Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral

HOLY PROPHET SAMUEL

August 23, 2020 - 11th Sunday of Matthew
WELCOME!

We extend a warm welcome to all those visiting with us today! Please be aware that the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the unity in belief and practice of the Body of Christ. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing with the Orthodox Church are permitted to receive Holy Communion.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, there will be no coffee hour offered until further notice.

August 23, 2020 - 11th Sunday of Matthew
23 Αυγούστου 2020 - ΙΑ’ Κυριακή του Ματθαίου

COMMUNION: Please continue practicing social distancing (6 feet) even while in line. Also, please hold the red Communion cloth with two hands but do not wipe your lips with it. Finally, please leave your mouth open during Holy Communion. Thank you.

ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ: Σας παρακαλώ, κρατήστε απόσταση έξι ποδιών. Και κρατήστε το κόκκινο πανί (το μάκτρον) της Κοινωνίας με δύο χέρια αλλά μην το χρησιμοποιήσετε να σκουπιστείτε μετά την Κοινωνία και, παρακαλώ, αφήσετε το στόμα σας ανοικτό κατά την διάρκεια της Θείας Κοινωνίας. Ευχαριστούμε.

WEEKDAY SERVICES: Join us on Saturday, August 29th to commemorate the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist at 8:30am.
Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.
The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailors, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship
This year, we are losing about $450,000 due to COVID-19 when we factor in the Preschool closure and the cancellation of the Grecian Festival, the Golf Tournament and decreased stewardship due to lower attendance. Please, if you can, find it in your heart to continue contributing to our Cathedral in the coming weeks and months. Our community’s future depends on the support of its faithful members.

Prayer Books
In just 10 days, we sold 60 prayer books! Thank you for your support. We have another order coming this week. We hope that you’ll purchase them for yourselves as well as for others, especially children and grandchildren, as a way of teaching them our beautiful prayer tradition.

Divine Liturgy Books
Also in our monthly newsletter, we are offering a personalized Divine Liturgy book for our members. This book contains just about anything one would want for a Sunday morning service.

Bible Study
Although we are still social distancing, we know that it’s also important for us to be the church, the continue ministering and teaching the gospel. So, as September quickly approaches, we would like to know if you would like in-person, socially distanced Bible Study beginning in mid-September or if you prefer Zoom. Please take a few minutes if you plan to come and let Fr. Chris know so that he can plan. His email address is: frstamas@gmail.com

Greek School
On Thursday, August 20, the Parish Council met to decide how and when to begin our various ministries. The final decision was to begin Greek School on September 21 and continue with the normal schedule minus the 15 minute break. So, the children will attend class straight from 4 to 6 pm either on Monday and Wednesday or on Tuesday and Thursday, depending on their grade.

Make sure to follow us on Social Media!

FB: SAINT SPYRIDON CATHEDRAL / Insta: STSPYRIDON.WORCESTER
YouTube: SAINT SPYRIDON CATHEDRAL WORCESTER
LITURGICAL PRECAUTIONS

Entrance

- You may enter the Church using the main Russell Street, or back parking lot, entrance.
- Everyone must wear a mask at all times - anyone without a mask will not be permitted to enter the Church.

Narthex

- A Parish Council (PC) Member will hand you candles for lighting. Do not take candles yourself.
- There will be no exchange of money - we ask that you place a donation to support the Church in the box provided.

Seating

- A PC Member will direct you to a seat.
- Please note, you will not be able to pick your seat and that large groups may be split between two pews. Please cooperate with the ushers.
- Parishioners who are not of the same immediate household must sit at least 6 feet apart. Members of the same household are permitted to sit together.
- Avoid sitting directly behind the person in the section ahead of you.

During the Service

- A mask must be worn at all times, even while in your seat.
- Maintain more than 6 feet between yourself and others

Holy Communion

- Rows will be dismissed by PC Members.
- When approaching the Chalice, lower your mask and hold the cloth under your chin using two hands.
- We ask that you tilt your head back and open your mouth wide so the priest can place Holy Communion in your mouth without you closing your lips.
- Do not wipe your lips on the cloth.

Dismissal

- Rows will be dismissed by PC Members through the center aisle, from the back to front of the church.
- Antidoron will be distributed by our clergy in the Narthex.
- Proceed through and out of the Narthex immediately. Please do not linger or greet each other inside the building.
COVID-19 Update – We are pleased to announce that at this time we have no patients or staff testing positive! We are conducting bi-weekly testing of 30% of staff, per state directive. We are so grateful to all staff, patients and family members who are adhering to the safety guidelines.

Visitations – We continue to offer multiple ways for families and residents to connect. There are outside in-person visits with social distancing measures — Understandably residents and loved ones are very happy to see each other. Family members can schedule Facetime or Skype visits through our website. Window visits are still an option too, and families may call the main number: 508-852-1000, ext. 282 and leave a voicemail; they could also contact the receptionist or social worker. For more information go to https://www.htnr.net/coronavirus

Job Openings – The newest job opportunity that we are excited to announce is a part-time activities assistant. But there are many other job openings. Click here https://www.htnr.net/careers to view the latest ones. We are very proud of our team. Our staff is dedicated to the highest standards of a team-oriented care program. Residents are treated with compassion, understanding and personalized care. Each person deserves dignity and respect.

Resident Activities – We are excited to announce that we are starting to hold entertainment and small group activities which is great news for our vibrant and active community Our residents are thrilled that our activities are back including: bingo, exercise, baking, virtual museum tours, gardening, trivia, movies and more. Food socials such as gelato, ice cream, lemonade and popsicle carts are back as well. These activities really help lift the residents’ spirits. The Main Dining room and unit dining rooms are open for meals. On August 2nd entertainment with T.J. was held outside. And later in the month activities including a magic show and cookout will take place. Stay tuned for dates and be sure to follow us on Facebook.

Many of the residents are very pleased that the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Wednesdays has resumed. There is a restriction on numbers allowed to attend at one time, so a rotation has been adopted. But the Live-Streaming to resident rooms has been a real spiritual comfort.

General Assembly Meeting – Holy Trinity will be holding its annual General Assembly Meeting on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:00pm. For the first time we will be holding the General Assembly Virtually. This meeting is open to anyone from the parishes that would like to attend, and of course, will be held via Zoom. Please contact Steve Fotos (stevefotos82@gmail.com) to obtain the meeting information.
A PROPHET OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE

A large number of those who believe in God are not completely familiar with both the OLD and NEW TESTAMENTS. We have all heard of the more popular Prophets such as Moses, Elias, Daniel and David. Emerging from the pages of the OLD TESTAMENT, today we focus on PROPHET SAMUEL.

This wise man was an instrument of God who lived eleven hundred years before Christ. He was the last Judge of the Israelites and anointed their first two Kings. He was born to the barren woman Hannah. This gift from above was named Samuel, meaning “Heard by God.” Being the fruit of Hannah’s prayers, she dedicated him to God when he was around three years old.

Samuel grew up in a pious environment, eventually being chosen as protector of the Israelites. He judged them with holiness and righteousness. He displayed leadership by counseling both kings and military leaders. Samuel realized the need for a central leader of his people whose tribal disunity was impairing their service to God. Many ascribe to him the authorship of the Books of Judges and Ruth, and of the first 24 Chapters of the First Book of Kings.

Through Prophets, God has instructed and prepared us for future Incarnation and ultimately universal salvation. Our Faith was established by wise and educated people who interpreted the Holy Scriptures accurately and who enlightened us with inspired teachings. Let their words serve as our light and foundation, guiding us thru our earthly journey.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.

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<th>WEEK</th>
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*As of 08/20/2020