### Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
New Orleans, Louisiana

**DECEMBER 10, 2023 — 10th SUNDAY OF LUKE**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Orthros – Eothinon 5 — Second Mode</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Liturgy – 10th Luke</td>
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<td>Sunday Church School following Communion</td>
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<td>Christmas Pageant Practice after Sunday School</td>
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<td>Philoptochos Angel Tree Project ends</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Philoptochos Board Meeting in the Gym</td>
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<td>9:30-12:30pm</td>
<td>Philoptochos Pastry Workshop</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Cathedral Book Club in Round Room</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Great Vespers – Saint Spyridon</td>
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<td>Philoptochos Vasilopita Committee Workshop</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Regular Parish Council Meeting-Hybrid</td>
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<td>9:30-12:30pm</td>
<td>Philoptochos Pastry Workshop</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>December 14</td>
<td>7:00-8:00pm</td>
<td>Adult Greek School (Level I Beginners)</td>
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<td>6:00-7:00pm</td>
<td>Greek School (High School)</td>
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<td>7:00-8:00pm</td>
<td>Adult Greek School (Level 2)</td>
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<td>Great Vespers - Saint Eleftherios</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Orthros – Saint Eleftherios</td>
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<td>Great Vespers - Saint Modestos</td>
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<td>3:30-4:45pm</td>
<td>Byzantine Music Class</td>
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<td>Great Vespers</td>
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**PHILOPTOCHOS** — Donations for the Philoptochos Angel Tree to provide Christmas Gift Cards for families in need are being collected after Sunday Church Services until today Sunday, December 10. Philoptochos Board Meeting is today following Church Services in the Gym.

**TIROPITES FOR SALE** - The Daughters of Penelope have a few dozen frozen Tiropites for sale at $15 per dozen. If you are interested, purchase today or contact Barbara Wolf at 985-807-4034.
From Father George -

STEWARDSHIP - 2024

As we come close to the end of the year, we have an opportunity to think about completing our current year’s pledge to the Cathedral and perhaps even increasing it for next year. Our Archdiocese shares many thought-provoking ideas regarding our giving to the Church, such as this from the late Father Anthony Coniaris. One day, a person complained to his priest that the Church and Christianity is one continual “give, give, give.” To which the priest replied, “Thank you very much for the finest definition of Christianity I have ever heard. You’re right, Christianity is all about a constant “give, give, give.” God giving His only Son to the world to show His unconditional love. His Son Jesus giving His life on the cross to forgive our sins and destroy death. Then our Lord’s disciples giving all they had to make sure God’s Good News of love was preached to all people everywhere. They not only gave away their homes and businesses, but even gave up their lives as martyrs in gratitude to God! It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.

PHILOPTOCHOS HOLIDAY PASTRY SALE - Sunday December 17, 2023 The Philoptochos Elpis Ladies Society will be selling holiday pastries in the community center following Divine Liturgy. 2024 Vasilopites including lucky coin $20.00, Holiday Pastry Box 6 Finikia and 6 Kourabiethes $20.00 and Koulourakia $8.00 a dozen.

2023 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – The Annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be held in the Community Center on Sunday, December 24, following Church services. All children are welcome to participate but must attend practice on Sundays, after Sunday Church School. Join us for this Christmas Eve celebration with reception following hosted by the Community.

EPIPHANY - Holy Trinity Theophany celebration will take place on Sunday, January 7, 2024, with the annual Epiphany Dove Release and Cross Retrieval at Bayou Saint John, after the Divine Liturgy, all followed by a Community Luncheon. Those wishing to apply for the honor to be the Dove Bearer or to be a swimmer to try and retrieve the cross in Bayou Saint John, should complete an application form, which are available in the Cathedral Office.

YOUTH CHOIR – All youth are invited to participate in the youth choir, Byzantine Youth, with rehearsals each Sunday after Sunday Church School. The Youth Choir will sing part of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 24, the day of the Sunday Church School Christmas Pageant.

AHEPA AND DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE – Holiday Party will be on Friday, December 29, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Hellenic Center. All members are invited to come out for the Annual Holiday Party for food, fun and celebration. Please RSVP to Lance at 504-621-6692 or Barbara at 985-807-4034.
WHO WAS ST. NICHOLAS?

Myths and legends abound about St. Nicholas, who is arguably the most popular saint in the Christian Church. His generosity has been well documented. He is the patron saint of children, sailors and pawnbrokers. But just exactly what kind of a person was this man who is revered by all?

If we study the Troparion for the Feast of St. Nicholas, we find the best answer to that question. In it, he is called a MODEL OF FAITH. From his youth, he possessed a deep piety. Upon the passing of the previous Bishop of Myra, it was foretold that the first person to enter the church by the name "Nicholas" was to be appointed to be the new bishop. Unknowingly, one morning, he did just that! Although Nicholas felt he was too young and inexperienced for such a responsibility, he accepted that it was the will of God.

St. Nicholas is also referred to in his Troparion as an EXAMPLE OF VIRTUE. Truly he was a humble man who chose to give away all of his worldly possessions and live in poverty. He found true "wealth" in his charitable deeds, giving alms in secret – deliberately shunning the public accolades of those whom he aided.

Finally, we praise St. Nicholas in his Troparion for the SINCERITY OF HIS DEEDS. Perhaps nothing underscores this greater than the story of his participation in the First Ecumenical Council. Nicholas had deep convictions about the teachings of the Church. When the priest Arius challenged the accepted position on the divinity of Christ, the enraged Archbishop struck this heretic for his blasphemy!

Yes, St. Nicholas lived a life worthy of all the adulation that is given to him. May his example inspire us all to live faithful, virtuous and sincere lives.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin .............. Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey .............. Litho in U.S.A.
‘Εωθινόν Δοξαστικόν Ε΄. ‘Ηχος Πλ. Α΄.

Ό τῶν σοφῶν σου κρυμάτων Χριστεὶ πῶς Πέτρῳ μὲν τοὺς θυσίας μόνοις, ἐδώκας ἑννόησας σου τὴν ἀνάστασιν; Λουκᾶ δὲ καὶ Κλεόπα, συμποτερισμένοις ὁμιλεῖς, καὶ ὁμιλῶν, οὐκ ἐθνὸς σεαυτὸν φανερῶς; Διὸ καὶ ὀνείδεις, ὡς μόνοις παροικοῖς ἐν ἑρωοδολη, καὶ μὴ μετέχοντι τῶν ἐν τέλει βουλευμάτων αὐτῆς. Ἀλλ’ ὃ πάντα πρὸ τὸ τούτῳ πλάσματος συμφέροντοι οἰκονομοῖς, καὶ τὰς περὶ συμφερήσεις ἀνέπτυξας, καὶ ἐν τῷ εὐλογεῖν τὸν ἄρτον, ἐγνώσας αὐτοῖς· ὃν καὶ πρὸ τούτου αἱ καρδίαι, πρὸς γνώσιν σου ἀνεφλέγοντο· οἱ καὶ τοῖς Μαθηταῖς συνήθροισμένοι, ἦδη τρανὸς ἐκρυπτῶν σου τὴν ἀνάστασιν δι’ ἥς ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Αντίφωνων Γ΄/Ἀκανθάσιμον Απολυτίκιον. ‘Ηχος β΄.

‘ Ὅτε καθήλες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἢ ζωὴ ἢ θάνατος, τότε τὸν ἐνέκρωσας, τῇ ἀγαθῇ τῆς θεϊκής ὑμητοῦ· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεῖτες, ἐκ τῶν κατακαθολίας ἀνέπτυξας, πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπτυρισμένων ἐκράυγαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστὲ, ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν δόξα σοι.

Απολυτίκιον τῶν ἁγίων. ‘Ηχος πλ. δ΄ Τὸ προσταχθὲν.

Δι’ ἐγκρατείας τῶν παθῶν, τὰς πυριφλέκτους, ἀποκράτους ὀρᾶς, καὶ τὰς κινήσεις, τοῦ Χριστοῦ οἱ Μάρτυρες, ἔλαβαν τὴν χάριν, τὰς νόσους ἀποδιώκεις, τῶν ἀσθενείας, καὶ ζωῦντες καὶ μετὰ τέλος, θαυματουργεῖς· ὅτως θαῦμα παραδόξου ὅτι στέον γυμνά, ἐκβλύζον ἱπάτα. Δόξα τοῦ μόνου Θεοῦ ἡμῶν.

Απολυτίκιον Τοῦ Πασώ. ‘Ηχος πλ. δ΄.

Εὐλογητοὶ εἰ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ πανοφόρος τῶν ἀλλίες ἀναδείξας, καταπέμπεις αὐτοῦ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἁγίον· καὶ δι’ αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκούμενα σάγηνευσας· Φιλανθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

Κοντάκιον Προεόρτιων τῶν Χριστουγέννων. ‘Ηχος γ΄.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαίωνιον λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖ ἀπορρήτως. Χῶρεις ἡ οἰκουμενικὴ ἀκουσθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουλητήσαται ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Eothinón Doxastikón 5. Plagal First Mode.

How wise, O Christ, are your judgements! You made Peter understand your Resurrection by the grave-clothes alone, but journeying with Luke and Cleopas you talked, and as you talked you did not at once reveal yourself. And you were reproached with being only a stranger in Jerusalem and not sharing in her final counsels. But as the one who disposes all things for the profit of his fashioning, you unfolded the prophecies about yourself and in the blessing of bread you made yourself known to them, whose hearts even before this had burned for knowledge of you. They also were already proclaiming to your assembled Disciples your Resurrection. Through which have mercy on us.


When you went down to death, O immortal Life, then you slew Hell with the lightning flash of your Godhead; but when from the depths below the earth you raised the dead, all the Powers in the heavens cried out, 'Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!'

Απολυτίκιον τῶν ἁγίων. ‘Ηχος πλ. δ΄ Τὸ προσταχθὲν.

When they had deadened burning impulses and movements of sinful passions by their self-control and virtue, then the Martyrs of Christ were given the divine grace of driving away the illnesses of the sick and working wonders, alive and after their death. Paradoxical miracle it is indeed, that naked bones should pour out cures abundantly. Glory be to our only God.

Apolytikion of the Parish - Mode pl. 4.

Blessed are You, O Christ our God. Who revealed the fishermens to be to be most wise by sending down to them the Holy Spirit. And so through them catching the whole world in a net, lover of mankind glory to you.

Prefestal Kontakion for Christmas. Mode 3.

The pure Virgin on this day, is coming forth to the cavern to give birth ineffably to the eternal divine Word. Dance for joy, O all you peoples, hearing these tidings! Glorify, along with Angels and with the Shepherds, him who willed to be revealed now, a little Child, who before the ages is God.

DECEMBER 10TH, 2023

10TH Sunday of Luke

Memory of the Holy Martyrs Menas Kallikelados, Hermogeneus, and Evgraphos

Second Mode; 5th Eothinón
The Lord is my strength and my song * and has become my salvation.

**Verse:** The Lord chastened me hard, but did not hand me over to death.

**The reading is from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians.**

[Eph. 6: 10 – 17]

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**The Holy Gospel**


Verse 1: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble, the name of the God of Jacob shield you.

All the Epistle, Luke.

Verse 2: Lord, save the king; and hear us in the day we call upon you.


The reading is from the holy Gospel according to Luke.


At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed a woman on the sabbath, said to his disciples, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, to whom Abrahams bound Satan's hand to it for eighteen years; when he cast it off, she was immediately straightened? And when Jesus saw it, he called to the woman and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." But his adversaries answered him, "Why do you do such things? We have heard it said, "Do not touch God's anointed, and do not do anything to him." But he said, "It is not those who need the doctors but those who have the disease who need the doctors."
Playing dress-up

Have you ever played dress-up? Did you dress up as a princess? A firefighter? A train conductor? Sometimes it's fun to pretend you are something you aren't, isn't it?

In today's Gospel reading we hear about a different kind of dress-up—and not the good kind! Today, we hear the story of a woman who was sick with a crippled back—she could not straighten up for 18 years. But when Jesus healed her from this awful pain, some people were mad at Him! They argued with Him and told Jesus that He shouldn't have healed her on that day. These people were in charge of the synagogue, where people worshipped God. These people said they worshipped God, but when God (Jesus) did something, they didn't like it. These people were dressing up like they worshipped God, but they were really just pretending!

God wants us to worship Him on the inside and on the outside. As Christians, we don't want to play dress-up. In other words, we don't want to just talk about being Christians and show off that we're Christians. We want to really BE Christians. We want to act like Christians, following our Lord, Jesus Christ. Playing dress-up might be a fun game, but we definitely don't want to just play being a Christian.
**WORD SEARCH**

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Anthia
- Crippled
- Eleutherios
- Faith
- Genuine
- Gospel
- Healing
- Mother
- Peace
- Saints
- Son
- Synagogue

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**WHAT’S IN THE ICON?**

Here is another icon of Saint Eleutherios.

You can see his vestments and his Gospel, and you know he was a bishop. He is blessing with his hand, and now he is blessing all of us with his prayers to God!
Sometimes, just sometimes, kids have trouble listening to their parents when they give them advice. Sometimes we want to do things our way and nobody else’s. But this week we celebrate a saint who listened to his mother and became a great Christian because of it!

As a child, Saint Eleutherios listened to his mother, who told him about our Lord, Jesus Christ. When he was a little older, she sent him to learn from the bishop. Even though he was young, the bishop ordained him to be a deacon, and then a priest. Soon, he became a bishop, too.

Lots of people were becoming Christians because of Saint Eleutherios, and the emperor (who didn’t believe in our one, true God) didn’t like it one bit. He sentenced our saint to be killed for the faith. His mother, Anthia, came to visit her son. She wanted to give him strength and to tell him not to give up. For that, she was killed too.

The word “Eleutherios” means “freedom” in Greek. And his life always reminds us that we are always free to follow our Lord, Jesus Christ. Even when things are hard, even if people make fun of us, even if we are hurt for it. We can always choose to follow Him!

We celebrate these two saints on Friday, Dec. 15th (OC: December 28th).
Saint Eleutherios, pray for us!