

Ecumenical Patriarchate
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

ASCENSION

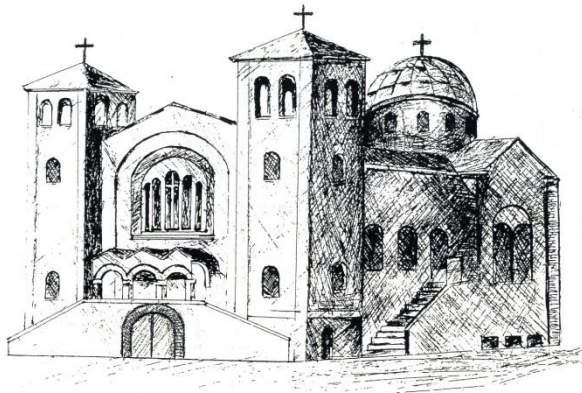
Greek Orthodox Church

FAIRVIEW - NEW JERSEY

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, March 17, 2019

Sunday of Orthodoxy



Οικουμενικόν Πατριαρχεῖον
Ιερά Μητρόπολις Νέας Ιερσέης
Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία
ΘΕΙΑΣ ΑΝΑΛΗΨΕΩΣ
ΦΕΡΒΙΟΥ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ
ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΙΑΙΟ ΔΕΛΤΙΟ
ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗΣ
Rev. Christos L. Pappas, Protopresbyter

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ & ΕΚΔΗΛΩΣΕΩΝ

Κυριακή, 17 Μαρτίου, 2019

Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας (Α΄ Νηστειών)

9 π.μ. – 12 μ.μ., Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

Φασολάδα από τη Φιλόπτωχο

Τρίτη, 19 Μαρτίου, 2019

6:00 μ.μ. Απόδειπνο

Τετάρτη, 20 Μαρτίου, 2019

4:30 μ.μ. – 6:15 μ.μ. Ελληνικό Σχολείο

6:00 μ.μ. Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία

Παρασκευή, 22 Μαρτίου, 2019

9:00 π.μ. Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία

4:30 μ.μ. – 6:30 μ.μ. Ελληνικό Σχολείο

7:30 μ.μ. Β΄ Χαιρετισμοί

Σάββατο, 23 Μαρτίου, 2019

2:00 μ.μ. Εορτασμός της Ελληνικής Ανεξαρτησίας

στο Recreation Centre, Fort Lee

Κυριακή, 24 Μαρτίου, 2019

Γρηγορίου Παλαμά (Β΄ Νηστειών)

9:00 π.μ. – 12 μ.μ. Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

Ο καφές σερβίρεται από το Συμβούλιο

7:00 μ.μ. Εσπερινός - (Ναός Ευαγγελισμού, Jersey City)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday, March 17, 2019

Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon Orthros, D. Liturgy

Fasolada Fundraising Event from Philoptochos

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

6:00 p.m. Great Compline

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

4:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Greek School

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 22, 2019

9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Greek School

7:30 p.m. 2nd Salutations

Saturday, March 23, 2019

2:00 p.m. Celebration of the Greek Independence Day

At the Recreation Centre, Fort Lee

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Orthros, Divine Liturgy

Coffee is served by the Board

7:00 p.m. Vespers (Evangelismos Church, Jersey City)

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 11:24-26, 32-40

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ'.
Δανιήλ 3.26-27

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.
Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 11:24-26, 32-40 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα Ἀδελφοί, πίστει Μωϋσῆς μέγας γενόμενος ἠρνήσατο λέγεσθαι υἱὸς θυγατρὸς Φαραῶ, μᾶλλον ἐλόμενος συγκακουχεῖσθαι τῷ λαῷ τοῦ θεοῦ ἢ πρόσκαιρον ἔχειν ἀμαρτίας ἀπόλαυσιν· μείζονα πλοῦτον ἠγησάμενος τῶν Αἰγύπτου θησαυρῶν τὸν ὄνειδισμόν τοῦ Χριστοῦ· ἀπέβλεπεν γὰρ εἰς τὴν μισθαποδοσίαν. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; Ἐπιλείπει γὰρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψῶν καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν· οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων. Ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον· περιῆλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι - ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος - ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὀπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες, μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως, οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν.

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.
Daniel 3.26,27

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40 Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 1:44-52 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἠθέλησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐξελθεῖν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· καὶ εὕρισκει Φίλιππον καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· ἀκολούθει μοι. ἦν δὲ ὁ Φίλιππος ἀπὸ Βηθσαϊδά, ἐκ τῆς πόλεως Ἀνδρέου καὶ Πέτρου. εὕρισκει Φίλιππος τὸν Ναθαναήλ καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· ὃν ἔγραψε Μωϋσῆς ἐν τῷ νόμῳ καὶ οἱ προφῆται, εὐρήκαμεν, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Ἰωσήφ τὸν ἀπὸ Ναζαρετ. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ Ναθαναήλ· ἐν Ναζαρετ δύναται τι ἀγαθὸν εἶναι; λέγει αὐτῷ Φίλιππος· ἔρχου καὶ ἴδε. εἶδεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὸν Ναθαναήλ ἐρχόμενον πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ λέγει περὶ αὐτοῦ· ἴδε ἀληθῶς Ἰσραηλίτης, ἐν ᾧ δόλος οὐκ ἔστι. λέγει αὐτῷ Ναθαναήλ· πόθεν με γινώσκεις; ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· πρὸ τοῦ σε Φίλιππον φωνῆσαι, ὅντα ὑπὸ τὴν συκῆν εἶδόν σε. ἀπεκρίθη Ναθαναήλ καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· ῥαββί, σὺ εἶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, σὺ εἶ ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραήλ. ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ὅτι εἶπόν σοι, εἶδόν σε ὑποκάτω τῆς συκῆς, πιστεύεις; μείζω τούτων ὄψει. καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἀπ' ἄρτι ὄψεσθε τὸν οὐρανὸν ἀνεωγμένον, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ καταβαίνοντας ἐπὶ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

The Gospel According to John 1:43-51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Rejoicing today in the triumph of Orthodoxy on this first Sunday of Lent, we joyfully commemorate three events: one event belonging to the past; one event to the present; and one event which still belongs to the future.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rejoicing today in the triumph of Orthodoxy on this first Sunday of Lent, we joyfully commemorate three events: one event belonging to the past; one event to the present; and one event which still belongs to the future. Whenever we have any feast or joy in the Church, we Orthodox first of all look back — for in our present life we depend on what happened in the past. We depend first of all, of course, on the first and the ultimate triumph—that of Christ Himself. Our faith is rooted in that strange defeat which became the most glorious victory — the defeat of a man nailed to the cross, who rose again from the dead, who is the Lord and the Master of the world. This is the first triumph of Orthodoxy. This is the content of all our commemorations and of all our joy. This man selected and chose twelve men, gave them power to preach about that defeat and that victory, and sent them to the whole world saying preach and baptize, build up the Church, announce the Kingdom of God. And you know, my brothers and sisters, how those twelve men — very simple men indeed, simple fishermen — went out and preached. The world hated them, the Roman Empire persecuted them, and they were covered with blood. But that blood was another victory. The Church grew, the Church covered the universe with the true faith. After 300 years of the most unequal conflict between the powerful Roman Empire and the powerless Christian Church, the Roman Empire accepted Christ as Lord and Master. That was the second triumph of Orthodoxy. The Roman Empire recognized the one whom it crucified and those whom it persecuted as the bearers of truth, and their teaching as the teaching of life eternal. The Church

triumphed. But then the second period of troubles began. The following centuries saw many attempts to distort the faith, to adjust it to human needs, to fill it with human content. In each generation there were those who could not accept that message of the cross and resurrection and life eternal. They tried to change it, and those changes we call heresies. Again there were persecutions. Again, Orthodox bishops, monks and laymen defended their faith and were condemned and went into exile and were covered with blood. And after five centuries of those conflicts and persecutions and discussions, the day came which we commemorate today, the day of the final victory of Orthodoxy as the true faith over all the heresies. It happened on the first Sunday of Lent in the year 843 in Constantinople. After almost 100 years of persecution directed against the worship of the holy icons, the Church finally proclaimed that the truth had been defined, that the truth was fully in the possession of the Church. And since then all Orthodox people, wherever they live, have gathered on this Sunday to proclaim before the world their faith in that truth, their belief that their Church is truly apostolic, truly Orthodox, truly universal. This is the event of the past that we commemorate today. But let us ask ourselves one question: Do all the triumphs of Orthodoxy, all the victories, belong to the past? Looking at the present today, we sometimes feel that our only consolation is to remember the past. Then Orthodoxy was glorious, then the Orthodox Church was powerful, then it dominated. But what about the present? My dear friends, if the triumph of Orthodoxy belongs to the past only, if there is nothing else for us to do but commemorate, to repeat to ourselves how glorious was the past, then Orthodoxy is dead. But we are here tonight to witness to the fact that Orthodoxy not only is not dead but also that it is once more and forever celebrating its own triumph — the triumph of Orthodoxy. We don't have to fight heresies among ourselves, but we have other things that once more challenge our Orthodox faith. Today, gathered here together, Orthodox of various national backgrounds, we proclaim and we glorify first of all our unity in Orthodoxy. This is the

triumph of Orthodoxy in the present.

This is a most wonderful event: that all of us, with all our differences, with all our limitations, with all our weaknesses, can come together and say we belong to that Orthodox faith, that we are one in Christ and in Orthodoxy. We are living very far from the traditional centers of Orthodoxy. We call ourselves Eastern Orthodox, and yet we are here in the West, so far from those glorious cities which were centers of the Orthodox faith for centuries — Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, Moscow. How far are those cities. And yet, don't we have the feeling that something of a miracle has happened, that God has sent us here, far into the West, not just in order to settle here, to increase our income, to build up a community. He also has sent us as apostles of Orthodoxy, so that this faith, which historically was limited to the East, now is becoming a faith which is truly and completely universal. This is a thrilling moment in the history of Orthodoxy. That is why it is so important for us to be here tonight and to understand, to realize, to have that vision of what is going on. People were crossing the ocean, coming here, not thinking so much about their faith as about themselves, about their lives, about their future. They were usually poor people, they had a difficult life, and they built those little Orthodox churches everywhere in America not for other people but for themselves, just to remember their homes, to perpetuate their tradition. They didn't think of the future. And yet this is what happened: the Orthodox Church was sent here through and with those poor men. The truth itself, the fullness of the apostolic faith—all this came here, and here we are now, filling this hall and proclaiming this apostolic faith — the faith that has strengthened the universe. And this leads us to the event which still belongs to the future. If today we can only proclaim, if we can only pray for that coming triumph of Orthodoxy in this country and in the world, our Orthodox faith forces us to believe that it is not by accident but by divine providence that the Orthodox faith today has reached all countries, all cities, all continents of the universe. After that

historic weakness of our religion, after the persecutions by the Roman Empire, by the Turks, by the godless atheists, after all the troubles that we had to go through, today a new day begins. Something new is going to happen. And it is this future of Orthodoxy that we have to rejoice about today. We can already have a vision of that future when, in the West, a strong American Orthodox Church comes into existence. We can see how this faith, which for such a long time was an alien faith here, will become truly and completely universal in the sense that we will answer the questions of all men, and also all their questions. For if we believe in that word: "Orthodoxy," "the true faith"; if for one moment we try to understand what it means: the true, the full Christianity, as it has been proclaimed by Christ and His disciples; if our Church has preserved for all ages the message of the apostles and of the fathers and of the saints in its purest form, then, my dear friends, here is the answer to the questions and to the problems and to the sufferings of our world. You know that our world today is so complex. It is changing all the time. And the more it changes, the more people fear, the more they are frightened by the future, the more they are preoccupied by what will happen to them. And this is where Orthodoxy must answer their problem; this is where Orthodoxy must accept the challenge of modern civilization and reveal to men of all nations, to all men in the whole world, that it has remained the force of God left in history for the transformation, for the deification, for the transfiguration of human life. The past, the present, the future: At the beginning, one lonely man on the cross — the complete defeat. And if at that time we had been there with all our human calculations, we probably would have said: "That's the end. Nothing else will happen." The twelve left Him. There was no one, no one to hope. The world was in darkness. Everything seemed finished. And you know what happened three days later. Three days later He appeared. He appeared to His disciples, and their hearts were burning within them because they knew that He was the risen Lord. And since then, in every generation, there have been people with burning hearts, people who have felt that

this victory of Christ had to be carried again and again into this world, to be proclaimed in order to win new human souls and to be the transforming force in history.

Today this responsibility belongs to us. We feel that we are weak. We feel that we are limited, we are divided, we are still separated in so many groups, we have so many obstacles to overcome. But today, on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we close our eyes for a second and we rejoice in that unity which is already here: priests of various national churches praying together, people of all backgrounds uniting in prayer for the triumph of Orthodoxy. We are already in a triumph, and may God help us keep that triumph in our hearts, so that we never give up hope in that future event in the history of orthodoxy when Orthodoxy will become the victory which eternally overcomes all the obstacles, because that victory is the victory of Christ Himself.

As we approach the most important moment of the Eucharist, the priest says, "Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess...." What is the condition of the real triumph of Orthodoxy? What is the way leading to the real, the final, the ultimate victory of our faith? The answer comes from the Gospel. The answer comes from Christ Himself and from the whole tradition of Orthodoxy. It is love. Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess . . . confess our faith, our Orthodoxy. Let us, from now on, feel responsible for each other. Let us understand that even if we are divided in small parishes, in small dioceses, we first of all belong to one another. We belong together, to Christ, to His Body, to the Church. Let us feel responsible for each other, and let us love one another. Let us put above everything else the interests of Orthodoxy in this country. Let us understand that each one of us today has to be the apostle of Orthodoxy in a country which is not yet Orthodox, in a society which is asking us: "What do you believe?" "What is your faith?" And let us, above everything else, keep the memory, keep the experience, keep the taste of that unity which we are anticipating tonight.

At the end of the first century — when the Church was still a very small group, a very small minority, in a society which was definitely anti-Christian when the persecution was beginning — St. John the Divine, the beloved disciple of Christ, wrote these words: "And this is the victory, our faith, this is the victory." There was no victory at that time, and yet he knew that in his faith he had the victory that can be applied to us today. We have the promise of Christ, that the gates of hell will never prevail against the Church. We have the promise of Christ that if we have faith, all things are possible. We have the promise of the Holy Spirit, that He will fill all that which is weak, that He will help us at the moment when we need help. In other words, we have all the possibilities, we have everything that we need, and therefore the victory is ours. It is not a human victory which can be defined in terms of money, of human success, of human achievements. What we are preaching tonight, what we are proclaiming tonight, what we are praying for tonight, is the victory of Christ in me, in us, in all of you in the Orthodox Church in America. And that victory of Christ in us, of the one who for us was crucified and rose again from the dead, that victory will be the victory of His Church. Today is the triumph of Orthodoxy, and a hymn sung today states solemnly and simply: "This is the Apostolic faith, this is the Orthodox faith, this is the faith of the Fathers, this is the faith that is the foundation of the world." My dear brothers and sisters, this is also our own faith. We are chosen. We are elected. We are the happy few that can say of our faith, "apostolic," "universal," "the faith of our fathers," "Orthodoxy," "the truth." Having this wonderful treasure, let us preserve it, let us keep it, and let us also use it in such a way that this treasure becomes the victory of Christ in us and in His Church. Amen.

Α΄ Κυριακή των Νηστειών - της Ορθοδοξίας

Η αγία αυτή ημέρα είναι ξεχωριστή, διότι παρά το κατανυκτικό κλίμα της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής, εορτάζει λαμπρά η Ορθοδοξία μας, η αληθινή Εκκλησία του Χριστού. Ποιούμε ανάμνηση του κορυφαίου γεγονότος της εκκλησιαστικής μας ιστορίας, της αναστηλώσεως των ιερών εικόνων, το οποίο επισυνέβη το 843 μ.Χ. στο Βυζάντιο, χάρις στην αποφασιστική συμβολή της βασιλίσσης και μετέπειτα αγίας Θεοδώρας, συζύγου του αυτοκράτορα Θεοφίλου (840 - 843 μ.Χ.). Αναφερόμαστε στη μεγάλη εικονομαχική έριδα, η οποία συντάραξε κυριολεκτικά την Εκκλησία μας για περισσότερα από εκατό χρόνια. Το 726 μ.Χ. ο αυτοκράτωρ Λέων ο Γ' ο Ίσαυρος (717 - 741 μ.Χ.) αποφάσισε να επιφέρει στο κράτος ριζικές μεταρρυθμίσεις. Μια από αυτές ήταν η απαγόρευση προσκύνησης των ιερών εικόνων, επειδή, παίρνοντας αφορμή από ορισμένα ακραία φαινόμενα εικονολατρίας, πίστευε πως η χριστιανική πίστη παρέκλινε στην ειδωλολατρία. Στην ουσία όμως εξέφραζε δικές του ανεικονικές απόψεις, οι οποίες ήταν βαθύτατα επηρεασμένες από την ανεικονική ιουδαϊκή και ισλαμική πίστη. Η αναταραχή ήταν αφάνταστη. Η αυτοκρατορία χωρίστηκε σε δύο φοβερά αντιμαχόμενες ομάδες, τους εικονομάχους και τους εικονολάτρεις. Οι διώξεις φοβερές. Μεγάλες πατερικές μορφές ανάλαβαν να υπερασπίσουν την ορθόδοξη πίστη. Στα 787 μ.Χ. συγκλήθηκε η Ζ' Οικουμενική Σύνοδος, η οποία διατύπωσε με ακρίβεια την οφειλόμενη τιμή στις ιερές εικόνες. Σε αυτή επίσης διευκρινίστηκαν και άλλα δυσνόητα σημεία της χριστιανικής πίστεως, έτσι ώστε να έχουμε πλήρη αποκρυστάλλωση του ορθοδόξου δόγματος και να ομιλούμε για θρίαμβο της Ορθοδοξίας μας. Η εικόνα στην Ορθοδοξία μας δεν αποτελεί αντικείμενο λατρείας, αλλά λειτουργεί αποκλειστικά ως μέσον τιμής του εικονιζόμενου προσώπου. Ακόμα και ο Χριστός μπορεί να εικονισθεί, διότι έγινε άνθρωπος. Μάλιστα όποιος αρνείται τον εικονισμό του Χριστού αρνείται ουσιαστικά την ανθρώπινη φύση Του! Οι μεγάλοι Πατέρες και διδάσκαλοι της Εκκλησίας μας, που αναδείχθηκαν μέσα από τη λαίλαπα της εικονομαχίας,

διατύπωσαν το ορθόδοξο δόγμα με προσοχή και ευλάβεια. Η προσκύνηση της ιερής εικόνας του Χριστού και των άλλων ιερών προσώπων του Χριστιανισμού δεν είναι ειδωλολατρία, όπως κατηγορούνταν από τους εικονομάχους, διότι η τιμή δεν απευθύνεται στην ύλη, αλλά στο εικονιζόμενο πρόσωπο, καθότι «η της εικόνας τιμή επί το πρωτότυπον διαβαίνει» (Μ.Βασίλειος Ρ . Γ . 32,149) και «Προσκυνούμεν δε ταις εικόσιν ου τη ύλη προσφέροντες την προσκύνησιν, αλλά δι' αυτών τοις εν αυταίς εικονιζομένοις» (Ι. Δαμασκ. Ρ . Γ .94 1356). Η ευλογία και η χάρη που λαμβάνει ο πιστός από την προσκύνηση των ιερών εικόνων δίνεται από το ζωντανό ιερό πρόσωπο και όχι από την ύλη της εικόνας. Η εικόνα έχει τεράστια ποιμαντική χρησιμότητα. Μια εικόνα, σύμφωνα με γλωσσική έκφραση, αξίζει περισσότερο από χίλιες λέξεις. Αυτό σημαίνει ότι μέσω της εκκλησιαστικής εικονογραφίας οι πιστοί βοηθούνται να αναχθούν στις υψηλές πνευματικές θεωρίες και στο θείον. Βεβαίως η ηρεμία δεν αποκαταστάθηκε, διότι εξακολουθούσαν να βασιλεύουν εικονομάχοι αυτοκράτορες. Στα 843 η ευσεβής αυτοκράτειρα Θεοδώρα, επίτροπος του ανήλικου γιου της Μιχαήλ του Γ', έθεσε τέρμα στην εικονομαχική έριδα και συνετέλεσε στο θρίαμβο της Ορθοδοξίας. Οι Πατέρες όρισαν να εορτάζεται ο θρίαμβος του ορθοδόξου δόγματος την πρώτη Κυριακή των Νηστειών για να δείξει στους πιστούς πως ο πνευματικός μας αγώνας θα πρέπει να συνδυάζεται με την ορθή πίστη για να είναι πραγματικά αποτελεσματικός. Νηστεία και ασκητική ζωή έχουν και άλλες αιρέσεις ή θρησκείες, και μάλιστα με πολύ αυστηρότερους κανόνες άσκησης. Όμως αυτό δε σημαίνει ότι μπορούν αυτοί οι άνθρωποι να σωθούν και να ενωθούν με το Θεό. Η σωτηρία είναι συνώνυμη με την αλήθεια, αντίθετα η πλάνη και το ψεύδος οδηγούν σε αδιέξοδα και εν τέλει στην απώλεια.



Hellenic Civic Club

Ο ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΑΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ

Σας προσκαλεί να παρευθείτε μαζί μας στον
Εορτασμό της 25^{ης} Μαρτίου
Ημέρα της Ελληνικής Ανεξαρτησίας

Σάββατο 23^η Μαρτίου 2019

2:00μμ

Στο Recreation Center at Stillwell Ave., Fort Lee, N.J.

Θα γίνει η Έπαρση της Σημαίας και θα ακολουθήσει
δεξίωση

Θα προσφερθεί Φαγητό, γλυκά αναψυκτικά και καφές

ΕΙΣΟΔΟΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΗ

Hellenic Civic Club

Cordially, invites you to join us in the raising of the Greek Flag
For the Greek Independence Day of March 25th

Saturday March 23, 2019

At 2:00 p.m.

At the Recreation Center at Stillwell Ave., Fort Lee, N.J.

Reception with Food, Refreshments, Pastries & Coffee

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL CATHY BLUE (201) 592 1625 or (201) 655 9209



Ελευθερία ή θάνατος!
FREEDOM OR DEATH!

CLIFFS OF FREEDOM

Set at the dawn of the Greek War of Independence of 1821, "Cliffs of Freedom" is the story of an ill-fated romance between Anna Christina, a young Greek village girl, and Tariq, a conflicted Turkish officer who has doubts about his countrymen's brutal methods of governance. When their romance brings tragedy to her village, Anna Christina swears revenge against the Turks, joining the Greek rebellion and becoming a fearless rebel legend that inspires her people. Having believed that she could leave her feelings behind, Christina must face off against the man who still loves her and wants to keep her safe, but who has now been tasked with her capture. Their encounters and skirmishes inevitably lead to a tragic confrontation during a pivotal battle between the Greeks and Turks that will change the course of history.

*Look for the film in your local theaters
and lend your support in raising awareness
for this epic yet intimate human drama, which
captures the spirit of Greece and depicts an
important piece of our collective Greek history!*

For more information about the film or to view the trailer, visit:

cliffsoffreedomfilm.com

Follow the film for updates:

Instagram: [@cliffsoffreedomfilm](https://www.instagram.com/cliffsoffreedomfilm)

Twitter: [@cliffsfilm](https://twitter.com/cliffsfilm)

Facebook: [@officialCliffsofFreedomFilm](https://www.facebook.com/officialCliffsofFreedomFilm)

Ascension Greek Orthodox Church

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201-945-6448, Fax 201-945-6463

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Visit our website: www.AscensionFairview.org

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"Ascension Greek Orthodox Church"

Want to be added to our email list? Contact us:

info@ascensionfairview.org

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

YEAR 2019 ISSUE 3,3

SUNDAY, March 17, 2019

Sunday of Orthodoxy

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ, 17 Μαρτίου, 2019

Α' Νηστειών—Ορθοδοξίας

SACRAMENTS— ΜΥΣΤΗΡΙΑ

Baptisms

2:30 p.m. Nikolaos Kotsiotas, M/M

3:30 p.m. Steven Menegatos, M/M

Ελληνική Παρέλαση

Κυριακή: 14 Απριλίου, 2019 στις 1:30 μ.μ.

Η Εκκλησία θα έχει λεωφορείο εκείνη την ημέρα, το οποίο θα αναχωρήσει στις 12:00 μ.μ. για την Νέα Υόρκη. Όσοι ενδιαφέρεστε, παρακαλώ να τηλεφωνήσετε στο γραφείο της εκκλησίας και να δηλώσετε συμμετοχή. Το κόστος είναι \$10 το άτομο. Οι μαθητές και οι δασκάλοι του Ελληνικού Σχολείου είναι δωρεάν.

Greek Independence Day Parade

Sunday: April 14, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

That day a bus will depart from the church at 12:00 noon for New York. Anyone interested, please call the Church Office and register. The cost is \$10 per person. Students & Teachers of the Greek School are free of charge.