SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH FLUSHING, NEW YORK



Sunday July 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Matthew/E' Ματθαῖου

Protopresbyter Fr. Paul Palesty, Pastor · Economos Aristidis Garinis Presbyter Alexandros Douvres

Απολυτίκιον Άναστάσιμον. Ήχος δ'.

Τὸ φαιδοὸν τῆς ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ When the women disciples of the Lord heard the

κόσμω τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Απολυτίκιον τῆς Άγίας. Ἡχος πλ. α'

Βασιλείας γήινους πάλαι οὐκ ἔτυχες, ἀλλ' Not a temporal kingdom on earth did you obtain, *

Τοῦ Ναου. Ἡχος δ'.

βοήθεια.

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, Parish Hymn. Tone pl. 4. ἐγκρατείας διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῆ A rule of faith are you, and an icon of gentleπλούσια,

Κοντάκιον. ή Ηχος βαρύς.

τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Μαθηταί σου τὴν δόξαν σου, Χοιστὲ ὁ Θεὸς Upon the mountain were You transfigured, and τὸ ἀπαύγασμα.

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Tone. 4.

Άγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αί τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριαι, καὶ Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀποὀρίψασαι, τοῖς aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον Ἐσκύλευται ό they said to the Apostles, "Death has been deθάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ spoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!"

Apolytikion for the Saint. Tone pl. 1

and mighty help of all the Orthodox.

ἄφθάρτων στεφάνων νὖν σὲ ἠξίωσεν, ὁ Νυμφίος but Christ, your most comely Bridegroom, vouchσου Χριστὸς ὁ ώραιότατος, ῷ καθιέρωσας σαυτήν, safed you heavenly crowns, * and you reigned as a ὄλη καρδία καὶ ψυχῆ, Εἰρήνη Ὁσία Μῆτερ, queen with Him eternally; * for you did dedicate Χουσοβαλάντου ή δόξα, ήμῶν δὲ ποοσφυγή καὶ yourself * unto Him with all your soul, O Irene, our righteous Mother, * you boast of Chrysovalantou,

ποίμνη σου, ή τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ ness, and a teacher of self-control. And to your τοῦτο ἐκτήσω τῆ ταπεινώσει τὰ ύψηλά, τῆ flock this was evident, by the truth of your life Πάτεο ἱεράρχα and deeds. You were humble and therefore Νικόλαε· πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι you acquired exalted gifts, treasure in heaven for being poor. O Father and Hierarch St. Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, and entreat Him to save our souls.

Έπὶ τοῦ ὄρους μετεμορφώθης, καὶ ὡς ἐχώρουν οἱ Kontakion. Tone Grave.

έθεάσαντο, ἵνα ὅταν σε ἴδωσι σταυρούμενον, τὸ Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they were μὲν πάθος νοήσωσιν έκούσιον, τῷ δὲ κόσμω able, O Christ our God; so that when they would see κηούξωσιν, ὅτι σὰ ὑπάρχεις ἀληθῶς, τοῦ Πατρὸς You crucified they might understand that Your Passion was deliberate, and declare to the world that in truth You are the Father's radiance.

ύπερ τοῦ Ἰσραήλ ἐστιν εὶς σωτηρίαν· μαρτυρῶ γὰρ αὐτοῖς ὅτι ζῆλον Θεοῦ ἔχουσιν, ἀλλ' οὐ κατ' ἐπίγνωσιν. ἀγνοοῦντες γὰρ τὴν τοῦ Θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην, καὶ τὴν ἰδίαν δικαιοσύνην ζητοῦντες στῆσαι, τῆ δικαιοσύνη τοῦ Θεοῦ οὐχ ὑπετάγησαν. τέλος γὰρ νόμου Χριστὸς εἰς δικαιοσύνην παντὶ τῷ πιστεύοντι. Μωϋσῆς γὰρ γράφει τὴν δικαιοσύνην τὴν ἐκ τοῦ νόμου, ὅτι ὁ ποιήσας αὐτὰ ἄνθρωπος ζήσεται ἐν αὐτοῖς· ἡ δὲ ἐκ πίστεως δικαιοσύνη οὕτω λέγει· μὴ εἴπης ἐν τῆ καρδία σου, τίς ἀναβήσεται εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν; τοῦτ' ἔστι Χριστὸν καταγαγεῖν· ἢ τίς καταβήσεται εἰς τὴν ἄβυσσον; τοῦτ' ἔστι Χριστὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναγαγεῖν.

άλλὰ τί λέγει; ἐγγύς σου τὸ ῥῆμά ἐστιν, ἐν τῷ στόματί σου καὶ ἐν τῆ καρδία σου· τοῦτ' ἔστι τὸ ῥῆμα τῆς πίστεως ὃ κηρύσσομεν. ὅτι ἐὰν ὁμολογήσης ἐν τῷ στόματί σου Κύριον Ἰησοῦν, καὶ πιστεύσης ἐν τῆ καρδία σου ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς αὐτὸν ἤγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν, σωθήση· καρδία γὰρ πιστεύεται εἰς δικαιοσύνην, στόματι δὲ

όμολογεῖται είς σωτηρίαν.

lips and so is saved.

Τὸ Ανάγνωσμα: Ρωμ 10:1 - 10 Αδελφοί, ή μὲν εὐδοκία τῆς ἐμῆς καρδίας καὶ ή δέησις ή πρὸς τὸν Θεὸν

Epistle Lesson: Rom. 10:1 – 10 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his

Γεργεσηνῶν ὑπήντησαν αὐτῷ δύο δαιμονιζόμενοι ἐκ τῶν μνημείων ἐξερχόμενοι, χαλεποὶ λίαν, ὥστε μὴ ἰσχύειν τινὰ παρελθεῖν διὰ τῆς ὁδοῦ ἐκείνης. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἔκραξαν λέγοντες· τί ἡμῖν καὶ σοί, Ἰησοῦ υίὲ τοῦ Θεοῦ; ἤλθες ὧδε πρὸ καιροῦ βασανίσαι ἡμᾶς; ἦν δὲ μακρὰν ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀγέλη χοίρων πολλῶν βοσκομένη. οἱ δὲ δαίμονες παρεκάλουν αὐτὸν λέγοντες· εὶ ἐκβάλλεις ἡμᾶς, ἐπίτρεψον ἡμῖν ἀπελθεῖν εἰς τὴν ἀγέλην τῶν χοίρων. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ὑπάγετε. οἱ δὲ ἐξελθόντες ἀπῆλθον εἰς τὴν ἀγέλην τῶν χοίρων· καὶ ἰδοὺ ὥρμησε πᾶσα ἡ ἀγέλη τῶν χοίρων κατὰ τοῦ κρημνοῦ εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ ἀπέθανον ἐν τοῖς ὕδασιν. οἱ δὲ βόσκοντες ἔφυγον, καὶ ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὴν πόλιν ἀπήγγειλαν πάντα καὶ τὰ τῶν δαιμονιζομένων. καὶ ἰδοὺ πᾶσα ἡ πόλις ἐξῆλθεν εἰς συνάντησιν τῷ Ἰησοῦ, καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν παρεκάλεσαν ὅπως μεταβῆ ἀπὸ τῶν ὁρίων αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἐμβὰς εἰς πλοῖον διεπέρασε καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν πόλιν.

Εὐαγγέλίον: 8:28-34, 9: Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθόντος τῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς τὸ πέραν εἰς τὴν χώραν τῷν

Gospel Mt. 8:28-34; 9: At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΑ

Andromachi Geleris Angelika Kontoudis Konstantinos Kontoudis Tara Saridakis



MEMORIALS

Ανδρομάχης Γκελέρη Αγγελικής Κοντούδη Κωνσταντίνου Κοντούδη Τάρας Σαριδάκη

Πρόγραμμα τής Εβδομάδος

- 1. ΠΕΜ. Η ΠΡΟΟΔΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ ΩΝ ΕΠΤΑ ΠΑΙΔΩΝ ΜΑΚΑΒΑΙΩΝ Ορθρος 7·30 πμ. Θ. Λειτουργία 8·30 πμ. Παράκλησις 7.00 μμ.
- 2. ΠΑΡ. ΝΑΚΟΜΙΔΗ ΛΕΙΨΑΝΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΥ ΠΡΩΤΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ Παράκλησις 7.00 μμ.

Eortologion for the Week

- 1. THUR. THE PROCESSION OF CROSS
 SEVEN MACCABEAN CHILDREN
 Orthros 7:30am Divine Liturgy 8:30am
 Paraklesis 7:00pm.
- 2. FRI. TRANSLATION OF ST. STEPHEN'S RELICS
 Paraklesis—7:00pm

<u>Sacraments</u>

Baptism
Saturday, August 3, 2024
10am
Son of
Presbytera Eirene and Father Alexandros Douvres

Look out for our Post Festival Thank You Party "Save the Date."
Plans are underway....
Details to come!

A GOOD STEWARD...

Stewardship and giving is not an optional part of faith, it's woven into the fiber of our existence as believers.

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 220/2024 July 24, 2024

Archepiscopal Encyclical on the Day of Mourning for Hagia Sophia

To the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

Everything is clothed in beauty; everything you will perceive with eyes full of wonder. But no words are sufficient to describe the illumination in the evening: you might say hat some nocturnal sun filled the majestic temple with light.

Paul the Silentiary, *Description of Hagia Sophia*

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

We mark the fifth anniversary of the seizure of the Great Church of Holy Wisdom, Hagia Sophia, with further mourning; for the Chora Monastery Church has now been converted for an alien purpose. The fact that both of these monuments to the Byzantine genius have been forcibly re-converted to mosques adds to the grief that we all feel just days after the Fiftieth Anniversary of the invasion and subsequent illegal dismemberment of Cyprus. We can never forget that of the over five hundred churches in the occupied region, at least seventy-seven have been converted into mosques — another sign of cultural misappropriation and religious triumphalism unsuited to our modern, interconnected world.

But even though our spiritual monuments have been defaced and subjected to veils and wrappings that make a pretense of respecting their intended aesthetic, their spiritual brilliance cannot be diminished by such feeble efforts. As Paul the Silentiary rhapsodized of Hagia Sophia over fourteen hundred years ago, "Everything is clothed in beauty...."

Because the essence of these monuments is not found only in their physical presence, but in their intended spiritual meaning and activity — the worship of God through Divine Liturgy. Their architectural forms and interior illuminations were designed to nurture the adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Mysteries in which we partake of His Divine Presence. The spaces themselves came alive through our glorious worship; even the magnificent columns of Hagia Sophia were perceived to move, "as if they were yielding to one another in a choral dance, with a structure of crescent shape hanging above them?' [ισπερ ἐν χορῷ ἀλλήλοις ὑπεξιστάμενοι, καὶ αὐτῶν ὑπεράνωθεν οἰκοδόμημα μηνοειδὲς ἀποκρέμαται], (Procopius of Caesarea, On the Buildings of Justinian I. i.35).

Our monuments now stand silent in the face of history's exigencies, while they await their redemption. In the meantime, let us take some measure of comfort in the knowledge that a "nocturnal sun" continues to illumine them from within. This paradoxical starlight is visible in every Orthodox church building throughout the world, perceived as we worship "in spirit and truth" (John 4:24), and share in the beauty they continue to manifest, even if a harsh and misplaced ignorance has sought to cover their sacred purpose.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

То Арестая Кутового

† ELPIDOPHOROS Archbishop of America

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Άριθα, Πρωτ. 220/2024 24 Ίουλίου 2024

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος στήν ήμέρα θρήνου γιὰ τὴν γία Σοφία.

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Άρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ίερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τὧν Κοινοτικὧν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους ἄρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τὧν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ ἄπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Αδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὀργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἁρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἁμερικῆς.

«Πάντα μὲν ἀγλαΐηι καταειμένα, πάντα νοήσεις ὅμμασι θάμβος ἄγοντα: φαεσφορίην δὲ λιγαίνειν έσπερίην οὐ μῦθος ἐπάρκιος. Ἡ τάχα φαίης ἐννύχιον Φαέθοντα καταυγάζειν σέβας οἴκου»

(Παῦλος Σιλεντιάριος, Ἐκφρασις τοῦ Ναοῦ τῆς Άγίας Σοφίας. Ἰαμβοι πρὸς τὸν βασιλέα Ἰουστινιανόν, στιχ. 805-809).

Ποοσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφὲς ἐν Χοιστῷ,

Ή πέμπτη θλιβερή ἐπέτειος ἀπὸ τὴν ἐκ νέου μετατροπὴ τῆς Άγίας Σοφίας σὲ τζαμὶ γίνεται ἀκόμη πιὸ δυσβάσταχτη μὲ τὴν ἀνεπάντεχη ἀλλαγὴ τῆς χρήσης τῆς Μονῆς τῆς Χώρας γιὰ ἀλλοτρίους σκοπούς. Τὸ γεγονὸς ὅτι τὰ δύο αὐτὰ θαυμάσια μνημεῖα τῆς Βυζαντινῆς καλλιτεχνικῆς ἱδιοφυίας ἔχουν μετατραπεῖ ἀναγκαστικὰ σὲ τζαμιά, μᾶς γεμίζει μὲ περισσότερη ἀγανάκτηση καὶ θλίψη, καθώς βρισκόμαστε λίγες μόνο μέρες μετὰ ἀπὸ τὴν πεντηκοστὴ ἐπέτειο τῆς εἰσβολῆς καὶ τοῦ παρανόμου διαμελισμοῦ τῆς Κύπρου. Πῶς νὰ λησμονήσουμε ὅτι στὴ σύγχρονη ἐποχὴ τῆς ἀνοχῆς καὶ τῆς πολυπολιτισμικότητας, έβδομήντα ἑπτὰ καὶ πλέον ἐκκλησίες ἀπὸ τὶς πεντακόσιες ποὺ βρίσκονται στὰ κατεχόμενα ἔχουν μετατραπεῖ σὲ τζαμιά, χωρὶς σεβασμὸ οὕτε στὴ θρησκευτικὴ οὕτε στὴν πολιτιστικὴ παράδοση τοῦ τόπου;

Παρόλο ὅμως ποὺ αὐτὰ τὰ πνευματικὰ καὶ ίστορικά μας μνημεῖα ἔχουν ἀλλοιωθεῖ, ἐνῶ στὸ ἐσωτερικό τους τὰ ψηφιδωτὰ ἔχουν καλυφθεῖ μὲ πέπλα, γιὰ τὸν ὑποτιθέμενο σεβασμὸ τῆς ἐπιδιωκόμενης αἰσθητικῆς τους, ή πνευματική τους λάμψη παραμένει ἀναλλοίωτη, ὅπως ὁ βυζαντινὸς ποιητὴς Παῦλος Σιλεντιάριος ραψωδοῦσε θαυμάζοντας τὴν Ἁγία Σοφία «πάντα μὲν ἀγλαΐηι καταειμένα»

Διότι ή ὀμοοφιὰ καὶ ή λαμπρότητα αὐτῶν τῶν μνημείων δὲ βρίσκεται μόνο στὴ φυσική τους παρουσία, ἀλλὰ στὸ σκοπὸ καὶ τὸ πνευματικὸ νόημα τῆς ὑπάρξεως τους, ποὺ εἶναι ή λατρεία τοῦ Θεοῦ μέσω τῆς Θείας Λειτουργίας. Τόσο ἡ ἀρχιτεκτονική τους ὅσο καὶ ὁ ἐσωτερικὸς φωτισμός τους σχεδιάστηκαν μὲ μοναδικὸ σκοπὸ τὴ λατρεία τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μέσω τῶν ἱερῶν μυστηρίων καὶ τὴ μετοχὴ τῶν πιστῶν στὸ μυστήριο τῆς Θείας Οἰκονομίας. Τὰ μνημεῖα ζωντανεύουν κατὰ τὴ θεία λατρεία καὶ ὅλα συμμετέχουν στὴ δοξολογία τοῦ Θεοῦ, καθώς, ὅπως λέει καὶ ὁ ἱστορικὸς Προκόπιος, ἀκόμη καὶ οἱ ὑπέροχοι κίονες τῆς Ἁγίας Σοφίας φαίνονται ὅτι χορεύουν στὸ ρυθμὸ τῆς ψαλμωδίας: «ὥσπερ ἐν χορῷ ἀλλήλοις ὑπεξιστάμενοι, καὶ αὐτῶν ὑπεράνωθεν οἰκοδόμημα μηνοειδὲς ἀποκρέμαται» (Προκοπίου ρήτορος τοῦ Καισάρεως, Περὶ τῶν τοῦ δεσπότου Ἰουστινιανοῦ κτισμάτων, Λόγος Α΄, 35-36).

Τὰ μνημεῖα αὐτὰ στέκουν πλέον σιωπηλά, ὑπήκοα στὴν ἱστορικὴ ἀναγκαιότητα, περιμένοντας τὴ λύτρωσή τους. Ἐν τῷ μεταξύ, ἄς παρηγορηθοῦμε μὲ τὴ σκέψη ὅτι «φῶς ἐσπερινὸν άγίας δόξης» συνεχίζει νὰ τὰ φωτίζει ἐκ τῶν ἔσω. Αὐτὸ τὸ παράδοξο «φῶς ἱλαρόν» εἶναι πνευματικὰ όρατὸ σὲ κάθε ὸρθόδοξο ἱερὸ ναὸ σὲ ὅλο τὸν κόσμο καὶ γίνεται ἀντιληπτὸ καθὼς λατρεύουμε τὸ Θεὸ «ἐν πνεύματι καὶ ἀληθεία» (Κατὰ Ἰωάννη 4:24), εὐαγγελιζόμενοι αὐτὴ τὴν ἀπίστευτη ὀμορφιά, ἀκόμη καὶ ἀν κάποιοι, εἴτε ἀπὸ ἄγνοια εἴτε γιὰ ἄλλους λόγους, προσπαθοῦν ματαίως νὰ ἀποκρύψουν, κατακαλύπτοντας τὸν ἱερὸ σκοπὸ γιὰ τὸν ὁποῖο τὰ μνημεῖα αὐτὰ κατασκευάστηκαν.

Τὰ μνημεῖα αὐτὰ στέκουν πλέον σιωπηλά, ὑπήκοα στὴν ἱστορικὴ ἀναγκαιότητα, περιμένοντας τὴ λύτρωσή τους. Έν τῷ μεταξύ, ἄς παρηγορηθοῦμε μὲ τὴ σκέψη ὅτι «φῶς ἑσπερινὸν άγίας δόξης» συνεχίζει νὰ τὰ φωτίζει ἐκ τῶν ἔσω. Αὐτὸ τὸ παράδοξο «φῶς ἱλαρόν» εἶναι πνευματικὰ όρατὸ σὲ κάθε ὀρθόδοξο ἱερὸ ναὸ σὲ ὅλο τὸν κόσμο καὶ γίνεται ἀντιληπτὸ καθὼς λατρεύουμε τὸ Θεὸ «ἐν πνεύματι καὶ ἀληθεία» (Κατὰ Ἰωάννη 4:24), εὐαγγελιζόμενοι αὐτὴ τὴν ἀπίστευτη ὀμορφιά, ἀκόμη καὶ ἄν κάποιοι, εἴτε ἀπὸ ἄγνοια εἴτε γιὰ ἄλλους λόγους, προσπαθοῦν ματαίως νὰ ἀποκρύψουν, κατακαλύπτοντας τὸν ἱερὸ σκοπὸ γιὰ τὸν ὁποῖο τὰ μνημεῖα αὐτὰ κατασκευάστηκαν.

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἀγάπης ἐν Κυριῷ ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστῷ,

То Аргоная Жудобого

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

July

28

The Holy Apostles and Deacons Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas

Acts 6:1-7; Matt. 16:20-24



All four saints commemorated today were of the number of the seven deacons and the seventy apostles. The other three deacons were Stephen, Philip, and Nicholas. These are commemorated elsewhere: Stephen on Dec. 27, and Philip on Oct. 11. Nicholas is excluded from the ranks of the saints because of heresy. Because today's four deacons have no separate commemoration, they are commemorated today.

There is Greatness In Us

On a nationally syndicated call-in television program, two interview guests — both doctors — were discussing the subject of abortion. Addressing the doctor who was against abortion, a young female caller expressed the opinion that the human fetus was not really a human being after all, only potential human life.

The doctor echoed the words of the Psalmist as he responded almost thunderously, "Ma'am, that's not potential human life. That's human life with great potential."

The Bible tells us that it was God who formed us in our mother's womb. And when He formed us He placed within us the highest possible potential: theosis, union with God. Part of man's tragedy is that this great potential remains only a potential and is not fully developed. Man is indeed a frail creature but he is endowed by God with a fantastically great potential. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are small matters compared to what lies within us." All of us are born equal. Our job is to outgrow equality by reaching out to achieve our potential in Christ. There is greatness in us!

For Pondering

It is true that for Mother Teresa the hand of God was in everything and all things were done for Jesus Christ. She said: "I have never had any doubt, but I am convinced that it is he and not I, that it is his work and not my work. I am only at his disposal. Without him, I can do nothing." It is interesting to note that they always have a priest attached to their community. "We cannot," she said, "do without Holy Communion every day. That would mean being without Christ."



DIMITRIOS VLASIOS DOUVRES

SON OF

Father Alexandros and Presbytera Eirene Douvres

Saturday, August 3, 2024 at 10:00am

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church

Cake and Coffee to follow in Sarantakos Hall

Panagia's Garden

Day Camp St. Nicholas Flushing

WEEK 1 AUG 5-9 - WEEK 2 AUG 12-16 10AM-2PM - \$200/ WEEK 2ND - 8TH GRADE



I am an icon of Christ





Faith - Games - Fellowship - Greek Dancing - Chanting



Registration Opens June 15
Late fee \$50 after July 15





