

Fr Dennis J. Schutte
Proistamenos

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church THE MESSENGER

Volume 8.5

October 2014

Inside this issue:

Parish Council News	2
Greek Festival	3
Bookstore/Library	3
Services	4
Announcements	4

FROM FATHER DENNIS

Dear Faithful in the Lord,

Metropolitan Isaiah recently sent a protocol to impress upon us the need to be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion: His Eminence states:

"It is presupposed that these members of the Orthodox Church have prepared themselves to receive this Awesome Gift for the remission of their sins and simultaneously for their edification and sanctification. Pastors must, of course, ensure that they teach the faithful how to prepare to receive Holy Communion."

Sunday, September 28, I read the protocol as part of the sermon. The question I asked of the faithful was: "When do receive instruction on how to properly prepare for the Holy Communion?" I am sure most will think, well during the sermons, read it in bulletins or other publications. Yet still there is still more that must be considered. The verse from the Holy Scriptures reminds us to: *"Remember the days of old, consider the years of all generations. Ask your father, and he will inform you, your elders, and they will tell you."* Deuteronomy 32:7.

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, have we asked our father ever? We cannot and should not discount the need to seek advice for our spiritual life and have a guide to instruct us. As your parish priest I am always ready to help anyone who wants to unburden themselves through the Holy Mystery of Confession, ask how to pray or want to know what spiritual books to read. Let us not think this great mystery is somehow "optional" or think I went some years ago, I am "ok". We normally and regularly partake of Holy Confession as part of one's spiritual growth as we live a dedicated life in Christ.

Please take time to consider these important matters as they truly have eternal implications. Below is the link to read Metropolitan Isaiah's protocol in full.
<http://www.denver.goarch.org/protocols/2014-Protocols/protocol-14-05.pdf>

In the Lord,
Fr. Dennis

VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON

Metropolitan Isaiah has asked that each parish in the Metropolis sponsor a luncheon to honor all of our military veterans. We are planning this luncheon on Sunday, November 9. We will combine this with our patronal feast day of Archangel Michael November 8. We hope many of our veterans will attend. More information to follow.

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Fellow Parishioners,

Greetings! Where did our summer go? It seems to have flown by this year with all the activities. Well, fall is upon us, the kids are back in school, and Christmas items are making their way back onto the shelves! I sincerely hope all had a good summer with plenty of memories.

Since our last newsletter, your Parish Council has fixed a couple items on the Church property. First, as most have probably seen, a new Tuff Shed was purchased to solve some of our storage needs. It was a huge benefit during the festival. Thanks to Norm Struck who provided oversight on that project. Also, a bit more subtle, was the resealing of our parking area. Leon Basdekas ensured we got the best bang for our buck and had the area done in early September. Thanks Leon.

Another big ticket item that took place was our annual food festival. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to provide their talents cooking, cleaning, setting up, tearing down, and helping in every way imaginable. You made our event successful and fun for all who attended. From the pasticcio to the pastries, the food was delicious! Steve Bolish did a wonderful job hanging our new lighting which many commented on. Although not easy to install, they made it much brighter and safer for the workers and guests. Well done Steve.



As we move into the fall, there has been a sub-committee formed to put together a fundraiser to help enable paying off current debts and preparing for the purchase a bigger Church. The fund-raiser will be a dinner, with the opportunity to pledge money to support our efforts. We will be sending invites in the coming months with the event taking place in early 2015. Hope to see you there!

As always, if you have any thoughts or items you feel our Parish Council should table, please bring them up to one of us. We will add it to our monthly meeting agenda. Take care everyone...see you in Church!

— John Kubik, *Parish Council President*

WHY GO TO CHURCH WHEN I CAN PRAY AT HOME?

BY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

They say: '*We can pray at home.*' You are deceiving yourself, O man! Of course, one can pray at home. But it is impossible to pray there as in church, where such a multitude of hearts are uplifted to God, merging into one unanimous cry. You will not be so quickly heard while praying to the Master by yourself, as when praying together with your brethren, for here in church there is something greater than in your room: Agreement, unanimity, the bond of love, and finally here are the prayers of the priests.

The priests stand before us, then, so that the prayers of the people, being weak, would be united to their more powerful prayers and together with them ascend to heaven. The Apostle Peter was freed from prison, thanks to the common prayers offered for him....If the Church's prayer was so beneficial for the Apostle Peter and delivered such a pillar of the faith from prison, why, tell me, do you disdain its power and what kind of justification can you have for this?

Hearken unto God Himself, Who says that the multitude of people who pray to him with fervor moves Him to have mercy. He says to the Prophet Jonah: '*Shall I not spare Nineveh, that great city, in which dwell more than 120 thousand people.*' He did not simply mention the multitude of people but that you might know that prayer together has great power.

[Source: Mystagogy](#)

YEAR TWO BEGINS: A LETTER FROM TROY

Greetings AMGOC Family - Year one of my journey here Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology is officially in the books. I also managed to knock out 18 credit hours over the summer, sacrificing the enjoyment of a real vacation, but it has me well under way for completing my studies in three years versus four. Now, with year two underway I will be my most busy, and most challenged (at least academically) while I'm here. So, while this year may be a very busy and hectic one, it does come with its opportunities for good things as well.

First and foremost, it began with the awarding of my seminarian's cross - making me official. Second, as you can see in the photo, I managed to get a picture with Archbishop Demitrios. Lastly, I have the opportunity for "field education" this year and I have elected to work at a parish in Pawtucket, RI where I teach 5th & 6th grade Church School, do some chanting, give children's homilies, and may have the opportunity to do some regular homilies as well. Additionally, I am completing my Hospital Ministry hours at the Local VA Hospital. This has already provided me with some incredible experiences in my interactions with patients.

Please know that we all love and miss our family at AMGOC, and we pray for you all and Fr. Dennis daily. We also continue to hope and pray for the opportunity for us to return for a visit at the earliest possible time.

With love in Christ - our Faith, our Focus,
Christopher (Troy), Dorothy, Nicholas,
and Christopher



BOOKSTORE – LIBRARY

This August, the Bookstore/Library took a small part in the very successful Greek Festival. The Greek Cookbooks were very popular, so we may have to have more of those next year. We weren't sure what would be of interest to our community, but found those on comparative religions were readily sold. Now we are beginning to think of the Christmas season and stocking some books that would be wonderful gifts to family. Currently on order is a book entitled *The Divine Liturgy for Children*. This book will act as a parents' guide and help to explain Gospel Readings, Feast Days and Special Services. In addition, we have ordered a book that has approximately one hundred and fifty saints and heroes from the scriptures. It contains brief descriptions and is an easy reading choice. Another interesting book is *Seeds of the Word: Orthodox Thinking on Other Religions*. We also have added a few new Icons that may be of interest. Thank you for your continuing support.

See you at the Bookstore/Library!— Barbara Liontas

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER SERVICES

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

- * **Saturday:** Great Vespers at 6pm. Holy Confession before or after service.
- * **Sunday:** Orthros 9am and Divine Liturgy 10am. Fellowship and coffee hour following services.
- * **Wednesday:** Small Paraklesis (Supplication) to the Theotokos 6pm
- * **Weekday Feast Day Liturgy** as scheduled (*Please check the weekly Bulletin on our website*)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Be sure to **Like** our **Facebook** page at www.facebook.com/amgoc.co to be updated on current events associated with the church. Also, our webpage at www.amgoc.org is a great resource for past bulletins, information, weekly services, events and history. Submit Messenger ideas/articles to: admin@amgoc.org.
- If you have any photos that you have taken at Church events, feel free to tag the Church on Facebook. Alternatively, you may email the photos to admin@amgoc.org for inclusion on the Facebook page.

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church

2215 Paseo Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Phone: 719-634-5678
E-mail: info@amgoc.org
Website: amgoc.org
FB: www.facebook.com/amgoc.co