

# Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

March 20, 2016

## *First Sunday of Lent Sunday of Orthodoxy*

### SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40	Page 136
Gospel Reading	John 1:43-51	Page 137
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 Anastasia Krikoris; 1-year for Helen Platanites; 9-years for Gregory Hayes**
- **The Metropolis family is hosting today's Coffee Hour in loving memory of Gregory Hayes.**
- **Parish Council members on duty: Gregory Curtis, Lewis Demetroulakos, Charles Hondros**
- **6:00 pm – Sunday Lenten Vespers at Holy Transfiguration Church**

### This Week

**Monday, March 21- HAA Greek Independence Day Program – 6:30 pm – Lowell Senior Center**

**Tuesday, March 22 - 10:00 am Doxology at Holy Trinity; Parade to Greek monuments and Lowell City Hall for flag raising ceremony**

**Wednesday, March 23 – Presanctified Liturgy – 4:00 pm**

**Friday, March 25 – Annunciation of the Theotokos – Greek Independence Day – Orthros 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy 10:00 am**

### For Our Edification

#### **Sunday Lenten Vespers Begin Tonight**

Tonight, Sunday Lenten Vespers will be held at the Holy Transfiguration Church at 6:00 pm.

The rest of the schedule is as follows: Sunday, March 27 – Holy Trinity; Sunday, April 3 – St. George Antiochian; Sunday, April 10 – St. George Greek; Sunday, April 17– Assumption of the Virgin Mary. All Vespers will begin at 6:00 pm.

#### **HAA 110 Year Celebration**

Everyone is invited to celebrate 110 years of academic excellence of the Hellenic American Academy on Friday evening, May 6, at the Indian Ridge Country Club. A dinner dance will feature “Orfeas.” All proceeds will directly support the HAA. This event is proudly being organized by the parents of the school and the HAA Endowment Trust.

More information will be forthcoming. Don't forget to save the date.

#### **Sunday of Orthodoxy**

Each Sunday in Lent has two themes, two meanings. On one hand, each one belongs to a sequence in which the rhythm and the spiritual “dialectics” of Lent are revealed. On the other hand, in the course of the Church's historical development, almost each Lenten Sunday has acquired a second theme.

On this Sunday, we celebrate the restoration of the Icons to the Church. In 726 A.D., Icons were banned because many believed that Christ as God should not be depicted and those Icons were being worshipped as idols. In 843 A.D., the Empress Theodora ordered them restored. This event is commemorated with a procession of Icons through the Church.

#### **The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts offers communion of the Holy Gifts (Eucharist) consecrated at the Divine Liturgy the previous Sunday. It is an opportunity to receive the sustaining spiritual strength of Christ during the difficult journey of Lent. Although the Church forbids the celebration of the Eucharist on weekdays of Lent (except the Annunciation) it recognizes the need for spiritual food.

#### **Greek Tavli Tournament**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Greek Tavli Tournament will be held at the Transfiguration Church Outreach Center on Saturday, April 9, at 10:00 am. This event is open to all ages and participation is \$30. Please bring your own board.

For more information, you may contact Spike Sintros (978) 902-6155, Costas Tsioulis (508) 423-1369 or Mathew Apostolou (978) 333-2160.