THE APOSTLE PETER AND THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

The scriptures are the fruit of revealed theology. Both the Prophets and Apostles of the New and Old Testament saw the glory of God. The Prophets saw the Word of God before his Incarnation, and the Apostles saw Christ after His birth. It is this experienced they recorded in their writings and led Christians with the content of this theology.

We see this in the feast of the Transfiguration also. In the epistle reading of the Feast, Peter the Apostle refers to the experience of the Transfiguration that he had. It is known that Peter was one of the three disciples who was worthy to be found at Tabor when Christ was transfigured in front of His disciples, where His face shone like the sun and His clothes were white as light.

Among other things, the Apostle Peter says that he did not come to know the power and presence of Christ through “cleverly devised stories”, that is, through the imagination and through thoughts, but “we were eyewitnesses of His majesty” (2 Pet 1:16). He then makes reference to the great event of the Transfiguration of Christ, when he heard the voice of the Father say: “This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.” He heard this voice, he says, “when we were with Him on the sacred mountain” (2 Pet 1:17,18). Thus, what he says is the fruit of revealed theology and not philosophy and moralism.

With this experience Peter directed Christians and his advice was inspired by this great revealed truth. He did not teach Christians with human reasoning and did not give them human advice, nor were his words based on social and moral teaching to become good people and good citizens.

Among other things, he says to Christians: “Make every effort to confirm your calling and election” (2 Pet. 1:10). That is, there is a need for great hustle and struggle for Christians to know and live their calling and their election. Man, immediately after his creation, was called by God to reach His likeness, to be united with God. This is the great call and the great election. For this reason Basil the Great says that man is called to be a god, that is he is called to become a god by grace. When man sees his calling and his election, and strives to fulfill it, in the way the Orthodox Church teaches, then he “will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 1:11)

From this it seems, my beloved brethren, that we have been formed for great and high things, for eternal and inalienable goods. We were not created by God to have good times in this life and live only a biological, social and family life. God must be the center of our lives. We must realize this, because only this can change our life and everything we now live will gain another perspective and another meaning.

Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos

THE BLESSING OF GRAPES ON THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

Next Sunday (August 6) is the Great Feastday of the Transfiguration of our Lord. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on this day, it is customary to bless grapes. The blessing of grapes is a beautiful sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God’s unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.

We invite you to bring grapes to Church on the feastday of the Holy Transfiguration next Sunday for the blessing of grapes!
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Philoptochos of St. Haralambos invites you to today’s Coffee Fellowship Hour after today’s services.

PROSPHORA—We thank Mrs. Eleni Katris and the Tafreshing Family who have offered today’s prosphora. Next week, the prosphora will be offered by Mrs. Niki Maglaris, Mrs. Demetra Anastasiadis, Mrs. Georgia Vasilopoulos and Mrs. Zoi Govis (Sun, Aug 6).

MEMORIAL SERVICES
I year—Angelo Dimitropoulos  I year—Giorgios Katsoudas
Memorial services are offered for the eternal rest of persons who have fallen asleep in the Lord. There are some days when Memorials are not permitted—please call the church office before planning. Memorials take place at 40 days, at 6 months, at 1 year and at 3 years. After three years have passed, the departed are more properly remembered on the Saturdays of the Souls.
Please also remember that we have discontinued the custom of placing candles in the kolyva.

SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY
Congratulations to………..Bob Downes on his baptism last Wednesday at St. Haralambos.
………..Damara Diamond on her baptism yesterday at our church.
………..Mr. and Mrs. Demosthenis Tsatsanis on the baptism of their son this afternoon at our church.

HOW TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION—Orthodox Christians in good standing are encouraged to receive Holy Communion frequently, provided they have prepared themselves spiritually, mentally and physically. They must be on time for the Divine Liturgy, and be in a Christ-like, calm state of mind. They should be in a confession relationship with their priest or spiritual father, and they should have self-examined their conscience.
On the day of receiving Holy Communion, it is not proper to eat or drink anything before coming to church. When you approach to receive Holy Communion, state your Christian (baptismal) name clearly, and hold the red communion cloth to your chin. After receiving, wipe your lips on the cloth, step back carefully, hand the cloth to the next person and make the sign of the Cross as you step away. Please take special care not to bump the Holy Chalice.

THANK YOU TO OUR ANONYMOUS DONOR! We are very happy to announce that our church received an anonymous donation of $25,000 three weeks ago! We are most grateful to our unnamed benefactor and pray that our Lord reward his/her generosity with abundant blessings!

A STEWARDSHIP REMINDER—We are grateful to the 489 families who have committed $ 271,012.00 so far this year! How about you? Jesus told us “YOU are the light of the World; let your light shine before others.” Stewardship is discovering our light by using the talents and gifts God has given us. True stewardship means that our offering to God is a reflection of the Light in us, and of our appreciation for the blessings and benefits we derive from our Church!
If you have not yet made your 2017 commitment, please do so.

125 YEARS OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY IN CHICAGO
2017 has bee proclaimed as the “Anniversary of Orthodox Christianity in Greater Chicago.” The anniversary will be commemorated on Saturday, September 30, with a majestic Pan-Orthodox Hierarchical Liturgy and Anniversary Luncheon.
The Anniversary Divine Liturgy will take place at Lane Tech Auditorium, 2501 West Addison at Western, Chicago, followed by the Anniversary Luncheon at the Chicago Marriott O’Hare, 8535 West Higgins Road, Chicago. SAVE THIS DATE!
OUR ST HARALAMBOS “INREACH” COMMITTEE announces the fourth in a series of
talks about our faith in the home with a presentation in our Community Center on Wednesday
evening, August 9, immediately following the Paraclesis Service.
Our presenter will be Pani (Presvytera) Marianna Bannon, speaking on Getting Ready for Sea-
sons of Preparation. Paraclesis at 7:00 with Pani’s talk following. Refreshments will be served!

AREA FESTIVALS—St. Demetrios in Libertyville is having their Fest today. Plan to visit and
support them!

DONATION BOX — We are grateful to all of you who have placed contributions in the dona-
tion box in the narthex. These contributions are used to help people who come to us and need
financial help. You have helped many people! There continue to be many people in need; your
continued support is greatly appreciated.

WE WELCOME all our friends, parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Haralambos
today. We are happy that you have come to worship with us, and hope that you have had a
prayerful and uplifting experience. We invite you to join the St. Haralambos family for worship
and other activities any time!

WHAT IS STRONGYLI MEGISTIS? Strongyli Megistis is a very small but
strategic Greek Island off the southern coast of Turkey, in an area where oil has
been found under the sea bed. These are Greek waters, but Turkey challenges this
claim and has sent naval ships to the area.

In an effort to raise money so that the plight of Strongyli Megistis can be publi-
cized, the Metropolis of Chicago has agreed to participate in fundraising through
selling a special bottle of premium Extra Virgin Olive Oil with a label depicting
the St. Nicolaos Chapel of Strongyli Megistis. The bottle sells for $12 and is avail-
able in the church office! Your support is appreciated and meaningful!

IT IS PROPER AND RIGHT...
Please understand that chewing gum in church is considered to be very discourteous and even vulgar.
Your attention to this is greatly appreciated.

Be considerate! Please remove lipstick when reverencing the holy icons or receiving Holy
Communion.

Please teach your children that it is not proper to play video games, eat snacks, chew gum or cross
their legs in church.

Please be careful when you receive Holy Communion that you do not bump the Holy Chalice
and cause it to spill!

Please teach your children to dress modestly. Shoulders and midriffs should be covered, and
discretion used concerning skirt lengths and excessive makeup and jewelry.

Please turn off cell-phones and video games during Church services.
Phone conversations are not allowed in church.

THE 2017 BIG GREEK FOOD FEST OF NILES

We are happy to announce that our 2017 Big Greek Food Fest was one of our most successful of all! MANY THANKS for your support—we appreciate all who donated, volunteered and attended!
Congratulations to Toula Peters, the winner of this year’s Grand Raffle!
Ἀπόστολος καὶ Εὐαγγέλιον τῆς Ημέρας

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ
Πρὸς Κορινθίους α’ 10-17

Αδελφοί, παρακαλῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς, αδελφοί, διὰ τοῦ ὀνόματος τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν ᾽Ιησού Χριστοῦ, ἵνα τὸ αὐτὸ λέγητε πάντες, καὶ μὴ ἢ ἐν υἱοὶ σχίσματα, ἦτε δὲ κατηρτισμένοι ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ νοῒ καὶ ἐν τῇ αὐτῇ γνώμῃ. Εὐθύλωθη γὰρ μοι περὶ υἱοὺν, ἀδελφοί μου, ὑπὸ τῶν Χλόης ὅτι ἔριδες ἐν υἱοὶ εἰςιν. Λέγω δὲ τοῦτο, ὅτι ἐκατοστὸς ὑμῶν λέγει, Ἐγὼ μὲ ν εἰμί Παύλου, Ἐγὼ δὲ ᾽Απολλώ, Ἐγὼ δὲ Κηφᾶ, Ἐγὼ δὲ Χριστοῦ. Μεμέρισται ο Χριστός; μὴ Παύλος ἐσταυρώθη ὑπὲρ υἱοὺν, ἢ εἰς τὸ ὄνομα Παύλου ἐβαπτίσθητε; εὐχαριστῶ ὅτι οὐ δὲ εἰς τὸ ὄνομα ἐβαπτίσα ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς μην εἰς τὸ ὄνομα Παύλου, οὐδέ σταυρὸς τοῦ Χριστοῦ μὴ ἔχετε ὑμῖν ἔκαστος, ὅτι ἐμὸν ὄνομα ἐβαπτίσετε, ὅπως ἐμὸν ἔμαχος ἡμῖν. Καὶ γὰρ ἐξελεγκτέλεν μὲ τοῦ Χριστοῦ βαπτίζετε ἀλλὰ εὐαγγελίζεσθαί, οὐκ ἐν σοφίᾳ λόγου, ἐν κατηρτίσει, ἐν ὑμῖν ἀδελφοῖ, ἐν τῷ Χριστῷ πάντες ἔστε συμφώνους.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ
Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαίου ἓ’ 14-22

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἶδεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς πολὺν υἱοὺ, καὶ ἐσπλαγγνίσθη ἐπ᾽ αὐτοῖς καὶ ἐθεράπευσεν τοὺς ἀρρώστους αὐτῶν. Οὐκ ἀπεστείλε Χριστὸς βαπτίζειν ἀλλὰ εὐαγγελίζεσθαι, οὐκ ἐν σοφίᾳ λόγου, ἵνα μὴ κενωθῇ ὁ σταυρὸς τοῦ Χριστοῦ.
BRETHREN, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.
**St. Haralambos Inreach Series**

Practical Preparation for the Spiritual Preparatory Seasons

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9 AFTER PARAKLESIS AT 7 P.M.**

**PANI MARIANNA BANNON**

Author of Fasting for the Feasts: A Starter’s Book

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**Family Synaxis**

**METROPOLE CHICAGO**

**Labor Day Weekend**

**Family Retreat**

**Fr. Stephen Freeman presents**

**Living the Mystery**

*Fr. Stephen a priest, author, blogger and professor. Learn more about him at* [GloryToGodForAllThings.com](http://GloryToGodForAllThings.com)

**Friday, Sept 1, 2017 7 p.m. – Sunday, Sept 3, 2017 3 p.m.**

St. Takanos Retreat Center

3000 S. Sycamore Ave

This weekend retreat for Orthodox Christians will include worship workshops & discussion groups for both adults and children, fun outdoor activities including nature walks, hikes, barn visits, activities and fellowship with other families.

**Register now!**

[www.geofamiliesynaxis.org](http://www.geofamiliesynaxis.org)

Find out more, see resources, retreat schedule & more online

**Save the Date!**

**OCTOBER 28, 2017**

**2017 ST. HARALAMBOS GOLF EVENT**

Thursday, September 21, 2017 · Old Orchard Country Club

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**ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY**

**1892 GREATER CHICAGO 2017**

**ORTHODOX CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CLERGY ASSOCIATION OF GREECE CHICAGO-OCII**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

**PAN ORTHODOX HIERARCHICAL LITURGY**

**AT CELEBRATION BANQUET**

**St. Demetrios Cultural Center - Chicago**

**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA**

**METROPOLE OF DENVER**

**YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE**

**SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2017**

**HOUSTON, TEXAS**

**Faith • Fun • Fellowship**

Young Adults ages 19-22

**REGISTER TODAY!**

[limited registrations](http://www.DENVER.COARCH.ORG)

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Ανακοινώσεις

STEWARDSHIP 2017—Εαν δεν έχετε συμπληρώσει την κάρτα προσφοράς σας για το 2017, παρακαλούμε να επιληφθείτε το συντομότερο. Δεν έχουμε θέσει όρια, αλλά αληθινό stewardship σημαίνει να δίνουμε ανάλογα τον εισοδημάτος μας.

Το επίπεδο προσφοράς του stewardship θα πρέπει να είναι ένα ποσό που θα αντιπροσωπεύει την αυξανόμενη αγάπη μας προς τον Θεό και την εκκλησία μας δια της ευλογίας και όλα τα καλά που μας προσφέρει η εκκλησία μας!

ΠΟΙΟΙ ΔΥΝΑΝΤΑΙ ΝΑ ΛΑΒΟΥΝ ΘΕΙΑΝ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ—Όταν λαμβάνομε Θείαν Κοινωνίαν η οποία αντικατοπτρίζει την αιώνια έννοια της Ορθοδοξίας, είναι αρκετά σαφές ότι μόνοι οι Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί δύνανται να λάβουν μέρος εις την Εκκλησία. Διά τούτο, μόνοι οι Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί δύνανται να λάβουν μέρος εις την Εκκλησία, ενώ οι Πρώτοι Χριστιανοί δεν είχαν καθίσματα δια τους πιστούς!

ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΑ—Επιμνημόσυνες δεήσεις γίνονται για την αιώνια ανάπαυση των τεθνεώντων. Συνήθως, αυτές οι δεήσεις γίνονται κατά τα 40 ημέρες, τα 6 μήνες, τον 1ον χρόνο και τον 3ον χρόνο. Οταν έχουμε επέμεινε τις ημέρες, είναι πιο αρμόδιο να μνημονεύουμε τους αποκεκομένους κατά την Επικλήσεως.

ΠΟΤΕ ΝΑ ΓΟΝΑΤΙΖΟΥΜΕ, ΝΑ ΣΤΕΚΟΜΑΣΤΕ ΚΑΙ ΝΑ ΚΑΘΟΜΑΣΤΕ—Από την πρώτη χρονιά, την Εκκλησία μας δίδαξε ότι η αρμόδια διάθεση για να προσευχόμεθα είναι να στέκομε σε θέση θρόνου. (Μέχρι πρόσφατα, οι περισσότερες Ορθόδοξες εκκλησίες δεν είχαν καθίσματα δια τους πιστούς! Τα καθίσματα υπήρχαν μόνο στις μήνες των ηλικιωμένων.)

ΣCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed, Aug 2</td>
<td>Paraclesis to the Theotokos</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, Aug 4</td>
<td>Paraclesis to the Theotokos</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
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</tbody>
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Σας παρακαλούμε όπως κρατάτε κλειστά τα κινητά σας τηλέφωνα.
TODAY'S ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR
Sunday, July 30, 2017
Eighth Sunday of Matthew — Κυριακή Η΄ Ματθαίου
The Holy Apostles from the 70, Silas, Silouan, Crescentos, Epenetos and Andronikos
Τὸν Ἁγίων Ἀποστόλων ἐκ τῶν Ἑβδομήκοντα, Σίλα, Σιλουανοῦ, Κρήσκεντος, Ἐπαινετοῦ καὶ Ἀνδρονίκου

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΗΜΕΡΑΣ – DISMISSAL HYMNS OF THE DAY

**Apolytikion of the Grave Tone**

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέωξας τῷ Ληστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρῆνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας, ὅτι άνέστης Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἐλέος.

You destroyed death by Your Cross; You opened Paradise to the thief. The Myrrh-bearers’ lamentation You transformed, and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim that You are risen, O Christ God, granting the world the Great Mercy.

**Apolytikion of the Holy Taxiarchs**

Τῶν οὐρανίων στρατιῶν Ἀρχιστράτηγοι, δυσωποῦμεν ὑμᾶς ἡμεῖς οἱ ἀνάξιοι, ἵνα ταῖς ὑμῶν δεήσεσι, τειχίσητε ὑμᾶς σκέπῃ τῶν πτερύγων, τῆς ἀΰλου ὑμῶν δόξης, φρουροῦντες ἡμᾶς προσπίπτοντας, ἐκ τῶν κινδύνων λυτρώσασθε ἡμᾶς, ὡς Ταξιάρχαι τῶν ἀνώ Δυνάμεων.

Supreme Commanders of the heavenly armies, we the unworthy beseech and implore you, that by your supplications you encircle us under the cover of the wings of your ineffable glory; guarding us who bow down with fervor crying: From dangers deliver us, as Leaders of the Powers above.

**Apolytikion of St. Haralambos**

Ὡς στῦλος ἀκλόνητος, τῆς Ἐκκλησίας Χριστοῦ, καὶ λύχνος ἀείφωτος τῆς οἰκουμένης σοφέ, ἐδείχθης Χαράλαμπες, ἔλαμψας ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, διὰ τοῦ μαρτυρίου, ἔλυσας τῶν εἰδώλων, τὴν σκοτόμαιναν μάκαρ, διὸ ἐν παῤῥησίᾳ Χριστῷ, πρέσβευε σωθῆναι ἡμᾶς.

As a pillar unshakable of the Church of Christ, and an ever-radiant lamp to the universe, were you, O wise Haralambos; you illumined the world through martyrdom; you dispelled the moonless night of the idols, o blessed one. Therefore with boldness before Christ, intercede that we may be saved.

ΚΟΝΤΑΚΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΗΜΕΡΑΣ – KONTAKION OF THE DAY

Ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους μετεμορφώθησις, καὶ ἦς ἔχωσαν οἱ Μάθηται σου τὴν δόξαν σου, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός ἐθεάσατο, ἵνα ἄνατν σὲ ἱδώσει σταυροῦμεν, τὸ μὲν πάθος νοήσωσιν ἑκούσι, τῷ δὲ κόσμῳ κηρύξωσιν, ὅτι σὺ ὑπάρχεις αληθῶς, τοῦ Πατρὸς τὸ ἀπαύγασμα.

On the mount You were transfigured, and Your disciples, as much as they could bear, beheld Your glory, O Christ our God; that when they should see You crucified, they would know Your Passion to be voluntary, and would preach to the world that, in truth, You are the Radiance of the Father.