



The Voice of Holy Apostles
Greek Orthodox Church of Indianapolis
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Volume 9

February 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray that this finds you each and all safe and warm and well. That was quite an arctic blast that we had there for a while. An over-rated pastime, as the English would say! So, be sure to take good care of your inner and outer health, especially during the winter months. And may the Lord have Mercy on us all, including with the weather!

You know, it is always amazing to me how fast time passes. We just celebrated Christmas and New Year's, and now, Great Lent seems just around the corner (and it is). What new can really be said about Lent? Much the same gets said every year about the time and its meaning and purpose. However, that does not mean that nothing new can happen for us in this time, in this process. What we derive from Lent depends on us, each one of us. The key lies in seeing it as a time of potential repentance, renewal, growth, transformation. I say potential, because it is not a given what we do or do not get out of this. In other words, nothing invested or ventured, nothing gained.

How long does it take for us to realize that WE are responsible for the state of our inner lives, NOT anyone else? Although I do not change myself, let alone anyone else, if I do not co-operate with God in seeking to repent, change, grow, I have only myself to blame. It is ever so easy to blame other people for my unhappiness, discontent, lack of fulfillment, etc. It demands great honesty and courage to face what is not right in me, and to be or become willing to tackle those issues, and to accept responsibility for my life and my choices, thereby finding a better and different way forward. Personal repentance is the key to changing the world, because we then start to deal with the world in ourselves. If we want peace and healing and sanity in the world, then we have to strive to experience those things within us first.

So, as we journey into and through Lent, towards Pascha, I strongly recommend that we make the effort and take the time to sort ourselves out, rather than being unnecessarily concerned with how other people are, or appear to be. God bless us each and all in this, and may it, by the Grace of God, bear much good fruit, to the upliftment and salvation of all, to the Glory of God.

Your Brother in Christ,
Fr. John

NOTED DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

February 02: Presentation of our Lord

February 04: Sunday of Prodigal Son

February 11: Judgement Sunday (Meatfare)

February 18: Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)

February 23: Salutations of the Theotokos

February 25: Sunday of Orthodoxy - Vespers at Holy Trinity at 5:00 PM

STEWARDSHIP:

You received the new 2018 Stewardship Form in your January *Voice*. Please take the time to fill out the paperwork for the Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL:

The council has voted to fill the seventh position on the council with Helen Kostarides.

PARISH NEWS:

Condolence to parishioner Irene T. Kratsios, on the passing of her father Captain Nicholas Tittonis, on December 22... just one week shy of his ninety-ninth birthday. A Seafarer for fifty years, Veteran of World War II and Master of Merchant Marine ships for thirty years; he lived a full and accomplished life. May his memory be eternal.

We wish condolences to parishioner Angelo Kostarides, on the passing of his brother Peter, in December. Also, condolences go out to his aunt Mary Kostarides and cousin Helen Kostarides. May his memory be eternal.

Thank you to Michael Pappas making the Vasilopita bread that was cut for the church and Angelus Kocoshis for his that topped off our wonderful meal at the luncheon.

Many thanks for the lovely Vasilopita luncheon that Dr. Thomas Kocoshis chaired. Because of this luncheon we were able to raise \$600 to donate to St. Basil's Academy, as well as share a good time with friends.

We also do not want to forget to thank our anonymous donor who also made this possible...God bless this special person.



Nezhla Sanderson's sister Maria received the coin in the church's Vasilopita that Michael Pappas made. At the luncheon Helen Kostarides and Eglie Stalas each got one as well. It was interesting that all age groups received the lucky coin for the New Year, and may that be a good sign for all of us in 2018.

Steward Elijah McKnight has had a prayer answered. He has been informed that there is a chaplain board certifying body that would grant him certification without requiring ecclesiastical endorsement. With this he hopes to return to chaplaincy at a local hospital and work towards being a clinical pastoral education supervisor. Congrats.



Thank you to Helen Kostarides and Debbie O'Reilley for taking Christmas decorations down, as well as cleaning the chapel and the coffee hour room.

PARISH COUNCIL IS LOOKING FOR A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON THAT WILL BE APRIL 1st. We need to plan ahead because that will be American Easter.