



The Voice of Holy Apostles
**Greek Orthodox Church of Indianapolis
+Metropolis of Detroit**

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Liturgy: 10:30 a.m.

Volume 11

March-April 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord! I pray you are all well, and the new year goes well for you.

I want to address the matter of Holy Communion. All the Mysteries (Sacraments) of the Church are vitally important. Supreme among these is the Divine Liturgy, which is the vehicle for Holy Communion. When we talk about whether we are in communion with other Christians or not, it means can we and do we share the Holy Gifts, the Body and Blood of Christ or not? The Divine Liturgy is the only Mystery/Sacrament that is repeated. It is of such supreme and vital importance, that we must be totally sure that we approach it in a right, proper and positive spirit and manner. To properly receive Holy Communion, you must be at peace in yourself and with your brethren. You cannot and must not approach the Chalice with anger, arrogance, contempt, judgement, or other negative thoughts and emotions. To do so is to invite judgement from God upon ourselves. To do so can also make you weak, sick, and dark. To do so is to show contempt for Christ. This is the teaching of the Orthodox Church.

However, having said all that (as advice and warning), we do not have to be perfect to receive Communion, because none of us are. We just have to repent, or at least trying to do so, plus be at peace in heart and mind, and with those around us. Then, we receive forgiveness, strength, blessing and healing.

Life is short, in the Light of Eternity. Someday, we will all die, leave the earth, and go on. The Sufis have a saying: "Die before you die." Prepare now for death by living fully and positively, taking every opportunity to rid ourselves of darkness and negativity. Then, when it comes our time to die, it will be light, peaceful, joyous and easy - rather than incredibly dark, painful and difficult. Sort out your issues now while it is relatively easy to do so. Make peace with God, as well as with your brothers and sisters, while you have these blessed opportunities. The choice is yours. Choose wisely and well.

God bless!

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. John

MAJOR FEAST DAY AND OTHER NOTEWORTHY DATES IN MARCH-APRIL

March 1 - Forgiveness Sunday -Cheesefare

March 2 – Great Lent Begins

March 22 - Sunday of the Holy Cross

March 25 – Annunciation – Greek Independence Day OXI

April 8 - Orthodox Sunday

April 12 – Palm Sunday

April 15 - Holy Unction

April 17 - Good Friday

April 18 - Holy Saturday

April 19 - Holy and Great Pascha -no services being held

Happiest of Name Days to all who celebrate this month! Χρόνια πολλά! Να χαίρεσαι το όνομά σας!

STEWARSHIP FORM:

Please remember that you must commence your stewardship with at least the stewardship form to be able to participate in the Spring General Assembly. Again, we will mention that the stewardship forms you send help the Parish Council to plan the year financially as well.

“LENT AND EASTER CALENDAR:”

MARCH 8 AT 5:00: *Orthodox Sunday* - Vespers at Holy Trinity Cathedral...bring your icons to church

APRIL 12: *Palm Sunday* - Lenten Fare - Easter bread delivery

APRIL 15 at 6:00 PM: *Holy Wednesday* - Μεγάλη Τεταρτη; ***Holy Unction*** – Ευχαλειον.

APRIL 17 KOUVOUKLION DECORATING OF THE EPTAPHIOS: Starts at 9:00 AM, and we will also be cleaning the church as well.

APRIL 17 at 7:00 PM: *Holy Friday* - Μεγάλη Παρασκευη; lamentations and perifora epitafiou.

APRIL 18 at 11:30 PM: *Holy Saturday* - Μεγαλο Σαββατο; Resurrection - Αναστασις –Πασχα.

April 19: – The Holy & Great Sunday: *Holy Pascha*; NO AGAPE SERVICE.

*** Resurrection liturgy will follow; θα ακολουθησει η λειτουργια της Αναστασεως

EASTER DONATIONS WELCOMED:

Easter will be upon us before you know it. Palm Sunday is April 12th and Pascha will be on April 19th, so we must begin planning. The following are some areas that your assistance would be appreciated.

1. Please consider making a financial donation for the purchase of flowers that adorn our church, and the purchase of candles for Holy Week.
2. We need someone to dye Easter eggs for Saturday evening.
3. We need 7 men to **volunteer** to help with the procession on Friday evening.
4. Volunteers are needed in helping to decorate the Kouvouklion on Friday April 17th at 9:00 AM.

Please contact a Parish Council member if you will be helping to make our Easter a meaningful experience for us all. Your time and effort are of great value to Holy Apostles, as well as yourself.

EASTER BREAD

Please see the attached or enclosed flier for information in ordering Easter Bread.

VASILOPITA LUNCHEON: Thank you to Dr. Tom Kocoshis for once again chairing the luncheon. Tom would like to thank his committee that consisted of Xanthippi and Nearhos Darzentas, Angelus Kocoshis, and Debbie O’Reilley, for their help. Tom is proud to announce that Holy Apostles was able to donate \$400 to St. Basil Academy.



On April 12th, there will be a small Lenten spread offered in the Coffee Hour room following the Divine Liturgy for all to share as we gather together.

Free will offerings will be accepted to help with the cost of items leading up to Pascha.

OUR ASSESSMENT TO THE ARCHDIOCESE: Holy Apostles was one of the 71 churches (out of 484) that took part in it in the Total Commitment Prepayment Program which raised over \$2.4 million in allocations. That support was critical to the Archdiocese meeting pressing obligations early in 2019 and help the Archdiocese in paying off the \$2 million line of credit by June 30, 2019. Remember that our obligation is \$3000 to the Archdiocese.

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AND NATIONAL SHRINE:

If you are interested in supporting the church and shrine in New York City, you will write your check payable to ST. NICHOLAS SHRINE BUILDING FUND. It should be mailed to Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, St Nicholas Fund, 8 E. 79th Street, New York, NY 10075.

DONATION:

Pamela Stevens of Baltimore has donated the following items in memory of her Mother, Georgia Stevens, for her one-year memorial.

Chalice Veils



Used for Pentecost



Used during Lent



Used for Christmas, Pascha, Transfiguration, and Theophany

Second icon stand for the front of the church



Congratulations to Rev. Fr. John for becoming certified in his new position with Delta Faucets.

PRAYERS: Cynthia Crisler loss her battle with cancer. She and her family have shared many Divine Liturgies with us. May her memory be eternal.

THANK YOU:

Audit Committee: John Kofodimos, Phyllis Kriner, and Maria Pahigiannis for your time given to the church. Xanthippi Darzentas and Debbie O'Reilley for making the Prosforo for the Divine Liturgies.