The LIGHT of the ASCENSION
Το Φως της Θείας Αναλήψεως

September 3, 2023

Today we commemorate
13th Sunday of Matthew

- Epistle Reading (click here)
- Gospel Reading (click here)
Most reverend brother Hierarchs and beloved children in the Lord,

With the grace of the Chief and Perfector of our faith, we are today entering a new ecclesiastical year and celebrating with psalms and hymns, for the thirty-fifth time, the Day of protection of the natural environment.

We rejoice in the repercussions of the ecological initiatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate not only in the Christian world, but also in other religions, in parliaments and among politicians, in the field of civil society, science, the ecological movements and the youth. After all, the ecological crisis as a global challenge can only be addressed through international sensitization and mobilization.

We further express our satisfaction that people have definitively understood the immediate connection between ecological and social issues, and especially the fact that the destruction of the natural environment primarily affects the poor among us. The combination of ecological and social activities constitutes the hope for our future because we can only have sustainable development and progress when we are simultaneously concerned about the integrity of creation and the protection of human dignity and human rights.

It is characteristic that today there is an emphasis on “ecological expansion” of human rights. Indeed, people speak of a “fourth generation” of rights—along with individual and political, social, cultural as well as solidarity rights—which refers to the securing of their environmental preconditions. The struggle for human rights cannot ignore the fact that these rights are threatened by climate change, by the shortage of potable water, fertile soil and clean air, but also by “environmental degradation” in general. The consequences of the ecological crisis must be confronted above all on the level of human rights. It is self-evident that these rights, in all their aspects and dimensions, comprise an undivided unity and that their protection is inseparable.

It is in this context that we must also include and appreciate the terrible effects created by the invasion of Russia in Ukraine, which is associated with horrible ecological devastation. Every act of war is also a war against creation inasmuch as it is a grievous threat against the natural environment. The pollution of the atmosphere, of water and earth by bombings, the risk of nuclear holocaust, the emission of dangerous radiation from nuclear plants producing electrical energy, the carcinogenic dust from exploding buildings, the destruction of forests and depletion of arable agricultural property—all these bear witness to the fact that the people and ecosystem of Ukraine have undergone and continue to undergo incalculable losses. We repeat emphatically: The war should cease at once and sincere dialogue should commence.

Before all these challenges, the Holy Great Church of Christ continues its struggle for the integrity of creation, in full knowledge that its concern for the natural environment is not merely an added activity in its life, but its essential expression and realization as an extension of the Holy
Eucharist in every form and dimension of our good witness in the world. This was also the precious legacy of the pioneer of ecological theology, the late Metropolitan John of Pergamon. In recognizing his immense contribution, we conclude this Patriarchal Message on the occasion of the Feast of the Indiction with what he writes on the Holy Eucharist, as a wholistic response to the current ecological problems: “In the Divine Liturgy, the natural and material world, along with all of the senses, participate in an inseparable unity. There is no antithesis between subject and objective reality. There is no stance of human mind’s conquest of the surrounding world. This world does not exist against, is not an object of man, but is assumed and communed. Holy Communion is not only our union with God and others, but also the assumption of food, the acceptance and appreciation of the natural environment, the incorporation and not merely consumption of matter. The sacredness that accompanies such an attitude, the divine shudder that pervades such a relationship, is the diematic opposite of Technology and the answer to our ecological problem. The Holy Eucharist is, for this reason as well, the very best that Orthodoxy has to offer the contemporary world.”

We wish you a blessed ecclesiastical year, brothers and children in the Lord!

September 1, 2023

† Bartholomew of Constantinople

Fervent supplicant for all before God
Τμήματα αδελφοί Ιεράρχαι και προσφιλέστατα τέκνα ἐν Κυρίω,

Εκδοκαί τοῦ Ἀρχιερέως καὶ Τελειωτοῦ τῆς πίστεως ἡμῶν, ευχερέσιμα σήμερον εἰς τὸ νέον ἐκκλησιαστικόν ἔτος καὶ ἐστιάζομεν ἐν ψυχικί καὶ ἐμνεῖς, διὰ τριακοσίων πέμπτην φοράν, τὴν Ἡμέραν προστασίας τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος.

Χαρίζει τις τὴν ἐπήρειας τῶν οἰκολογικῶν προβλημάτων τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου ὑμᾶς μόνον εἰς τὸν χρυσανθικόν κόσμον, ἀλλὰ καὶ εἰς ἄλλας θρησκείας, εἰς κοινωνία καὶ πολιτικοὺς, εἰς τὸν χώρον τῆς κοινωνίας τῶν πολιτών, τῆς ἑποτήμης, τῶν οἰκολογικῶν κανόνων καὶ τῆς γεωλογίας. Ὅπως ἢ ἄλλως, ἡ οἰκολογία κρίνει, ὡς παγκοσμίον πρόβλημα, μόνον μὲ παγκοσμίων ευαισθητοποιήσεων καὶ κανονοποίησιν δύναται νὰ αντιμετωπισθῇ.

Εκφράζομεν επίσης τὴν ικανοποίησιν μας, ἑπεὶ δέχεται θρησκείας κατανοήση ἡ ἀμέσως ενσυνειδή σοι οἰκολογικῶν και κοινωνικών προβλημάτων, καὶ δέ τό γεγονός ὅτι η καταστροφή τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος θηρίει προκύπτως τοὺς πτωχοὺς τῆς γῆς. Ο συνδεσμός περιβαλλοντικών καὶ κοινωνικών δράσεων ἀποτελεῖ ἐπίδομα διὰ τὸ μέλλον, ἐφ’ ὅσον μόνον τότε ὑπάρχει βιώσιμος ἀνάπτυξις καὶ πρόοδος, όταν μερίζομαινες υποχρέωσιν διὰ τὴν ἐκκαιρίασθα τῆς δημιουργίας καὶ τῆς προσπάθειας τῆς ἡγεμονίας καὶ τῶν δικαιωμάτων τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

Εἶναι χαρακτηριστικόν, ὅτι τοιοῦτα σήμερον ἡ οἰκολογία μας «οἰκολογικής δυνατότητος» τῶν δικαιωμάτων τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Πίνεται μάλιστα λόγος περὶ «περιοχετευτικού» δικαιωμάτων, ὁμοίως μετά τῶν ἀτομικῶν καὶ πολιτικῶν, κοινωνικῶν καὶ πολιτικών καὶ τῶν δικαιωμάτων ἁλλήλας γένους, ὧν ἀναφέρεται εἰς τὴν ἔξοχον τῶν περιβαλλοντικῶν προοπτικῶν τῶν. Ο γαρ διὰ τὰ δικαιώματά του ἀνθρώπου δὲν εἶναι δυνατόν νὰ ἐγγονὴσῃ τό γεγονός ὅτι αὐτά απελευθερώνονται ὑπὸ τῆς κλιματικῆς ἀλλαγῆς, ὑπὸ τῆς ἐλλείψεως ποικίλου ὑδάτων, εὐφρόνου ἐδάφους καὶ καθαρῆς ἀτμόσφαιρᾶς, καὶ γενικά ὑπὸ τῆς «περιβαλλοντικῆς ἐπικοινωνίας». Αἱ ἐπιπτώσεις τῆς οἰκολογικῆς κρίσεως ἀρίστου νὰ αντιμετωπίζονται ἐξάρτεις ἐπὶ τὸ ἐπίπεδον τῶν δικαιωμάτων τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Εἶναι αυτονόμοις ὅτι αὐτὰ, εἰς ὅλας τὰς περιπτώσεις, ἀποτελοῦν αὐτοποιητικὴν ἐνοπτήν καὶ ὅτι μὴ προσπάθεια τῶν εἶναι ἀδιαίρετος.

Εἰς αὐτήν τὴν συνάφειαν ἀνήκει καὶ ἡ αντιμετώπισις τῶν δεινῶν, τὰ ὅποια προκαλέσθηκαν ἡ ἐπίθεσις τῆς Ρωσίας κατὰ τῆς Ουκρανίας καὶ συνδέονται μὲ φοβερὰς οἰκολογικῆς καταστροφὰς. Κάθε πολιτικὴ ενέργεια εἶναι καὶ πόλεμος κατὰ τῆς κτισμάτως, εἶναι μία σοβαρώτατη ἀπειλή κατὰ τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος.
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
September 3, 2023
13th Sunday of Matthew
(click here)

Anthimos of Nicomedea
(click here)
8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.,
Orthros, Divine Liturgy
Coffee is served
by the Philoptochos

Thursday
September 7, 2023
7:00 a.m. Vespers
Nativity of the Theotokos

Friday
September 8, 2023
Nativity of the Theotokos
(click here)
9:00 a.m. Orthros,
Divine Liturgy

Saturday
September 9, 2023
Joachim & Anna
(click here)
9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Orthros, Divine Liturgy

Sunday
September 10, 2023
Sunday Before Holy Cross
(click here)
8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Orthros, Divine Liturgy
Coffee is served by
the Philoptochos
Lunch is offered by
the Association of Kambousion Chios
“Panagia Despina”

Κυριακή
3 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2023
ΙΓ’ Ματθαίου
(click here)

Άνθιμος Ιερομάρτυς
(click here)
8:30 π.μ. – 11:30 π.μ. Ορθρος,
Θεία Λειτουργία
Καφές σερβίρεται από
tη Φιλόπτωχο

Πέμπτη
7 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2023
7:00 μ.μ. Εσπερινός
Γενέθλιον της Θεοτόκου

Παρασκευή
8 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2023
Γενέθλιον της Θεοτόκου
(click here)
9:00 π.μ. Όρθρος,
Θεία Λειτουργία

Σάββατο
9 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2023
Σύναξις Ιωακείμ και Άννης
(click here)
9:00 π.μ. - 11:00 π.μ.
Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακή
10 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2023
Π’ Ματθαίου
8:30 π.μ. – 11:30 π.μ.
Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία
Φαγητό από την Ομοσπονδία Συλλόγου «Παναγίας Δέσποινας»
Καμπουσίων - Χίος

LIVE STREAM click here

MEMORIAL SERVICE
1 year: Maria Chandras

LIGHT a CANDLE and SAY a PRAYER click here

OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER
Rev. Christos L. Pappas
Protopresbyter
office: 201-945-6448
cell: 201-707-4737
fatherchristos@yahoo.com

Anastasia Perdikos
Office Administrator
office: 201-945-6448

Office hours:
Monday, Wednesday
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

info@ascensionfairview.org

DONATE to the ASCENSION CHURCH click here

ANNOUNCEMENTS
UPCOMING EVENTS
September 14, 2023  
First GOYA Meeting

September 15, 2023  
First Day of Greek School

September 16, 2023  
Enthronement of His Eminence Apostolos of NJ  
Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John the Theologian

September 24, 2023  
First Day of Catechism School  
Open House & Registration Day

September 24, 2023  
Holy Cross Celebration  
St. George, Ocean Township

ENTHRONEMENT  
HIS EMINENCE APOSTOLOS OF NEW JERSEY

His Eminence  
Archbishop Elpidophoros of America  
Patriarchal Vicar of the  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

cordially invites you to

The Enthronement of  
HIS EMINENCE  
METROPOLITAN APOSTOLOS  
of NEW JERSEY

Saturday, September 16, 2023  
10:30am

Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John the Theologian  
353 East Clinton Avenue, Tenafly, New Jersey 07670

Your presence and prayerful participation at this sacred and historical event is most appreciated.
Please find below the link to the online attendance registration for the Enthronement Service of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, which will take place on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at the St. John the Theologian Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Tenafly, New Jersey at 10:30am (*must be at the Church by 9:30am)

Reservation-for-Enthronement-Service

Please note that even if you have submitted names for the Luncheon, you must also submit your name for the actual service.

Greek School & Catechism School Registration Εγγραφές για το Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο
Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you’re having a wonderful summer!

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the Ascension Afternoon Greek School and the Catechism Church School.

This year we are initiating a new system of Online Registration and Payments. Please click on the registration links below and complete the following:

1. Registration Form for Greek School 2023-2024
2. Health Form for School Registration
3. Pay Greek School Tuition HERE
4. Pay Church Annual Membership Dues HERE
5. Registration Form for Catechism School

Parents also have the option to visit the church office during office hours to register in person prior to September 13, 2023

Afternoon Greek School Classes begin September 15, 2023
See GREEK SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023 (PRINTABLE)
See GREEK SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024 (PRINTABLE)

Catechism School Classes begin September 24, 2023
See CATECHISM SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023-24 (PRINTABLE)

Any questions, please call the Church Office
(201) 945-6448
Goya is excited to welcome everyone back and welcome new members to the start of another year.

Ascension Greek Orthodox Church

Welcome BACK GoyaNS

First Meeting
Thursday, Sept 14
at 6:30 PM church hall

12 - 18 years old
(12 year olds must be in 7th grade)

Goya is excited to welcome everyone back and welcome new members to the start of another year.
First Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023
at 6:30 PM in the Church Hall

REGISTRATION FEE

$50

Please click on all 3 links below to complete registration

*Registration Form
*Health Permission Form
*Rules & Regulations Acknowledgement

Annual Holy Cross Celebration

The new date is
September 24th at
St. George in Ocean Township, NJ

However, all Parishes will remain
open on that Sunday.
2023 EFGOCM
ANNUAL CHOIR CONFERENCE
&
76th ANNUAL
HOLY CROSS CELEBRATION

September 21 - 24

Guest Conductor Ryan J. Kiel

For More Information & Registration
https://www.newjersey.churchmusic.goarch.org/news_and_events/2023-annual-conference/
Please join us for the Saint Basil Academy

2023 Walk-a-Thon!

Saturday, September 30, from 11AM-2PM
Blessing of the Waters, Beautiful Campus Walk, Cookout, Bounce Castles, Games, and More!
$25 suggested donation per person
All are welcome!

For more information, email Lauren at l.biniaris@sbagoa.org