

## Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

August 12, 2018

### *Eleventh Sunday of Matthew*

#### SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	I Corinthians 9:2-12	Page 80
Gospel Reading	Matthew 18:23-35	Page 81
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

- **Parish Council Members on duty: Daniel Routsis, George Tgibides, Betty Themeles, Tom Themeles**

#### This Week

**Tuesday, August 14 – 7:00 pm Vespers – Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church in Dracut**

**Wednesday, August 15 – 8:30 am Orthros, 10:00 am Divine Liturgy – Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church in Dracut**

#### For Our Edification

##### **HAA Classes Set to Begin**

Hellenic American Academy begins its school year on Tuesday, August 28. Registration is still in progress. Call the school at (978) 453-5422 for more information.

#### **AHEPA Golf Tournament**

The AHEPA Golf Tournament will be held at the Four Oaks Country Club in Dracut on Monday, October 1. Tee time is 9:00 am. There will be a buffet and a raffle. Contact Steve Michaelides at (978) 799-1579 or email [StevenIPD@aol.com](mailto:StevenIPD@aol.com).

#### **The Dormition of the Theotokos – August 15**

The Orthodox consider the Mother of God (Theotokos) above any other saint in the Church. She always stands on Christ's right-hand side in each church iconostasion, and an enormous icon of her with the Christ child, called the platitera, dominates the space above the altar.

For it is through her, the Virgin Mary, that Christ proves His humanity. It is believed that when the Virgin Mary was about to give up her spirit, all the apostles except for Thomas miraculously appeared in Jerusalem from all parts of the world to pay their respects and receive her blessing. As they were preparing for her funeral and burial, angels came into the presence of the apostles and took her body to heaven. When the apostle Thomas, who had not come earlier, went to her grave, he found it empty.

#### **St. Phanourios – August 27**

On August 27, sometime in the 14<sup>th</sup> century A.D., a group of Arabs were pillaging the island of Rhodes and were scavenging the treasures they found at the ruins of an ancient church. From a distance, several monks hid and watched, as the bandits tossed aside the icons they had found. The monks immediately noticed that one of these icons was different from the rest. Once the invaders had left the area, the monks examined the icon carefully. They had never seen it before, nor could they understand how it could be in such perfect condition amidst the rubble. Unlike the others, this icon was as freshly painted as if it had been created that day. The icon was of a young man named Phanourios who was dressed as a soldier, holding a cross in his right hand. Drawn about his figure were twelve detailed depictions of Phanourios enduring different forms of torture. The monks realized that this icon had been divinely revealed. The Lord had decided that the knowledge of Phanourios' heroism and victorious faith be made known to us, and so Phanourios reached out to us through time. Lost for centuries, Phanourios has become the Patron Saint of lost things.