why Sunday occupies that role.

To answer this question, we have to first understand the importance of the Sabbath and also apply a method of interpretation called Typology (I briefly mentioned typology last month and will give a fuller explanation in this article). We will start with typology because that will give us the tools to speak about the Sabbath.

The best example to explain typology is the **Typewriter**. To create a word on a sheet of paper you must push a key. That key activates a metal arm that has an engraving of a specific letter at the end. The portion of the arm with the letter strikes a ribbon that has ink on it forcing that ink onto the page in the pattern of the letter engraved on the arm. Τύπος *typos* means an impression, or an image, hence we call this typing. What is important to note is that the letter which appears on the page is an image which owes its shape and form to the engraving on the arm of the typewriter. Details on the actual engraving will manifest on the page. Forensic investigators can use this fact to trace typed pieces of paper back to the specific machine that was used to type them. The point I am making is that the type actually points to the thing that gave it its form in the first place.

Much of our understanding of God and His plan of salvation is like this typewriter illustration. He often presents us with events, or revelations which are a type (impression, image, or foreshadowing) that are formed by events or revelations which will come later. If we are attuned to those images, we can perceive the thing that gave them form, and once we see the thing itself, we can better understand its image (type).

So let's take these principles and apply them to the Sabbath to help understand why it is not our central day of worship. The Sabbath is presented to the Israelites as a holy day. God declares these words from the 10 Commandments:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on

on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.¹

So the Sabbath (Saturday, the 7th day of the week) is holy because it is the day that God rested after finishing creation. The Israelites are told not to do labor on this day to always be mindful of the fact that God rested. This is the type. This is the image or foreshadowing which was shaped by the events of Christ's passion and resurrection. It was on a sabbath day (Saturday) that Christ was at rest in His tomb. All other Sabbaths were images or impressions of the one TRUE SABBATH, Holy Saturday. The day that Christ rested. Did God need to rest after finishing creation? No, but He did and established a continual remembrance of it, all to foreshadow the rest He would take in the tomb.

See how the Church describes the connection between the two from a hymn that is chanted on Holy Saturday:

The Great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day, saying: "And God blessed the seventh day." For this is **THE** Blessed Sabbath; it is **THE** day of rest, in which the Only-Begotten Son of God rested from all His works, and through the dispensation of death, in body He rested.²

Christ hints at this when He says to the Pharisees, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore, the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."³ In general the Sabbath was established to serve man, and it does so by preparing man for what is to come. All Sabbaths are subject to Christ, since He is the Lord of the Sabbath. That means all Sabbaths derive their meaning and purpose from Him (ie from His Sabbath rest in the tomb on Holy Saturday).

Looking at the Sabbaths through the lens of typology, as an image or foreshadowing of Christ's Sabbath on Holy Saturday, we can see Christ's words at work. He announced, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."⁴ As Orthodox Christians, it is not so much that we do not observe the Sabbath as a day to honor God, but more that the Sabbath and its purpose has been fulfilled by Christ. All the Sabbaths from the time of Moses up unto the passion of Christ had the purpose of preparing us for Holy Saturday. With its coming and Christ's rest in the tomb, the Sabbath finds its completion and thus it is no longer necessary to observe it as it once was.

With the Sabbath fulfilled, the high point of our weekly worship of the Lord no longer falls on a Saturday. Instead, the Resurrection of Christ gives rise to a new day, Sunday. Next month we will talk about Sunday as the primary day Orthodox Christians honor the Lord.

¹ Exodus 20:8-11

² Glory of the Kekregaria, Paschal Vigil of St. Basil

³ Mark 2:27-28

⁴ Matthew 5:17

PHILOPTOCHOS HAPPENINGS



St. Athanasios Philoptochos is embarking on an exciting new fundraising project, a meatless cookbook. This will be a collection of recipes that are entirely meatless and many recipes will be suitable for your Lenten journey. We want you to be a part of it! If you have a favorite meatless or Lenten recipe to include in this collection, please share it as we look forward to making this a community effort. There is no limit on how many recipes to contribute; however they must be meatless.

Here are the details....

If you are able to submit it electronically, then look for the link in the weekly bulletin to access the online instruction sheet for submitting your recipe. You can also submit your recipes on paper. Please download the document, give a name for each recipe and send back to us through email or mail hardcopy to the church office. Helpful instructions include:

- Must be without meat.
- Provide your name, title of recipe, ingredients, instructions and a sentence about this recipe
(Example: "Great served with fish" "My Yiayia made this every Sunday night")

We need your recipes by December 1st. Please send electronically to Sue Manos (suemanos@gmail.com), Mary Christofides (maryc9038@aol.com) or Elli Koulos (ekoulos23@live.com)

Philoptochos enjoyed a wonderful Kick-off Luncheon on Saturday, September 12th, bringing all of us together after so many months of isolation. While we enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Ambrosia, we had the honor of listening to three of our members, including Presbytera, share their heartfelt stories about how the church and orthodoxy has personally impacted them. It was a wonderful day filled with love and fellowship. We can't wait to be able to enjoy future activities together. Thank you to all the women who participated and all of the board members for helping put this together.

2020-2021 Board Members

President– Samantha Dulles

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Recording Secretary– Connie Romios

Corresponding Sec.– Mary Christofidis

Board Member– Valerie DiGiovanni

Board Member– Stacy Kuncel

Board Member– Christina Valavanidis

Board Member– Angie Weld

Upcoming Events:

October: Zoom Meeting 10/14 @ 6:00pm

Drive-In Movie : Date TBD

November: “Coffee Hour” 11/1 for SS Cosmas & Damian

On-Line Raffle– More info coming soon!

December: Look for our Annual Angel Tree and Memorial Ornaments/Service

Our St. Athanasios Philoptochos Mission: To be a sisterhood of belonging for all women to experience love and support. We do this by sharing the joy of purposeful service and inviting others to participate. We invite all women of St Athanasios to join us as members of Philoptochos.



Have you ever wondered where the food that we collect goes to? Well in fact it stays right in our own community. St. Athanasios' main food pantry donations currently go to **Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry** and **Loaves & Fishes**.

This month we are featuring: The **Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry** was founded in 1981. The collaboration of people of all faiths and a desire to serve those in the city of Aurora and beyond led to the forming of Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry. For decades, the Pantry operated from offices shared with Hesus House, a local homeless shelter. With the need for basic services in Aurora growing substantially during the 2008 recession, it became evident that a larger space both for food storage and grocery distribution was needed. With the support of the community, government agencies, and local foundations, Aurora Food Pantry moved to its present location in November 2013. Today, Aurora Food Pantry is one of the largest food pantries in northern Illinois, distributing 3.6 million pounds of food each year to 24,000 unique individuals. Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry is located at 1110 Jericho Road Aurora, IL.

We are still looking for volunteers to sign up and take the collected food to these food pantries. If you are interested, you may sign up through the sign up genius located in the weekly bulletin.

If I sign up, when can I drop off the St. Athanasios food pantry donations ? These two organizations have the following drop off hours:

- *Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry (1110 Jericho Road Aurora): Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:00am to 3:00pm.

- *Loaves & Fishes (1871 High Grove Lane, Naperville): Monday – Thursday 8:00am to 5:00pm, Friday 8:00am to 2:00pm and Saturday 8:00am to Noon. If dropping off here, please ask the volunteer to weigh our food pantry donation and email Angie Weld.

Any questions, please contact Angie Weld at aweld75@yahoo.com or Christina Valavanidis at christina.valavanidis@gmail.com for more information.

For the month of October we are asking that each parishioner that attends service to bring the food item listed below for October. **(No Expired Food or partially opened packaged foods. Please do no bring toys or pantry items such as flour, sugar, spices, etc.).**

Monthly Food Donation Suggestion

| Month | Food Item |
|---------|-------------------|
| October | Rice (Bag or Box) |

October Liturgy Calendar*

*All church services will begin with Orthros at 8:30am followed by
Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, unless otherwise noted below

Sunday, October 4th

Sunday, October 11th

Sunday, October 18th

Sunday, October 25th

Monday, October 26th
Saint Demetrios the Great Martyr

Wednesday, October 28th
Holy Protection of the Theotokos

** Attendance for church services require an advanced reservation using the Sign Up Genius website. Any questions can be answered by calling the church office during business hours Tuesday through Friday.

BOOKSTORE NEWS

St. Athanasios Bookstore Highlights –October 2020

By Jean Demas, Joanne Collins

It is difficult to believe that Fall is here and we are beginning to think about how to spend the upcoming holiday and Christmas Lenten season. Cooking is a positive way to expend our energy while feeding ourselves and our families with spiritual food to contribute to our fasting. The following cookbooks, available in our Bookstore, will give you new ideas for meals to continue to strengthen you and build your stamina against any type of winter illnesses.

The Dish on your Mediterranean Table: This delightful cookbook was prepared by our own Philoptochos ladies several years ago to include delicious “tried and true” recipes to entice your palate! In addition to fasting foods, there are many appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, main dishes, breads, and desserts, along with an easy to use index to locate the recipe of your choice.

Food Faith and Fasting: Taking care for our health by eating in a spiritually minded manner is the focus of this book to use recipes for managing health issues such as losing weight, diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol, and gastric conditions.

Fasting as a Family: Try these fasting recipes to make meals that will help adults and children partake in fasting throughout the year. Strategies are included to purchase budget friendly items for delicious and wholesome meals.

The Festive Feast: At a loss for vegetarian recipe ideas? This book focuses on how to incorporate olive oil and other ingredients into your cooking minus meat and dairy items. Also included to help with your spiritual journey through food are quotes from Church Fathers to guide and enrich you as you partake in delicious nourishment.

We also have the icon of *St. Euphrosynos the Cook* as a nice addition in your kitchen to guide your cooking. Although the Bookstore is not open during this time, please contact Jean Demas, saintathanasiosbookstore@gmail.com or the Church Office, saintathanasiosoffice@gmail.com to purchase and pick up any of the above titles, custom icons, or other items from the Bookstore’s inventory. Our Bookstore team, Rose Pagonis, Thanea Walter, Amanda McKinney, Joanne Collins, and Joleen Pietrzyk, hope to see you in the future when we are operational again.

JR. GOYA

Junior Goya had their 2020-2021 "Kick-Off on Monday, September 14 on the grounds of the church. We were so excited to come together for some fun and fellowship. The kids started out the evening playing a hilarious and crazy game in human bubble suits!

We took a break to play some getting to know you games and have some snacks. It was great for us to get together again after such a long time apart. Finally, we ended the evening with a quick lesson from Father about the day's Feast Day, the Elevation of the Cross.

In October, we will be making ornaments to decorate one of the trees at Brookfield zoo! Sign up to join us and/or go to the zoo with us on November 15th at 2pm.

Junior Goya is for kids in grades 6th through 8th. If you are interested in joining us please email Samantha Dulles at ssdulles@yahoo.com or Irene Evert



Memorials & Sacraments-August 2020

Memorials

5 Year Memorial– John Koutsogiannis

6 Month Memorial– Georgia Beligratis

40 Day Memorial– Nancy Ann Gladis

1 Year Memorial– Angelos Petratos

2 Year Memorial– Stamo Petratos

**Note: For memorials scheduled during the COVID-19 Pandemic: you may bring Prosforo and Koliva for the blessing, however it cannot be distributed to the parish. Any such food related items will need to be returned to the family to bring back home. Additional items for memorials: olive oil and wine. Wine may be purchased through Oakhurst Liquors in Aurora (Nama Byzantino Sweet Red Wine).

Blessings

40 Day Blessing– Vincent Alexander Kotlarz, son of Diane Kotlarz

Baptisms

Nina Maria Stanley, daughter of Mike & Irene Stanley

Ava Lee Maddi, daughter of Jerry & Katrina Maddi

Alice Morton, daughter of Ryan & Nika Morton

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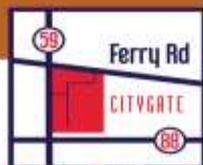


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the entire bill.



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A promotional coupon for Grandma's Table Family Restaurant. The background is a light pinkish-red. At the top, it says "There's no place like home, except Grandma's". Below that is a list of meal options: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner. In the center, a circular callout says "Bring this Coupon and Receive 20% the entire bill." To the right is a cartoon illustration of an elderly woman with glasses, wearing a dark red cardigan over a white collared shirt, sitting at a table with her hands clasped. Below the illustration, the restaurant's name "Grandma's Table" is written in a large, bubbly, pink font with a dark outline. Underneath that, "Family Restaurant" is written in a smaller, similar font. At the bottom, the address "1700 S. Douglas Rd. Montgomery, IL 60538" and phone number "630-892-1100" are listed.

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THE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM SAINT ATHANASIOS CHURCH

CHAMPION

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