

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

January 20, 2019

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11 **Gospel Reading:** Luke 18:35-43

Next Week: Colossians 3:12-16 **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25:14-30

*Take time to read the scriptures to prepare your heart and mind for Sunday's Liturgy.

Services: Sat., Jan. 26th **Great Vespers**
(Holy Sacrament of Confession to follow) **7 pm**

Sun., Jan. 27th **Translation of relics of**
St. John Chrysostom
Church School **9:15 am**
Hours **9:45 am**
Divine Liturgy **10 am**

Announcements:

PLEASE NOTE: The Ham/Turkey Dinner Coffee Hour has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 27th. See you then and don't forget to bring a friend or two!

The Greshes are in the process of preparing for the FINAL move from Ohio. However, there's no room at the Rectory in order to complete the move! Father has had some success in minimizing some of his stuff and Parish Council has approved the posting of additional parish pieces that will need a new home. Pictures of these items that need a new home will be made available. If you have any interest, just let Father Stephan know and give a donation to the Church.

House Blessings: It is that time of the year again for the house blessings. Father Stephan is working on a schedule. **Please let him know if there are any changes to your address and/or phone number.** He will contact you before he arrives. Don't worry about your mess, Father Stephan has had a lot of life experience with a house full of people and stuff. Traditionally one would want to have at least one clean spot with a clean white cloth that has a bowl of blessed water, an icon, candle, and a fresh herb that can be used for the blessing and later as seasoning.

Looking ahead: Please note these events on your calendars which will occur in ensuing month or so:

Pre-Lenten Retreat: Saturday, March 9th. The topic and speaker are in process. It will be an interactive experience to help prepare us for the Resurrection.

Parish Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 17th after Divine Liturgy.

The *2019 Church Calendars* have arrived and are available in the vestibule today.

The winter season edging its way in! Use your judgment based on weather conditions. If the services are canceled, it will be announced on WPXI.

Collection: January 13th: 1,116

Our Holy Father Euthymius the Great

By Fr. Lawrence Farley

Euthymius was born in Melitene in Armenia in 376. He was tonsured a reader in the Church early in life and raised by the local bishop. Ordained a priest at the age of 20, Euthymius was given care of all the monks of the diocese. But he craved solitude, and so, in the year 405, at the age of 30, he left for Jerusalem to seek a life of monasticism.

Every year, as was the local custom in Armenia, he would leave his cell to spend all of Great Lent in the desert to fast and pray, returning to the community on Palm Sunday. So he settled in the Palestinian desert with a companion, Theoctistus. One day in the desert, a pagan Arab sheik, led by divine revelation, sought out Euthymius on behalf of his sick paralyzed son. Euthymius healed the boy, and the sheik and his entire tribe converted and were baptized. Fleeing increasing attention from the world, Euthymius soon settled at a distance from Theoctistus and the other monks, though he did return to them on Saturdays and Sundays for the Divine Liturgy.

The monastic settlement grew, and a church was built. As more and more monks desired to join them, Euthymius offered a synthesis of the two forms of monasticism: some monks would live the communal life (under Theoctistus), and some the eremitic, solitary life (under himself). This way soon became characteristic of Palestinian monasticism: the communal life under Theoctistus became the training ground for monks who, when ready, would proceed to the solitary life with Euthymius.

Euthymius was known for his wonders and his wisdom. Regarding those who wished to move from place to place, he said, "A tree that is frequently transplanted does not bear fruit." Siding with those who remained true to the Orthodox Council of Chalcedon of 451, Euthymius was persecuted for his staunch defense of the council. He rallied many to the support of Chalcedon. When the government began to persecute defenders of Chalcedon, he was forced to flee to the desert of Rouba for two years. He never relented in his godly austerity, completing his course and dying in peace in 473. At the moment of his death, a lightning bolt was seen to turn to a pillar of light as his soul rose to heaven.