

“Our Church Family worships the Holy Trinity– Father, Son and Holy Spirit– and every Sunday, the Lord’s Day, we commemorate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

# Welcome to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Stamford



## YOUR PASTORAL TEAM

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## SAINTS OF THE DAY

**June 10th , 2018**

**10η Ιουνίου 2018**

2nd Sunday of Matthew  
2η Κυριακή τοῦ Μανθαίου

Alexander & Antonia the Martyrs. Timothy,  
Bishop of Proussa. Theophanes & Pansemne  
of Antioch.

Τῶν Ἁγίων Μαρτύρων Ἀλεξάνδρου  
Ἀντωνίνης, καί Τιμοθέου, Ἐπισκόπου  
Προύσης. Θεοφάνους καί Πανσέμνης Ὁσίων.

## SCHEDULE OF LITURGICAL HOURS

**Sunday Orthros 8:30 AM**

**Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM—11:00 AM**

**Weekday Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM—10:30 AM**

**Paraklesis & Vespers 7:00 PM—8:30 PM**

**Office Hours : Monday—Friday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM**

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## What's Happening This Week!

Mon 6/11	Tue 6/12	Weds 6/13	Thurs 6/14	Fri 6/15	Sat 6/16
			Bingo 7pm  Parish Council Meeting 8pm		

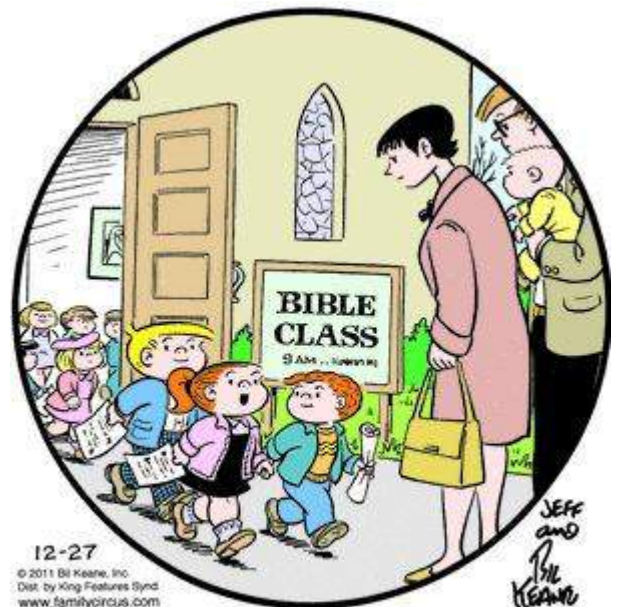
## ...Kid's Korner...



Have you ever played, "Follow the leader"? You know the game—the leader marches, and you march too. The leader claps, and you clap too. The leader shouts, and you shout too. You follow the leader, and try to copy him!

Today, in the Gospel reading we hear about when Jesus called His disciples, His special helpers. Andrew and Peter were out fishing in a boat, Jesus called for them. "Follow me," He said. The Gospel says that they dropped everything and followed Jesus Christ. And all their lives, they tried to "follow the Leader." They tried to be like Christ, to copy Him.

Did you know that our Lord wants us to "follow the Leader" too? He wants us to follow Him, to try to be like Him. But how can we be like Christ? Well, think about some of the things that Christ did during His life. He loved everybody. He helped everybody. He forgave everybody. He was nice to people even when they were mean to Him. He did the right thing even when people made fun of Him or even when they hurt Him. It's not a game, but we can always try to remember to "follow the Leader." And the Leader is our Lord, Jesus Christ!



12-27

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**"We learned the fourth commandment:  
'Honor thy father and thy mother.'"**



**Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. Ὑμνος α' - Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode 1.**

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν σου Σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν· διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι . ζωοδότα. Δόξα τῇ Ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε φιλόνητο.

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Jews \* and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. \* You rose on the third day, O Lord \* and Savior, granting life unto the world. \* For this reason . were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: \* Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; \* glory to Your kingdom; \* glory to Your dispensation, You who loves humankind.

**Τοῦ Ναοῦ. - Hymn of our Parish.**

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ Κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις, ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται, Διὸ σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν, Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Today marks the crowning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before all ages. For the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims your grace. Wherefore, we also cry out with him, "Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you".

**Κοντάκιον. Ὑμνος πλ. β'. - Hymn of the Liturgical Season in Mode pl. 2.**

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία, πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδης, ἀμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἰκεσίαν, ἡ προστατεύουσα αἰεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε.

O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.

## Ο ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος α΄. Ψαλμὸς ΛΒ΄ (32).

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, καθάπερ ἠλπίσαμεν ἐπὶ σέ.

*Στίχ.* Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε, δίκαιοι, ἐν Κυρίῳ· τοῖς εὐθέσι πρέπει αἴνεσις.

**Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.**  
(2:10-16)

Ἀδελφοί, δόξα καὶ τιμὴ καὶ εἰρήνη παντὶ τῷ ἐργαζομένῳ τὸ ἀγαθόν, Ἰουδαίῳ τε πρῶτον καὶ Ἑλληνι· οὐ γάρ ἐστι προσωποληψία παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ. Ὅσοι γὰρ ἀνόμως ἤμαρτον, ἀνόμως καὶ ἀπολοῦνται· καὶ ὅσοι ἐν νόμῳ ἤμαρτον, διὰ νόμου κριθήσονται. Οὐ γὰρ οἱ ἀκροαταὶ τοῦ νόμου δίκαιοι παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ, ἀλλ' οἱ ποιηταὶ τοῦ νόμου δικαιωθήσονται. Ὅταν γὰρ ἔθνη τὰ μὴ νόμον ἔχοντα φύσει τὰ τοῦ νόμου ποιῇ, οὗτοι νόμον μὴ ἔχοντες ἑαυτοῖς εἰσι νόμος, οἵτινες ἐνδείκνυνται τὸ ἔργον τοῦ νόμου γραπτὸν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτῶν, συμμαρτυρούσης αὐτῶν τῆς συνειδήσεως καὶ μεταξύ ἀλλήλων τῶν λογισμῶν κατηγορούντων ἢ καὶ ἀπολογουμένων - ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ὅτε κρινεῖ ὁ Θεὸς τὰ κρυπτά τῶν ἀνθρώπων κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

## THE EPISTLE

Prokeimenon. Mode 1. Psalm 32 (33).

Let Your mercy, Lord, be upon us, as we hope in You.

*Verse:* Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright.

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.**  
(2:10-16)

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

### The Epistle in Modern Greek

Ἀδελφοί, δόξα δὲ καὶ τιμὴ καὶ εἰρήνη διὰ τὸν καθένα ποὺ κάνει τὸ καλόν, διὰ τὸν Ἰουδαῖον πρῶτα καὶ ἐπίσης διὰ τὸν Ἕλληνα, διότι ὁ Θεὸς δὲν μεροληπτεῖ. Ὅσοι ἀμάρτησαν χωρὶς τὸν νόμον, χωρὶς τὸν νόμον καὶ θὰ ἀπολεσθοῦν, καὶ ὅσοι ἀμάρτησαν ἐνῶ ἦσαν ὑπὸ τὸν νόμον θὰ κριθοῦν μὲ τὸν νόμον. Διότι δὲν θὰ δικαιωθοῦν ἐνώπιον τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ ἀκούουν τὸν νόμον, ἀλλὰ ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ ἐφαρμόζουν τὸν νόμον θὰ κηρυχθοῦν δίκαιοι. Ὅταν ἐθνικοὶ ποὺ δὲν ἔχουν τὸν νόμον, ἐφαρμόζουν τὰς διατάξεις τοῦ νόμου ἐκ φύσεως, τότε, ἂν καὶ δὲν ἔχουν νόμον, ἔχουν τὸν ἑαυτόν τους διὰ νόμον, διότι ἀποδεικνύουν ὅτι τὸ ἔργον ποὺ ζητεῖ ὁ νόμος εἶναι γραμμένον στὶς καρδιές τους, συγχρόνως δὲ μαρτυρεῖ καὶ ἡ συνείδησίς των, καὶ αἰσκέψεις των μεταξύ των κατηγοροῦν ἢ καὶ ἀπολογοῦνται, ὅπως θὰ φανῇ τὴν ἡμέραν, ὅταν, σύμφωνα μὲ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου, ὁ Θεὸς θὰ κρίνῃ τὰ κρυφὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων διὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

## ΤΟ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου το  
ἀνάγνωσμα.  
(δ' 18—23)

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, περιπατῶν δὲ παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶδεν δύο ἀδελφούς, Σίμωνα τὸν λεγόμενον Πέτρον καὶ Ἀνδρέαν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ, βάλλοντας ἀμφίβληστρον εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν· ἦσαν γὰρ ἀλιεῖς. καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Δεῦτε ὀπίσω μου, καὶ ποιήσω ὑμᾶς ἀλιεῖς ἀνθρώπων. οἱ δὲ εὐθέως ἀφέντες τὰ δίκτυα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ. Καὶ προβάς ἐκεῖθεν εἶδεν ἄλλους δύο ἀδελφούς, Ἰάκωβον τὸν τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου καὶ Ἰωάννην τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ, ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ μετὰ Ζεβεδαίου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτῶν καταρτίζοντας τὰ δίκτυα αὐτῶν· καὶ ἐκάλεσεν αὐτούς. οἱ δὲ εὐθέως ἀφέντες τὸ πλοῖον καὶ τὸν πατέρα αὐτῶν ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ. Καὶ περιῆγεν ὅλην τὴν Γαλιλαίαν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς αὐτῶν καὶ κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας καὶ θεραπεύων πᾶσαν νόσον καὶ πᾶσαν μαλακίαν ἐν τῷ λαῷ.

## THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel reading is according to Matthew.  
(4:18-23)

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

### The Gospel in Modern Greek

Ὅταν περπατοῦσε κοντὰ εἰς τὴν λίμνην τῆς Γαλιλαίας, εἶδε δύο ἀδελφούς, τὸν Σίμωνα, ὁ ὁποῖος ἐλέγετο Πέτρος, καὶ τὸν Ἀνδρέαν τὸν ἀδελφὸν του, νὰ ρίχνουν δίχτυ εἰς τὴν λίμνην, διότι ἦσαν ψαράδες. Καὶ τοὺς λέγει, «Ἐλᾶτε, ἀκολουθήστε με, καὶ θὰ σᾶς κάνω ψαράδες ἀνθρώπων». Αὐτοὶ ἐγκατέλειψαν ἀμέσως τὰ δίχτυα καὶ τὸν ἀκολούθησαν. Καὶ ὅταν ἐπροχώρησε ἀπ' ἐκεῖ, εἶδε ἄλλους δύο ἀδελφούς, τὸν Ἰάκωβον, τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου καὶ τὸν Ἰωάννην τὸν ἀδελφὸν του, μέσα σὲ πλοιάριον μαζί με τὸν Ζεβεδάϊον, τὸν πατέρα τους, νὰ ἐπισκευάζουν τὰ δίχτυα τους καὶ τοὺς ἐκάλεσε. Αὐτοὶ ἀμέσως ἄφησαν τὸ πλοιάριον καὶ τὸν πατέρα τους καὶ τὸν ἀκολούθησαν. Ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐγύριζε ὀλόκληρη τὴν Γαλιλαίαν καὶ ἐδίδασκε εἰς τὰς συναγωγὰς των καὶ ἐκήρυττε τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας καὶ ἐθεράπευε κάθε ἀσθένειαν καὶ κάθε ἀδυναμίαν εἰς τὸν λαόν.

## MEMORIALS & CHURCH SERVICES

### Memorials:

Today - 3 yr memorial - Archondoula & Thanasis Bakis.

### Church Services:

6/29/18 - Ss. Peter & Paul, Divine Liturgy @ Archangels, 9:30am.

6/30/18 - Synaxis of the Holy Apostles, Divine Liturgy, 9:00am.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Our "Ethos" Greek festival that occurred this past weekend was a great success. One behalf of our Parish Council, Fr. Evan would like to thank, first and foremost our Good and Merciful God for hearing everyone's prayers for good weather, along with all our volunteers and supporters who donated their time, talent and treasure to make it one of best festivals ever. Thank you and God bless you for all that you do.



Annunciation's Vacation Bible School is Back by popular demand! This year's VBS will take place on the week of July 16th - 19th from 9am to 1pm. Save the Date! More information to follow. Volunteers are also needed. Please contact the church office or Stacey Karipides for more information.



A Greenwich family is looking for a full time live - out housekeeper/cook and a weekday live -in nanny to provide childcare for three children aged 2 months to 4 years old. Ideal candidate is bi-lingual in Greek and English and able to drive. For more information, please contact Katerina at 203-610-3163.

## CONGRATULATIONS



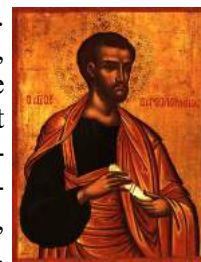
Our Church Community congratulates all this year's graduates from High School, College or Professional/Graduate School. If you would like to have your graduate 's name listed in our annual honor roll, please submit their name to the church office by June 18th. The honor roll will be published in our July Church Bulletin! Congratulations to all our graduates. You did it! Καὶ σε ἀνώτερα!

## GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST

The Apostle Bartholomew was born at Cana of Galilee and was one of the Twelve Apostles. After the Day of Pentecost, it fell by lot to the holy Apostles Bartholomew and Philip (November 14) to preach the Gospel in Syria and Asia Minor. They wandered through various cities, and then met up again. Accompanying St. Philip was his sister St. Miriam.

Traversing the cities of Syria and Myzia, they underwent much hardship. They were stoned and imprisoned. In one of the villages they met up with the St. John the Theologian and together they travelled to Phrygia. In the city of Hieropolis, through the power of prayer they destroyed an a viper, which the pagans worshipped as a god. Their preaching was confirmed with many miracles.

At Hieropolis there lived a man called Stachys who was blind for 40 years. He received his sight after he believed in Christ and was baptized. News of this spread throughout the city, and many people went to the house where the apostles were staying. Many that came to them were healed of the infirmities and baptized. The city prefect ordered their arrest, threw them in prison, and burned down the house of Stachys. At the trial pagan priests came forth with the complaint that the strangers were turning people away from the worship of the ancestral gods.



The prefect had the Apostles tortured and then executed. St. Philip was crucified upside down. According to St. Bartholomew's *Vitae*, there was an earthquake that swallowed up the prefect and the pagan priests, which put their execution in turmoil. Frightened by standards rushed to take down the apostles from their crosses. St. Bartholomew was taken down in time, however, St. Philip died. Many pagans were baptized as a result of these events. After making Stachys Bishop of Hieropolis, the St. Bartholomew and St. Mariamne left to continue with their missionary work. Preaching the Word of God, Mariamne arrived in Lykaonia, where she peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. St. Bartholomew went to India, where he translated the Gospel of Matthew into their language, and along with St. Thomas, baptized many into the Orthodox Christian faith. Today there are 30 million Christians in India with 5 million Orthodox.

St. Bartholomew is mentioned in the *Vita* of St. Joseph the Hymnographer who transferred the apostle's holy relics to Constantinople, and built a church for the Saint. In 508AD the holy relics were transferred to Dara in Mesopotamia. When the Persians seized the city in 574AD, Christians took the relics with them when they fled to the shores of the Black Sea. But since the enemy overtook them there and through the reliquary into the sea. By the power of God it miraculously drifted to the island of Lipari. In the 9th century the holy relics were transferred to the Neapolitan city of Beneventum and again in the tenth century part of the relics were transferred to Rome. Orthodox Christians and Roman Catholics celebrate St. Bartholomew on June 11th.

## ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Β' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ

Μετά από τον κύκλο των εορτών του Πεντηκοσταρίου, βλέπουμε ότι το έργο του Κυρίου για τη σωτηρία του ανθρώπου προσλαμβάνει δυναμικές διαστάσεις, όπως αυτές αποκαλύπτονται αυθεντικά μέσα στο χώρο του ιδίου του Σώματός Του, που είναι η Εκκλησία. Η πρόσκληση που απηύθυνε προς τους πρώτους μαθητές Του σηματοδοτεί τη νέα περίοδο ανακαίνισης του ανθρώπου σε ορίζοντες της αιωνιότητας, με φόντο την πραγματικότητα της Εκκλησίας, τα βήματα της οποίας κατευθύνει αδιάλειπτα εις «πάσα την αλήθεια» η συνεχής παρουσία του Αγίου Πνεύματος. Η κλήση των πρώτων μαθητών του Κυρίου, στην οποία αναφέρεται το σημερινό ανάγνωσμα, απευθύνεται ουσιαστικά σε όλους τους ανθρώπους. Όπως τότε οι μαθητές, έτσι κι εμείς σήμερα μπορούμε να δείξουμε την ίδια προθυμία. Με την παρουσία του Αγίου Πνεύματος έχουμε τη δυνατότητα να βιώνουμε μέσα στην πραγματικότητα της Εκκλησίας όλα τα γεγονότα της Θείας Οικονομίας ως παρόντα. Αυτό είναι άλλωστε και το βαθύτερο νόημα του λειτουργικού χρόνου. Μέσα από αυτή την προοπτική, ο Χριστός φανερώνει και προσφέρει την Βασιλεία Του, ως τον πιο αυθεντικό δείκτη ζωής.

Η κλήση των μαθητών του Κυρίου δεν είναι βέβαια έργο ανθρώπινο. Πρόκειται για Θείο προσκλητήριο που εκφράζει τη βούληση του Θεού να σώσει τον άνθρωπο. Ο Χριστός προσκαλεί όλους μας να μετάρουμε στην πραγματικότητα της Εκκλησίας, γι' αυτό η ανταπόκρισή μας θα πρέπει να είναι ανάλογη. Οι μαθητές δέχθηκαν τότε αμέσως την κλήση του Κυρίου: «Οι δε ευθέως αφέντες τα δίκτυα ηκολούθησαν αυτώ». Η άμεση αυτή ανταπόκριση, πήγαζε από κάποια χαρακτηριστικά, όπως ήταν π.χ. η απλότητα της καρδιάς τους. Ήταν τόσο ανοικτή που δεχόταν τα μηνύματα της αγάπης του Θεού και μάλιστα είχε τη δύναμη να τα αντιπροσφέρει ως αντίδωρο και στους άλλους ανθρώπους, στην προοπτική μιας ανεπανάληπτης κοινωνίας και φιλαλληλίας. Διέθεταν επίσης οι μαθητές αυτό που ονομάζουμε αγαθή προαίρεση. Αγάπησαν με όλη την ψυχή τους τον Χριστό και πίστεψαν σ' Αυτόν ότι είναι ο μόνος αληθινός Σωτήρας του κόσμου. Ακριβώς αυτή την αγαθή προαίρεση που πλημμυρίζει τον άνθρωπο από την αγάπη του Κυρίου μας, ζητεί ο Θεός από τον καθένα μας σαν προϋπόθεση για μαθητεία κοντά στο Χριστό.

Αγαπητοί αδελφοί, ο Κύριος στέκεται και απευθύνει πάντοτε την πρόσκληση αγάπης Του σε όλους τους ανθρώπους. Ας φροντίσουμε κι εμείς, λοιπόν, να την αποδεχθούμε για να πλημμυρίσει πραγματικά η ύπαρξή μας με την παράκληση και την παρηγοριά του Αγίου Πνεύματος. Με αυτό τον τρόπο οπλίζεται η ύπαρξή μας με αισιοδοξία και χαρά και λειτουργούν έτσι όλες οι προϋποθέσεις για να γίνουμε πραγματικοί μαθητές του Χριστού. Σε μια διάσταση που συνιστά αληθινό μεγαλείο για τον άνθρωπο, ο οποίος καταξιώνεται σε ανώτερους πνευματικούς ορίζοντες.

Πηγή: [http://kirigmata.blogspot.com/2017/06/18-2017\\_17.html#more](http://kirigmata.blogspot.com/2017/06/18-2017_17.html#more)

## Becoming Fishers of Men

Who among you, would leave your wife, husband, family to follow a man who you don't really know. Who will take care of your mortgage, your car loan, and other bills. Do we have a similar faith as the first called? There are only a few that say "yes" right off. The rest hesitate. Our Lord knows of our opposition, for He said, "Do not worry about your life!" (Matt. 6:25) For God takes care of us, so why do we hesitate? Jesus gave us the example of the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. He said, "Look at the birds. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them." As they are being attended to by God, are we, "of more value than they," are also being taken care of by God. Our savior calls each of us to Him. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28-29) So when is it the right time to come to Christ and follow Him? NOW!!!

For most of us, from our early years as a child we began our journey to follow Him at our baptism as we received the grace of God. A grace, received at that moment of time, which we need more than any other a time in our lives, His grace in our physical and spiritual lives. So as we grow in our lives physically, we hear that call, "Follow Me" to be reminded of our continued renewal of our commitment to the Lord and His Church. St Paul says, "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation:" (2 Cor. 6:2).

Serving God is an opportunity for our salvation and for that of others. Each of us has received and been given the ability to exercise the acts of Love and Charity, to serve those who may be less fortunate, or not. But to share these gifts, the talents, which have been given to each of us to care for so many who are in need. Jesus calls us to serve Him. He calls us with all our faults, strengths and weaknesses. Let us today, either here in Church or in a quiet place at home, examine our lives. Let us ask ourselves how we have responded to His call in our lives. How have we responded or have we fallen short of His plan for us?

The simplicity of Jesus' words, the call and promise is striking but remains powerless without a decision on our part. If Peter and Andrew merely listened and said, that's a very interesting invitation. Maybe we should talk about it after fishing season, then, they would not have become disciples of Jesus. Jesus needs for us to take action on our part, to follow him or to remain where we are. AMEN!

**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:  
I'LL DO MY BEST TO FOLLOW CHRIST TODAY.**

# Stewardship Reflection

## Why should I give?

**Giving is Biblical** – “Man shall not appear before the Lord empty handed. Man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing that the Lord your God has given you.” (Deuteronomy 16:17)

**Giving Connects us with others** – “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

**Giving establishes priorities** – “Store up for yourselves a good foundation for the time to come, so that you may lay hold on eternal life.” (1 Timothy 6:21)

**Giving Energizes** – “He who sows generously, reaps generously.” (2 Corinthians 9:6)

**Giving Creates Perspective** – “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where our treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:20)

**Giving draws us closer to God’s Character** - “For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son.” (John 3:16)

**Giving is doable by everyone** – “Let each of you give according to what your heart tells you, not reluctantly or out of a sense of duty, for God loves the one who gives gladly.” (2 Corinthians 19:7)

## Everyone is called to be generous!

### Did you know people search for three things?

- 1<sup>st</sup> – people seek **Transcendence** (desire to know God).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – people seek **meaning and significance**.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – people seek **community**.



Our mission is to know God through the Good News of salvation offered by Jesus Christ our Lord, to journey towards sanctification through our participation in the sacramental, spiritual and ethical life of the Church, and to build a community that glorifies God, seeking to do His will of loving one another, we may attain His Kingdom. Please join us in this sacred mission! Thank you and God bless you!

## 2018 Stewardship Report

<u>Week 22</u>	<u>Total collected to date</u>	<u>GOAL: Stewardship Budget</u>
\$ 820	\$71,685	\$120,000

- + GOAL is the target amount listed in our 2018 Budget Report.
- + Our church hopes to meet the financial needs of its ministries, programs and annual operating budget through our Christian Stewardship Program. It is our responsibility to contribute our fair share supporting our church as an expression of thanks for the many blessings that God has given us. Please make your stewardship pledge today. If you’ve already made your pledge thank you and God bless you!





## Γιατί να συμμετέχω ενεργά στο έργο της Εκκλησίας;

- **Η συμμετοχή μας αναφέρεται στην Άγια Γραφή** - “ Ο άνθρωπος δέν θα εμφανίζεται μπροστά στον Κύριο με άδεια χέρια. Ο καθένας θα προσφέρει ότι μπορεί ανάλογα με την ευλογία, που θα του έχει δώσει ο Κύριος ο Θεός σας. ” (Δευτερονόμιον 16:17)
- **Συμμετέχοντας συνδεόμαστε με τούς συνανθρώπους μας** - “ Αλήθεια σᾶς λέγω, ὅ,τι ἐκάνατε εἰς ἓνα ἀπό τούτους τούς ἀσήμεντους ἀδελφούς μου, σ’ ἐμέ τὸ ἐκάνατε. ” (Ματθαῖον 25:40)
- **Συμμετέχοντας καθιερώνουμε προτεραιότητες** - “ Καὶ ἔτσι νὰ ἀποταμιεύσουν διὰ τὸν ἑαυτὸν τους ἓνα καλὸ θεμέλιον διὰ τὸ μέλλον, διὰ νὰ λάβουν τὴν αἰώνιον ζωὴν. ” (Α΄ Προς Τιμόθεον 6:21)
- **Συμμετέχοντας νιώθουμε ενεργοποιημένοι** -“ Ἐκεῖνος πὺ σπέρνει μὲ ἀφθονίαν, θὰ θερίσῃ καὶ μὲ ἀφθονίαν. ” (Β΄ Προς Κορινθίους 9:6)
- **Συμμετέχοντας δημιουργούμε προοπτικές** - “ Ἄλλὰ θησαυρίζετε διὰ τὸν ἑαυτὸν σας θησαυροὺς εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν, ὅπου οὔτε σκόρος οὔτε σαπίλα τούς καταστρέφει καὶ ὅπου κλέπται δέν κάνουν διάρρηξιν καὶ κλέβουν. Διότι ὅπου εἶναι ὁ θησαυρός σου, ἐκεῖ θὰ εἶναι καὶ ἡ καρδιά σου. ” (Ματθαῖον 6:20)
- **Συμμετέχοντας ερχόμαστε πιο κοντά στο χαρακτήρα του Θεού** - “ Διότι τόσον πολὺ ἀγάπησε ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε ἔδωκε τὸν Υἱόν του τὸν μονογενῆ, διὰ νὰ μὴ χαθῆ ὅποιος πιστεύει εἰς αὐτόν, ἀλλὰ νὰ ἔχη ζωὴν αἰώνιον. ” (Ιωάννην 3:16)
- **Η συμμετοχή είναι εφικτή από όλους μας** - “ Ὁ καθένας ἄς δίνη ὅ,τι τοῦ λέγει ἡ καρδιά του, ὄχι μὲ λύπην ἢ ἀναγκαστικά, διότι ὁ Θεὸς ἀγαπᾷ τὸν χαρωπὸν δωρητὴν. ” (Β΄ Προς Κορινθίους 19:7)

**Όλοι καλούνται να είναι γεναιόδωροι!**

**Γνωρίζατε πως οι άνθρωποι αναζητούν τρία πράγματα;**

**1ον-Υπέρβαση** (επιθυμία να γνωρίσουν το Θεό).

**2ον- Κατανόηση και σημασία.**

**3ον-Κοινότητα.**



Η αποστολή μας είναι να γνωρίσουμε το Θεό μέσα από τα Καλά Νέα που μας προσφέρει ο Κύριος ημών Ιησούς Χριστός, στο ταξίδι προς την σωτηρία συμμετέχοντας στα μυστήρια όπως και στη πνευματική και ηθική ζωή της Εκκλησίας. Να οικοδομήσουμε μια κοινότητα που δοξάζει το Θεό και αποσκοπεί να κάνει το θέλημα Του, αγαπώντας αλλήλους, ώστε να εισέλθουμε στην Βασιλεία Του.

Παρακαλούμε ακολουθήστε μας σε αυτή την Ιερή Αποστολή. Ευχαριστούμε και ο Θεός να σας ευλογεί.

**It's almost time for**

**VBS**  
**2018**  
**at the Annunciation Church**

**July 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>**  
**9 am -1 pm**



**Our Vacation Bible School was a huge success last year.  
Register your children (ages 4-11) for this meaningful  
and unforgettable experience!**

**Please contact the church office for details.  
(203)322-2093**

**Donation: \$50 per child to cover food and supplies**



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

- Prayer of St. Francis