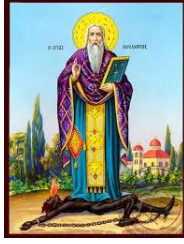


ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ
Ο
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ



ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



**St. Charalambos
February 10**

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἦχος δ΄.

**Ὡς στῦλος ἀκλόνητος, τῆς Ἐκκλησίας Χριστοῦ,
καὶ λύχνος ἀείφωτος τῆς οἰκουμένης σοφέ,
ἐδείχθης Χαράλαμπες, ἔλαμψας ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ,
διὰ τοῦ μαρτυρίου, ἔλυσας τῶν εἰδώλων,
τὴν σκοτόμαιναν μάκαρ·
διὸ ἐν παρρησίᾳ Χριστῷ,
πρέσβευε σωθῆναι ἡμας.**

Apolytikion Mode 4.

**Os stilos aklonitos, tis Ekklikias Christou,
ke lichnos aifotos tis ikoumenis sofe,
edihthis Charalambes, elampsas en to kosmo,
dia tou martiriou, elisas ton idolon,
tin skotomenan makar;
dio en parrisia Chriso,
presvee sothine imas.**

Apolytikion Mode 4.

**A pillar unshakable are you in Christ's holy Church,
and, as your own name denotes, an ever radiant lamp,
all-blessed Haralambos, shining throughout the whole world
by your feats as a martyr,
driving away the darkness of the worship of idols.
With confidence, therefore, pray to Christ,
entreating Him to save our souls.**

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF DENVER

**ST. NICHOLAS GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

CHURCH BULLETIN

vol. 33 - No. 2

February 2019

**502 SOUTH CHAPARRAL STREET, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401 MAILING
ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 343
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78403-0343**

**CHURCH PHONE: (361) 883-9843 - CHURCH FAX: (361) 883-9823
WEB PAGE: WWW.STNICHOLASGOC.NET**

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ISAIAH
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER**

**PARISH PRIEST
REVEREND FATHER JOHN HAYDEN HABY
(361) 929-8924 (cell)**

Office Hours:

**Monday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

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**SUNDAY SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2019
ORTHROS - 9:00 A.M. - DIVINE LITURGY - 10:00 A.M.**

February 3 16th Sunday of Matthew

The Holy and Righteous Symeon the God-Receiver, and Anna the Prophetess. John, Nicholas, and Stamatios New Martyrs of Spetsas (1822). The Most Holy Theotokos the Nourisher of Infants.

**EPISTLE: II Corinthians 6:1-10
GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

February 10 Sunday of the Canaanite

The Holy Hieromartyr Haralambos the Wonder Worker.

**EPISTLE: II Timothy 2:1-10
GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28**

February 17 Sunday of Publican and the Pharisee (The Triodion Begins Today)

The Holy Martyr Theodore the Recruit. Mariamne, equal to the Apostles. Venerable Auxentios. Markianos and Pulcheria the Pious Rulers. Theodore the New Martyr of Byzantium.

**EPISTLE: II Timothy 3:10-15
GOSPEL: Luke 18:10-14**

February 24 Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The commemoration of the (first and second) finding of the head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist, John.

**EPISTLE: II Corinthians 4:6-15
GOSPEL: Luke 15:11-32**

**ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ
ΔΙΑ ΤΟ ΜΗΝΑ ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ ΤΟ 2019
ΟΡΘΟΣ - 9:00 Π.Μ.; ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ – 10:00 Π.Μ.**

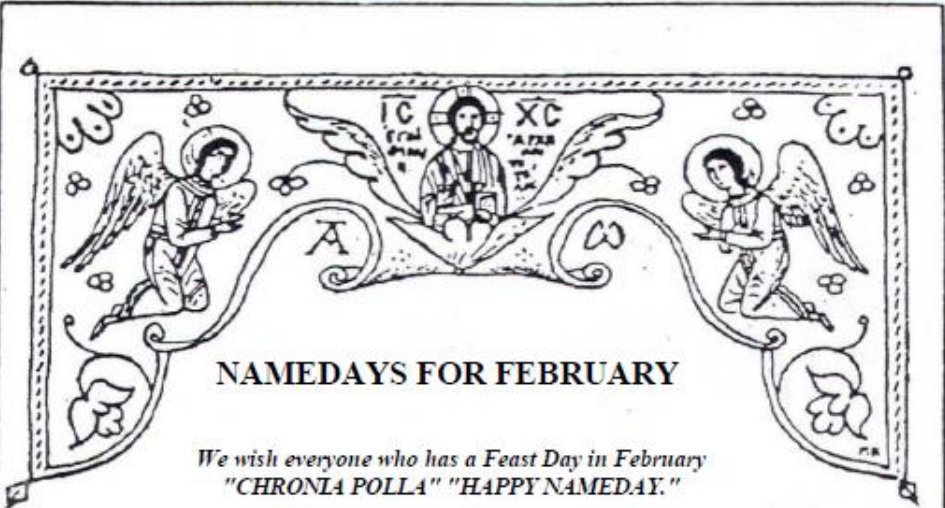
- 3 Φεβρουαρίου** Κυριακή ΣΤ΄ τοῦ Ματθαίου.
Τοῦ Ἁγίου καὶ Δικαίου Συμεών τοῦ Θεοδόχου, καὶ Ἴανης τῆς Προφήτιδος. Ἰωάννου, Νικολάου καὶ Σταματίου, Νεομαρτύρων ἐκ Σπετσῶν (1822). Τῆς Ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου τῆς Βρεφοτρόφου.
- ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ:** Α΄ Κορινθίους 6:1-10
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Ματθαίου 25:14-30
- 10 Φεβρουαρίου** Κυριακή Τοῦ Κανανίτου.
Τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἱερομάρτυρος Χαραλάμπους τοῦ Θαυματουργοῦ.
- ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ:** Β΄ Τιμόθεον 2:1-10
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Ματθαίου 15:21-28
- 17 Φεβρουαρίου** Κυριακή τοῦ Τελώνου καὶ Φαρισαίου
Τοῦ Ἁγίου Μάρτυρος Θεοδώρου τοῦ Τήρωνος. Μαριάμνης ἰσαποστόλου. Αὔξεντιου Ὄσιου. Μαρκιανοῦ καὶ Πουλχερίας τῶν εὐσεβῶν βασιλέων. Θεοδώρου Νεομάρτυρος τοῦ Βυζαντίου.
- ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ:** Β΄ Τιμόθεον 3:10-15
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Λουκᾶ 18:10-14
- 24 Φεβρουαρίου** Κυριακή τοῦ Ἀσώτου
Μνήμη τῆς (πρώτης καὶ δεύτερης) εὐρέσεως τῆς τιμίας κεφαλῆς τοῦ Ἁγίου Προφήτου Προδρόμου καὶ Βαπτιστοῦ Ἰωάννου.
- ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ:** Β΄ Κορινθίους 4:6-15
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ: Λουκᾶ 15:11-32

**ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΕΣ ΕΟΡΤΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΕΣ
ΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΟΥ ΦΕΒΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ, 2019**

2	Φεβρουαρίου	Σάββατο	Ύπαπαντή του Κυρίου	
2	Φεβρουαρίου	Σάββατο	Όρθρος	9:00 π.μ.
2	Φεβρουαρίου	Σάββατο	Θεία Λειτουργία	10:00 π.μ.
3	Φεβρουαρίου	Σάββατον	Μέγας Έσπερινός	5:00 μ.μ.
6	Φεβρουαρίου	Τετάρτη	Άγιου Φωτίου	
6	Φεβρουαρίου	Τετάρτη	Όρθρος	9:00 π.μ.
6	Φεβρουαρίου	Τετάρτη	Θεία Λειτουργία	10:00 π.μ.
6	Φεβρουαρίου	Τετάρτη	Μικρός Παρακλητικός Κανών	6:00 μ.μ.
9	Φεβρουαρίου	Σάββατον	Μέγας Έσπερινός	5:00 μ.μ.
13	Φεβρουαρίου	Τετάρτη	Μικρός Παρακλητικός Κανών	6:00 μ.μ.
16	Φεβρουαρίου	Σάββατον	Μέγας Έσπερινός	5:00 μ.μ.
23	Φεβρουαρίου	Σάββατον	Μέγας Έσπερινός	5:00 μ.μ.
28	Φεβρουαρίου	Τετάρτη	Μικρός Παρακλητικός Κανών	6:00 μ.μ.

**WEEKDAY SERVICES FOR
THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2019**

2	February	Saturday	Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple	
2	February	Saturday	Orthros	9:00 a.m.
2	February	Saturday	Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.
2	February	Saturday	Great Vespers	5:00 p.m.
6	February	Wednesday	Feast of St. Photios	
6	February	Wednesday	Orthros	8:30 a.m.
6	February	Wednesday	Divine Liturgy	9:30 a.m.
6	February	Wednesday	Small Paraklesis	6:00 p.m.
9	February	Saturday	Great Vespers	5:00 p.m.
13	February	Wednesday	Small Paraklesis	6:00 p.m.
16	February	Saturday	Great Vespers	5:00 p.m.
23	February	Saturday	Great Vespers	5:00 p.m.
27	February	Wednesday	Small Paraklesis	6:00 p.m.



NAMEDAYS FOR FEBRUARY

*We wish everyone who has a Feast Day in February
"CHRONIA POLLA" "HAPPY NAMEDAY."*

February 10th**SAINT HARALAMBOS**

**Harry G. Plomarity
Robert Rubio, Sr.
Robert Rubio, Jr.**

As we prepare to enter Great Lent and the Great Fast, let us reflect on the following words of our Metropolitan, His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, on the Great Fast.

As we enter into the holiest period of the year in preparation for the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we ask ourselves, "Why should we follow the discipline of fasting, which in essence is abstinence?" What is the purpose of it? Obviously the purpose is that we may be ready to meet our Lord and to receive His promise of eternal life in His Kingdom.

We realize, according to Holy Scripture, that we were created to live forever; and that we will live eternally after the return of Christ to the earth, with our resurrected bodies reunited with our souls. The Lord therefore asks us to make our decision as to where we wish to live eternally. We have only two directions of which to choose. There is no other.

Mankind could not save itself on its own. Since man fell from his original pristine state to the imperfect state and consequently all of his descendants after him, he has tried time and again to reach his original condition. Every pagan religion in the world taught of man's eternal existence and ways in which one could live eternally. We can mention only the Egyptian culture which established the most elaborate way one could reach to the stars and to eternal life. All failed because the imperfect can never by its own efforts attain perfection.

We know the story. God in the Person of Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, out of His great love for us, came into the world in order to guide us toward Him. He tells us that His Kingdom has been prepared for us even before the world began. He entered into our human nature as one of us for the sole purpose of teaching us how we can reach perfection. He did this without interfering with our free will. For had He tampered with our free will, we would no longer be in His image. This is what distinguishes us from all other creatures of this world. We have been created in His image so that we may attain to His likeness, using our hearts and our minds to guide us. He created us to live with Him and to enjoy the works which He has created for us.

Great Lent is the most appropriate time on the church calendar to begin the process of meeting the Lord, especially during the holy and inspirational services of Holy Week and more so at His glorious Resurrection. Everything in life has a time of preparation, especially man. Since we are in the process of becoming — no one is, only God Is — the Church affords us the time-tested discipline of preparation for the most glorious and spectacular occurrence to have taken place in the cosmos: our Lord's defeat of the power of death and His Resurrection.

This preparation is the message of renewal. In His public ministry our Lord's message was "Repent!" In the original language of the Gospels the exhortation of the Lord was and is: "Change your mind; change your ways; change your direction in life." This concept of change simply said is to renew, to start over again through the right preparation.

The Church teaches us that even though we are born with an imperfect nature, we are intrinsically good. Even though through our fallen nature we have the inclination to sin, meaning to go contrary to the divine will, we can still reach sainthood which is the calling of all who accept Christ as Lord, God, and Savior. In other words, even though Christ came into the world to lead us back to Him, we have the freedom to choose whether we wish to follow Him or not. We know that He humbled Himself out of His great love for us and our eternal condition because we were led astray by the evil one who deceived our progenitors in the beginning. It was Satan who has been responsible for the horrors and catastrophes in the world and who wants us to break away from God, as he did in the angelic period of God's creation. The saying is true, "Misery loves company."

We, who have chosen God, prefer to live with Him. God adopts us as His children, while Satan keeps us in slavery at all times. The decision is easy. The effort takes work. The beautiful thing about this, though, is that the Lord, His holy Mother, the Theotokos, and the saints who have gone before us help us to succeed.

How do we proceed in our preparation? We must prioritize our value system. God must always come first; everything and everyone else follow in their proper place. One of the basic steps in our preparation is to give more attention to our souls. We, unfortunately, do not give to our souls even equal time in our lives with our bodies. During the Lenten period we must converse with God, the ever-blessed Holy Trinity, on a daily basis and several times a day in private prayer. We should attend the special services that take place during the Great Fast along with the usual services and sacraments. Even making the sign of the Cross upon ourselves is a prayer.

Together with prayer, we must become selective in our diet and follow the teachings of the Church becoming vegetarians for several weeks. Physiologically this is good for the body. Theologically we remind ourselves of the Lord's words that man does not live by bread alone. In other words, we give more time to the nourishment of our souls through increased prayer time contemplating the holiness of God. For we, also, are called to become holy. We were created to be heaven bound and not earth bound. Our Lord reminds us that we live in the world, but are not of the world. Our Lord's prayer to the Father is clear when He says that He does not pray for the world, but for those who are being saved for His eternal Kingdom, our real and permanent home.

During this holy period we should increase our good works in helping others and to imitate Christ Who came not to be served, but to serve. If we want to find our true calling in life, it is exactly this: to serve others. The feeling of fulfillment is phenomenal when we serve others. We should also attend retreats that take place, thereby giving ourselves more time for spiritual nourishment.

All this preparation, as mentioned before, has one goal, and that is to meet our Lord, the Bridegroom of the Church, as He calls Himself regarding His Second Coming. The Parable of the Ten Virgins is a most-appropriate icon on which to reflect. Five virgins were wise and five were foolish. All were awaiting the Bridegroom, but only five were ready to receive Him.

Let us therefore enter into this refreshing period of renewal in our spiritual lives, as we prepare ourselves to experience the world-changing events in the life of our Lord which herald the coming of our permanent home in the heavenly realms with our Lord Jesus Christ. May this period of the Great Fast be most edifying and sanctifying for all of God's people.

May everyone have a Blessed Lent!



Fr. John Hayden Haby

Άγιος Χαραλάμπους
Φεβρουαρίου 10

Η μνήμη του Αγίου ιερομάρτυρος Χαραλάμπους τελείται από την Εκκλησία μας στις 10 Φεβρουαρίου.

Την ίδια ημέρα τελείται και η μνήμη των μαρτύρων Βάπτου και Πορφυρίου, δημίων του Αγίου, καθώς και των τριών γυναικών, οι οποίοιπίστευσαν, και οδηγήθηκαν άρα στο μαρτύριο, διά του Αγίου Χαραλάμπους.

Ο Άγιος Χαραλάμπους είναι ιδιαίτερα δημοφιλής στην Ι. Μητρόπολη Ηλείας. Επίκεντρο του λαμπρού εορτασμού κατά την μνήμη του είναι η πόλη του Πύργου, πρωτεύουσα του Νομού μας και έδρα της Μητροπόλεώς μας, της οποίας τυγχάνει και πολιούχος. Στην μνήμη του είναι επίσης αφιερωμένοι οι ενοριακοί ναοί Αυγής Πηγείας, Φλόκα Ολυμπίας και Χανακίων Πύργου, καθώς και του οικισμού Αγίου Χαραλάμπους Λεχαινών. Με λαμπρότητα όμως γιορτάζεται και σε αρκετές άλλες ενορίες της Μητροπόλεώς μας, όπως στα Λεχαινά, στο Τραγανό και στην Βαρβάσαινα, όπου λαμβάνουν χώρα και λιτανείες. Σε 33 συνολικά ενορίες της Ι. Μητροπόλεώς μας την ημέρα της μνήμης του τελείται λιτανεία της ιερής εικόνας του.

Γενικά τιμάται στην πατρίδα μας σε πολλά μέρη (λ.χ. στην Πρέβεζα, της οποίας επίσης τυγχάνει πολιούχος, και στην Ζάκυνθο) ως προστάτης από τα λοιμώδη νοσήματα και ιδιαίτερα από την πανώλη (πανούκλα), η οποία συχνά στις εικόνες παριστάνεται με δαιμονική μορφή την οποία καταπατά ο Άγιος. Πολλές είναι οι διηγήσεις για την απομάκρυνση της πανώλης και τη σωτηρία διαφόρων πόλεων και χωριών της πατρίδας μας χάρις στις πρεσβείες του. Τέτοια πρέπει να είναι και η περίπτωση του Πύργου, ο οποίος φαίνεται να δοκιμάσθηκε συχνά από επιδημίες πανούκλας. Χαρακτηριστικόν είναι ότι η πρώτη γραπτή αναφορά για τον Πύργο στο Χρονικό του Μάτση κάνει λόγο για τρεις θανάτους από πανούκλα (Ιούνιος 1687), καθώς και σε άλλα μέρη της Ηλείας (Χλεμούτσι, Λεχαινά, Γαστούνη και πολλά άλλα χωριά).

Ο Γάλλος περιηγητής Πουκεβίλλ αναφέρει και αυτός λοιμό που μεταδόθηκε από την Αίγυπτο στον Μοριά το 1756 και ο οποίος επί πενταετία κατέστρεψε το μισό του πληθυσμού. Ασφαλώς θα πρόσβαλε και τον Πύργο και την Ηλεία. Επιδημία πανούκλας χτύπησε τον Πύργο και το 1791, από την οποία όμως τον εφύλαξε ο Άγιος Χαραλάμπους, σε αντίθεση με αυτό που έγινε σε Γαστούνη, Λεχαινά και Πάτρα - όπως προκύπτει από τον Κώδικα της Παναγίας της Λεχαινίτισσας (Ντίνος Ψυχογιός).

Η πόλη του Πύργου προστατεύθηκε από τον Άγιο και κατά την επιδημία πανούκλας του 1860 και γρίπης του 1918. Επίσης η οικογένεια Βιλαέτη με την εγκατάστασή της στον Πύργο έφερε μαζί της από τον τόπο καταγωγής της, τα Βελλά των Ιωαννίνων, και την τιμή του Αγίου Χαράλαμπος, του προστάτη και ευεργέτη της, καθώς και παλιά οικογενειακή εικόνα του. Οι Βιλαεταίοι - από τους πρώτους οικιστές του Πύργου μαζί με τους Άχολους - στους οποίους απαντάται και ως βαπτιστικό το όνομα Χαράλαμπος, έκτισαν και το ιστορικό ναύδριο προς τιμήν του Αγίου για την αποθησαύριση του οικογενειακού κειμηλίου της εικόνας του (17ος αιώνας), στο οποίο ο αείμνηστος Γυμνασιάρχης Γεώργιος Παπανδρέου στην ιστορία του της Ηλείας (Η Ηλεία διά μέσου των αιώνων") αναφέρει, πως μέχρι εσχάτων ηκκλησιάζοντο οι Βιλαεταίοι". Το ναύδριο αυτό συνδέθηκε έκτοτε αδιάσπαστα με την ζωή του Πύργου.

Στο ιστορικό αυτό ναύδριο και την γύρω περιοχή του συναντιόντουσαν οι οπλαρχηγοί για την προετοιμασία της Επανάστασης. Σ' αυτό συνήθιζε να προσεύχεται ο Γέρος του Μοριά, ο Θεόδωρος Κολοκοτρώνης, όταν περνούσε από τον Πύργο. Εκεί ορκίσθηκαν επίσης οι επαναστάτες του 1821 από τον Πύργο. Εκεί κατέφυγαν σ' όλες τις δύσκολες περιστάσεις οι Πυργιώτες, πριν και κατά την Επανάσταση. Το ναύδριο αυτό καταστράφηκε δύο φορές κατά την Επανάσταση (1821 και 1825), για να κτισθεί στη σημερινή του μορφή μετά την απελευθέρωση.

Ο Άγιος Χαράλαμπος όμως όχι μόνον στα παλαιά, αλλά και στα νεότερα χρόνια προστατεύει την πόλη του Πύργου, για να αναφερθώ μόνον στα χρόνια του Β' Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου και της Κατοχής και στον τελευταίο μεγάλο σεισμό που έπληξε την ηλειακή πρωτεύουσα το 1993.

Το Βασιλικό Διάταγμα της 3-2-1948, διά του οποίου καθιερώθηκε επισήμως ο εορτασμός του ως πολιούχου του Πύργου, δεν αποτελούσε τίποτε άλλο, παρά επισημοποίηση αυτής της ευλάβειας και τιμής και πρακτικής, όπως συνέβαινε ήδη από πολλές δεκαετίες, αν όχι αιώνες.

<https://www.imilias.gr/latreia/121/141-eorti-agiou-xaralampous.html>

Presentation of our Lord in the Temple February 2

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exod. 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8). On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master. . ." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.

The Apodosia of the Feast of the Meeting in the Temple is usually on the 9th of February. This, however, may vary if the Feast falls within the period of the Triodion. Should this occur, the Typicon should be consulted for specific information concerning the Apodosia of the Feast.

Υπαπαντή του Κυρίου και Θεού και Σωτήρος ημών Ιησού Χριστού Φεβρουαρίου 2

Το γεγονός αυτό εξιστορεί ο ευαγγελιστής Λουκάς στο κεφάλαιο Β', στ. 22-35. Συνέβη σαράντα μέρες μετά τη γέννηση του παιδιού Ιησού. Σύμφωνα με το Μωσαϊκό νόμο, η Παρθένος Μαρία, αφού συμπλήρωσε το χρόνο καθαρισμού από τον τοκετό, πήγε στο Ναό της Ιερουσαλήμ μαζί με τον Ιωσήφ, για να εκτελεσθεί η τυπική αφιέρωση του βρέφους στο Θεό κατά το «πάν άρσεν διανοίγον μήτραν (δηλαδή πρωτότοκο) άγιον τω Κυρίω κληθήσεται» και για να προσφέρουν θυσία, που αποτελούνταν από ένα ζευγάρι τρυγόνια ή δύο μικρά περιστέρια. Κατά τη μετάβαση αυτή, δέχθηκε τον Ιησού στην αγκαλιά του ο υπερήλικας Συμεών (βλέπε 3 Φεβρουαρίου). Αυτό το γεγονός αποτελεί άλλη μια απόδειξη ότι ο Κύριος Ιησούς Χριστός δεν ήλθε να καταργήσει τον Μωσαϊκό νόμο, όπως ισχυρίζονταν οι υποκριτές Φαρισαίοι και Γραμματείς, αλλά να τον συμπληρώσει, να τον τελειοποιήσει.

Κατά την ολονυκτία της Υπαπαντής στην Κωνσταντινούπολη, οι βασιλείς συνήθιζαν να παρευρίσκονται στο Ναό των Βλαχερνών. Η συνήθεια αυτή εξακολούθησε μέχρι τέλους της βυζαντινής αυτοκρατορίας.

St. Charalambos
February 10

St Charalambos was a priest in the city of Magnesia, near Smyrna in Asia Minor. About 198 AD, Sevirus, the Emperor of the Roman Empire had appointed Loucius to govern Asia Minor. Many Christians were persecuted under his reign. At this time Charalambos was in Magnesia and openly taught the Christian religion. When Loucius discovered this, he captured Charalambos for trial. Asked why he condemned the idols and disobeyed the laws of the Empire, Charalambos informed Loucius that he adhered to the laws of Jesus Christ and no others. He maintained that Christ offered eternal life to his followers. The governor commanded Charalambos to sacrifice to the gods and forsake Christ, or else undergo fierce tortures. The Saint refused to deny his beliefs.

Charalambos was stripped of his clothing and his body was ripped with iron claws. He withstood the torture with courage. One of the dukes became enraged that he took the iron claw and began to rip Charalambos' flesh with more fervour than his soldiers. At this point the first miracle occurred. The Duke's hands became paralysed. Screaming, he asked Loucius to help him. Seeing the Duke's plight, the governor spat in the Saint's face. Immediately the pagan's head twisted in an awkward position, where it remained. The onlookers were terrified and begged the Saint to pray to Christ to save them. Charalambos beckoned them to pray and ask forgiveness for their sins. The Duke pleaded with Charalambos to pray to Christ to recover the use of his hands. When the Saint finished praying, the Duke's hands were healed. He was then baptised and became a devout Christian.

After these events, many people from Magnesia and other parts of Asia came to Charalambos, confessed their sins and were baptised. The Saint performed many miracles by curing the faithful of many illnesses. When Sevirus heard of this he was greatly angered and sent soldiers to Magnesia to find the Saint, drive nails into his back, and then drag him from Magnesia to Antioch. The soldiers found Charalambos and carried out the order. They tied a rope to his beard and dragged him behind a horse, but a voice told them to leave this man alone for God was with him. Frightened, they took Charalambos to Antioch without further torture.

Sevirus, informed of what had happened, sent another group of soldiers to torture the Saint. They tied a skewer to his chest and gathered wood so that they could burn him. He was turned on the skewer with the fire burning him for several hours. Through Divine Help the Saint was not hurt. Sevirus ordered that the Saint be brought before him. He asked the Saint what his age was and was told that he was 113 years old.

A young man had died in the city and Sevirus ordered the Saint to resurrect him to show the strength of his God. After praying several hours, God, through Charalambos,

performed the miracle. Many pagans converted to Christianity when they saw this, however, an eparch named Crispos asked Sevirus to execute the Saint because he had performed this miracle through the use of magic. Sevirus asked Charalambos to sacrifice to the gods to save himself but he refused, therefore, Sevirus ordered his soldiers to hit the Saint's jaws with rocks and burn his face and beard with torches. The fire reflected off the Saint's face and burned the bystanders. Sevirus was amazed at this time and was curious to know who Christ was. Crispos said to him that a harlot named Mary had borne Him. A man named Aristarchos warned Crispos not to blaspheme. A fit of madness overcame Sevirus and as he shot arrows towards the sky, he ordered Christ to come and fight him. Suddenly, the earth quaked and a fierce storm arose. Sevirus and Crispos begged the Saint to save them. Sevirus' daughter Galinee, came into the room and warned her father to believe in Christ. She asked the Saint to forgive her father and to pray to God to end this calamity. The Saint prayed and the acts of God stopped.

After 30 days, Sevirus again told Charalambos to sacrifice to the gods, but Charalambos refused. He then ordered that a bridle be placed in the Saint's mouth and that he be taken throughout the city in the same manner as a horse. Galinee begged her father to stop these tortures or else he would be condemned to eternal damnation. Sevirus was angered by his daughter's words and ordered her to sacrifice to the gods. In the Temple of Zeus she told the priests that she cursed the gods, then she prayed to the true God. The statues of all the gods were destroyed. Sevirus ordered more statues to be made and placed in the temple so the people would not mock the gods. Once again, Galinee went to the temple, prayed to God and the statues were destroyed.

To insult Charalambos, he was driven to a widow to be guarded. When he arrived at her home, he leaned against a dry wooden beam. This beam was transformed into a tree. The woman was so frightened that she asked the Saint to leave her home since it was not worthy of his presence. He told her to have faith in God and she would have nothing to fear. The next day the neighbours saw the tree in her garden and upon asking, they learned of the miracle. They sat with the Saint and discovered Christianity. The pagans told Sevirus about these happenings and the eparch advised Sevirus to have Charalambos beheaded. The Saint was captured, but before his execution, he prayed to Christ. He died in peace before the soldiers could behead him. Galinee took his body and placed it in a golden coffin.

St. Charalambos guarded his people much as a shepherd would guard his flock, therefore, he is considered to be the protector of shepherds and their flocks. The body of St. Charalambos is now in the Monastery of Saint Stephen in the Meteora, Greece, where it performs miracles to this day.

<http://www.orthodoxchristian.info/pages/charalambos.htm>

St. Photios the Great February 6

Saint Photios the Great, whose feast day is February 6, was Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople during the middle of the ninth century. Together with other great Fathers of the Church, Saint Photios demonstrates through his writing and his teaching that scholarship can be a valuable instrument in proclaiming and expressing the Faith of the Church. The Orthodox Church honors Saint Photios as a theologian, a supporter of missionary activity, and a defender of the Faith. Photios was born around 820 AD to holy parents, who were confessors of the Faith. His parents were persecuted for defending icons against the iconoclasts and were exiled from Constantinople.

His greatness was not only due to his defense of Orthodoxy against heretical papal practices, but also connected to his love and meekness. He vigorously opposed the addition of the filioque clause to the Nicene - Constantinopolitan Creed, and wrote *On the Mystagogy of the Holy Spirit* to preserve "the purity of our religion" and to hinder "those who chose to promote any other definition of dogma than the unanimous and common faith of the pious".

St. Photios was forced to become Patriarch of Constantinople, however he took his calling seriously and at once set to work as a man of God.. One of his activities was to correct the error of Pope Nicholas of Rome who enslaved the people of the West with threats of condemnation to hell for disobedience to the pope. Holy Photios wrote to Nicholas, "Nothing is dearer than the Truth." In the same letter he noted, "It is truly

necessary that we observe all things, but above all, that which pertains to matters of Faith, in which but a small deviation represents a deadly sin."

St. Photios was also known for his brilliance and for his missionary zeal, and one of his greatest achievements was in the field of mission work. In 863, St. Photios sent his two nephews from Thessaloniki, known to us today as Saints Cyril and Methodios, to preach the Gospel in Moravia. He blessed St. Cyril in his work of developing an alphabet for the Slavonic people, and for the later work of St. Cyril and his brother St. Methodios as missionaries to the Slavs. As a result of efforts they initiated, the Slavic peoples and nations embraced Orthodox Christianity.

As a Father of the Church, his achievements as Patriarch have earned him a reputation as the greatest of all Patriarchs.



Youth Epistle Reading Schedule

February 3, 2019	George Diakomanolis
February 10, 2019	Amanda Pollakis
February 17, 2019	Anna Maragakis
February 24, 2019	Manolis Maragakis

<http://www.stphotios.org/about-us/st.-photios>

Άγιος Φώτιος ο Μέγας, Πατριάρχης Κωνσταντινουπόλεως Φεβρουαρίου 6

Ο Άγιος Φώτιος ο Μέγας γεννήθηκε ή το 810 μ.Χ. ή το 820 μ.Χ. στην Κωνσταντινούπολη από ευσεβή και πλούσια οικογένεια, που αγωνίστηκε για την τιμή και προσκύνηση των Ιερών Εικόνων. Οι γονείς του ήταν ο Άγιος Σέργιος και η Ειρήνη όπου και καταδιώχθηκαν επί του εικονομάχου αυτοκράτορα Θεοφίλου.

Ο Άγιος Σέργιος ήταν αδελφός του Πατριάρχου Ταρασίου. Ο Άγιος Φώτιος διέπρεψε πρώτα στα ανώτατα πολιτικά αξιώματα. Όταν με εντολή του αυτοκράτορα απομακρύνθηκε βιαίως από τον πατριαρχικό θρόνο ο Πατριάρχης Ιγνάτιος, ανήλθε σε αυτόν, το 858 μ.Χ., ο Άγιος Φώτιος.

Η χειροτονία του σε Επίσκοπο έγινε την ημέρα των Χριστουγέννων υπό των Επισκόπων Συρακουσών Γρηγορίου του Ασβεστά, Γορτύνης Βασιλείου και Απαμείας Ευλαμπίου.

Προηγουμένως βέβαια είχε γίνει μοναχός και ακολούθως έλαβε κατά τάξη τους βαθμούς της Ιεροσύνης. Από τότε έδωσε πολλούς αγώνες εντός και εκτός των τειχών της Εκκλησίας, ιδιαίτερα κατά του παπισμού. Έμεινε στον πατριαρχικό θρόνο για 10 χρόνια, έπαψε να είναι Επίσκοπος το 867 μ.Χ. από τον Βασίλειο το Μακεδόνα και εξορίστηκε στη Μονή Σκέπης στα Θρακικά παράλια του Βοσπόρου.

Ο Ιγνάτιος που τον διαδέχτηκε με σύνοδο που έγινε στο Ναό της Αγίας Σοφίας καθήρεσε και αναθεμάτισε όλους τους οπαδούς του Αγίου Φωτίου. Αλλά μετά το θάνατο του Ιγνατίου επανήλθε για δεύτερη φορά στο θρόνο ο Άγιος Φώτιος. Όμως ο αυτοκράτορας Λέων ο Σοφός, που υπήρξε και μαθητής του, κατάφερε να τον εκδιώξει από το θρόνο το 886 μ.Χ.

Ο Άγιος Φώτιος, παρέδωσε ειρηνικά την ψυχή του στον Κύριο στις 6 Φεβρουαρίου του 891 μ.Χ., σε ένα μοναστήρι που το ονόμαζαν των Αρμενίων.

<https://www.ekklisiaonline.gr/arxontariki/eorti-tou-agiou-fotiou-tou-megalou/>

PASTORAL VISITATION:

His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah visited our parish on January 5 and 6, 2019. During His Eminence's visitation, His Eminence officiated at the Great Vespers, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Waters Service at the Seashore.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION:

On January 6, 2019, the "Blessing of the Waters" Service was held at the Lawrence Street T-Head immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The cross was retrieved by George Diakomanolis, son of Sofia Piperis Sakelis. Also diving for the cross were Daria Hodis, Brahim Palphreyman, Jamil Palphreyman, Manoli Maragakis, Anuar Medina, Kosta Talarantas, and Vasilie Talarantas. George received a blessing and a cross from Father John on January 13th. Congratulations!

Following the seashore service, the parishioners returned to the Church for the cutting of the Vasilopites and the Epiphany Day luncheon sponsored by the Parish Council. Many thanks to the generous donations to St. Basil's Academy.

EPIPHANY FLOWERS:

The wreath of flowers for the Icon of the Epiphany and the flower arrangements in front of the icons of the Christ and the Panagia were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Plomarity, Ms. Olga Plomarity, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Sanchez, and Demetri and Sophia Sanchez.

DONATION:

The new icon of the Resurrection of Christ was donated by Ms. Olga Plomarity in honor of the 16th birthday of her niece, Sophia M. Sanchez.

BIRTH:

On December 24, 2019, Joel and Stephanie Dunne welcomed their seventh child, Olivia Dunn. Congratulations!

CONDOLENCES:

Terry Devereux Allen, MD, 88, of Dallas, Texas, fell asleep in the Lord on December 26, 2018. He is survived by his wife Carolyn Allen of Dallas, Texas; sons Kevin and Robin Allen; daughters Kathleen and Cheryl; and three grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held on January 12, 2018 at

CONDOLENCES, continued:

Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery in Dallas, Texas. May his memory be eternal!

Karen A. Stegall, 82, fell asleep in the Lord on January 9, 2019. She is survived by her husband Roy Stegall of Taft, Texas, two children Todd (Tanya) Stegall of Portland, Texas, Jill (Kenneth) Brelsford of Taft, Texas, five grandchildren, and her sister Rita Babcock of Tyler, Texas. Funeral Services were held on January 12, 2019, at the First Baptist Church in Taft, Texas. May her memory be eternal!

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

On January 13, 2019, a Memorial Service was said for the repose of the souls of Stephen Lipchik, father Susan Krzeszewski, and for Peggy Gill. May their memory be eternal!

On January 20, 2018, a six-month Memorial Service was said for the repose of the soul of George Sissamis. May his memory be eternal!

TRISAGION SERVICE:

On January 13, 2018, a Trisagion Service was said for the repose of the soul of Dr. Terry Allen, father of Robin Allen. May his memory be eternal!

On January 13, 2018, a twelve-year Trisagion Service was said for the repose of the soul of Maria Diakoliou. May her memory be eternal!

On January 20, 2018, a two-year Trisagion Service was said for the repose of the soul of Elias Piperis. May his memory be eternal!

COFFEE HOUR:

- February 3, 2019 OPEN**
- February 10, 2019 OPEN**
- February 17, 2019 OPEN**
- February 24, 2019 OPEN**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

We wish everyone who has a Wedding Anniversary in February a "Happy Anniversary".

- Nikolaos and Evangelia Alexiou February 4, 2017**
- Bill and Mary SissamisFebruary 6, 1999**
- Griffin and Georgea HabyFebruary 7, 2015**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES, continued:

Theoharis and Sophia DimarhosFebruary 17, 2018
John and Irina BakerFebruary 14, 2004
Ioannis and Matina Chryssos DiakoliosFebruary 18, 2012
Gilbert and Constance SanchezFebruary 21, 1998
George and Alyson Sabbagh.....February 26, 1997

BIRTHDAYS:

Eleni PaloukosFebruary 1th
Pamela CarterFebruary 4th
Lt. Dominic DeganuttiFebruary 4th
Pamela CarterFebruary 4th
Penelope LivaditisFebruary 4th
Harry G. Plomarity.....February 4th
Tracy Andreadis.....February 5th
Sophia Massad.....February 6th
Rev. Fr. John Haby.....February 8th
Gregorio Solis.....February 8th
Todd StegallFebruary 10th
Viorel HodisFebruary 13th
Ioanna SpentzosFebruary 14th
Vincent Noe.....February 12th
Griffin HabyFebruary 18th
Todd StegallFebruary 19th
Nicolas CoalsonFebruary 20th
Jalil HamaueiFebruary 20th
Demetrios Piperis.....February 20th
Stephanie Gialouris Rosales.....February 22nd
Matina PflaumFebruary 24th
Aaron ValverdeFebruary 27th

IN LOVING MEMORY:

It is fitting that we remember our loved ones who have fallen asleep during the month of February. If we have omitted anyone, please let me know so we can include them in the future. The Editor

Konstantinos Gouziotis.....February 1, 2003

IN LOVING MEMORY, continued:

Mary Constant (Victoria, Texas).....	February 2, 1987
John S. Bassous	February 3, 1979
Tasia Paul	February 3, 2008
Dimitri John Kitrinias	February 4, 2009
Vasilios G. Hartofilax	February 5, 1995
Elizabeth Glaros Lewis.....	February 5, 1998
Helen Nicols	February 5, 1999
George Vassilaras.....	February 6, 2005
Marian Alexander	February 7, 1991
George H. Plomarity	February 8, 1984
James Ioannou.....	February 8, 1995
Achille James Psimaris	February 9, 1987
Rose Spiro	February 9, 2002
Nicholas Vogiatzis	February 10, 1998
Anna Piperis	February 10, 2005
Badseha Nicolas.....	February 13, 1972
John Stratakis.....	February 13, 1972
Pete John Govatos.....	February 15, 1967
Panagiota Kavouridou.....	February 16, 1990
James K. Lontos	February 16, 2002
John G. Govatos	February 18, 1967
Mary Lee Nicols (Nicolinakos).....	February 18, 1991
Lula Christos	February 18, 2018
Peter Kopulos	February 20, 1962
Demetrios Souris	February 20, 1976
Clay Moore	February 20, 2001
Naseeba Bassous.....	February 20, 2002
Miltiades Zouvia.....	February 20, 2002
Nina Bekiarov.....	February 21, 2009
Homer Cazamias	February 22, 1993
Vick Pollakis	February 23, 2001
William Tell Hayes.....	February 23, 2010
Tom Cotter (Athanasios Hristaras).....	February 24, 1981
Despina G. Economides (McAllen, Texas).....	February 26, 1955
Ann Hartofilax	February 26, 2011
William Rozakis	February 27, 2001

May their memory be eternal!

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The Parish Council

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**Wishing a Happy
90th Birthday to**

HARRY G. PLOMARITY

**May God continue to shower you
with His richest blessings,
health, and happiness!**

Your Loving Family,

**Thalia K. Plomarity
Olga Plomarity
Gilbert G. and Constance P. Sanchez
Demetri G. and Sophia M. Sanchez**



ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
POST OFFICE BOX 343
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78403-0343