

# Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

February 14, 2016

## *Sunday of the Canaanite Woman*

### SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	II Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1	Page 92
Gospel Reading	Matthew 15:21-28	Page 93
Creed		Pamphlet
The Lord's Prayer		Page 26
Communion Prayers (Before receiving)		Pages 29-30
Thanksgiving Prayers (After receiving)		Pages 33-34

**Note: All are welcome to receive the Blessed Bread (Antidoron), but only practicing Orthodox Christians can receive Holy Communion.**

Memorial Service Page 164

### Today's Calendar

- **Memorials: 1-year for Nicholas Panas**
- **There is no Coffee Hour today.**
- **Parish Council members on duty: Greg Curtis, Lew Demetroulakos, Athena Hayes, Charles Hondros**

### For Our Edification

#### **General Assembly Next Sunday**

The Second Call for the General Assembly will be held next Sunday, February 21, in the church hall at noon following the Divine Liturgy.

A General Assembly consists of members of the Parish in Good Standing. A member in Good Standing is one who has paid 2015 dues. However, members who have neglected to pay their 2015 dues may do so up to the day of the General Assembly to participate.

New business will include an update on the status of the church air conditioner system replacement and the election of two Auditors for two years and one Auditor for one year.

Please make an effort to attend this important meeting.

### **Memorial Arrangements**

When planning a Memorial, please call the office (978) 458-8092 at your earliest convenience so that the proper arrangements can be made.

### **Don't Forget Your Dues**

It is time once again to mail in your dues for the year 2016. Family membership is \$400, a single membership is \$300, and a membership for a student is \$200. On this year's dues invoice, an additional line has been added if you wish to make an additional stewardship donation.

### **Choir Members Needed**

We are still in need of voices to join our choir. Please contact the office at (978) 458-8092 if you are interested.

### **The Canaanite Woman**

This story of a humble Gentile woman, who is tested and then praised by Jesus for her faith, is also mentioned in Mark 7:24-30. The faith and humility of this woman are shown in that Jesus' hesitancy was not enough to discourage her and in her answer, she implies that she is a dog and she calls Jews masters.

Jesus' answer should not be understood as an insult, but as a way to reveal the treasure of the woman's faith. In her can be envisioned the future Gentile Church, the true Israel, coming to Christ.

### **Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving**

As Orthodox Christians, we are given various *tools* to help us in our walk toward Salvation. Among many *tools* that the Church offers us, *prayer, fasting and almsgiving* are paramount.

*Prayer* enables us to communicate with the Creator. It allows us to develop a deep personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The aim of *fasting* is to make us aware or conscious of our dependence upon God. *Prayer and fasting* should be accompanied by *almsgiving* – by works of mercy and compassion.