

The Apostle Titus: Titus was one of the Seventy [Apostles]. He was born in Crete and was educated in Greek philosophy and poetry. Following a vision in a dream, he began reading the Prophet Isaiah and lost his faith in Hellenic philosophy. Hearing of Christ the Lord, Titus traveled to Jerusalem with other Cretans, and there he heard the Savior speak and witnessed His mighty acts. He gave his young heart completely to Christ. Later he was baptized by the Apostle Paul, whom he served, like a son to a father, in the work of evangelization. Paul loved Titus so much that he referred to him at times as his son: *To Titus, my beloved son* (Titus 1:4) and at times as his brother: *I urged Titus to go to you and I sent the other brother with him* (2 Corinthians 12:18). Titus traveled extensively with the great apostle, and Paul appointed him Bishop of Crete. Titus was present at Paul's suffering and death in Rome, and honorably buried the body of his teacher and spiritual father. Afterward Titus returned to Crete, where with great success he baptized the pagans, and where he prudently governed the Church of God until old age. Titus entered into rest at the age of ninety-four.

REFLECTION

Our Christian forebears' superhuman courage and readiness to endure all sufferings (and even voluntary death) for Christ evoked fear in their tormentors. Emperor Maximian, a fierce and merciless persecutor of Christians, ordered his Antiochian proconsul to release St. Andrew Stratelates from prison, in fear that the people would rebel, since they respected Andrew more than the emperor. Emperor Valens ordered his eparch in Edessa to slay all Christians who opposed Arius. The eparch had more human compassion than the emperor. The Edessan Christians had services in a field outside the city, for the Arians had seized all the churches in the city. The eparch warned the Christians to forego the services in the field the next day, so that they would not be killed. Contrary to this warning, all the Christians set out happily to the field, rejoicing that they would suffer and die for the true Faith. The eparch, marching out of the city with the soldiers, saw a Christian woman with a child in her arms as she hurried past the soldiers toward the field. The eparch said to her: "Haven't you heard that the eparch, with his soldiers, will come and kill everyone that he finds there?" The woman answered: "I heard—and because of that, I am hurrying to the field, so that I can die for Christ with the others." The eparch continued: "And why are you taking this child with you?" The woman replied: "I want my child to become worthy of martyrdom as well as myself." At this, the eparch was filled with dread, and returned to the city with his soldiers to inform the emperor. The emperor also was filled with fear, and revoked his order to massacre the Christians.

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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August 25, 2024

Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

Apostolic Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9 – 17

Gospel: St. Matthew 14:22 – 34

Services: *Sunday*-8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *Weekdays* 8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy when scheduled.

Saints of the Day: 9th Sunday After Pentecost. Apostles Titus of the Seventy and Bartholomew.

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 8

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a three-day burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You!

Apolytikion for the Apostles Tone 3

O holy Apostles, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses.

Apolytikion of the Archangels Tone 4

Supreme Commanders of the Hosts of the Heavens, we, the unworthy, implore and beseech You that by Your supplications You encircle us in the shelter of the wings of Your immaterial glory, guarding us who now fall down and cry to You with fervor: Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, as the great marshals of the heavenly hosts on high.

Kontakion for the Nativity of the Theotokos Tone 4

Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality's ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, "The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

Divine Services

Tues. Aug. 27: Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for St. Phanourios

Wed. Aug. 28: Great Vespers 5pm

Thurs. Aug. 29: Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for the Beheading of St.

John the Baptist. (This is a strict fast day)

Sat. Aug 31: NO Service

Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church

Holy Communion of the Orthodox Church is the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is *“With the fear of God, faith and love”* that we approach the Divine Mysteries. Therefore, Holy Communion is reserved only for those baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting, as prescribed by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church. We ask that women, before approaching to receive from the Holy Cup, in respect of our Lord, to please remove lipstick.

Bookstore and Library

Come downstairs and browse our wonderful selection of new books, Icons, and Orthodox gift items in our well-stocked bookstore. There is something for everyone! *Read often and insatiably the books of the teachers of the Church... ~St. Isaac the Syrian*

Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

Aug. 25: Smoot/Stauffer

Sept. 1: Sponsor Needed

Sept. 8: Sponsor Needed

Sept. 15: Sponsor Needed

Scam Alert and Cyber Security

We received from our Chancellor, Fr. Lou, there are active and aggressive cyber-actors targeting our Metropolis of Denver and Greek Orthodox Churches across the country. The cyber-criminals are impersonating our Metropolitan, Chancellor and even me, your parish priest. The scammer posing as one of the above named, may ask for money or gift cards. A few of our parishioners over the years have been contacted by a scammer posing as me. **Please know I would not do this or solicit gift cards.** If this happens let me know with a phone call and do not reply to any of these inquiries.

Capital Campaign

King Soopers Cards has a Loyalty Card Program that offers 5% of your purchase sent to a designated charity which Archangel Michael is an eligible recipient. You may sign up online or go to the customer service desk.

Stewardship 2024

Remember to be current with your stewardship. If you did not receive a 2024 packet, please see Ruxandra Georgescu.

Memorial Service

This morning we remember in our prayers the departed servants of God +Constantine Pappas (2 years), the father of Melissa Smoot and +Thomas Stauffer (2 years) the husband of Connie Stauffer. *Everlasting be their memories!*

Orthodox Catechism Class

Class will meet September 1, following coffee hour. *All are welcomed to attend!*

AMGOC Annual Greek Festival

We had such a wonderful weekend with many guests! Thank you to all who helped in setup and preparation of food items. Final numbers are not in yet, but this is our most successful festival. OPA!

Women’s Fellowship

The Women’s Fellowship will be meeting on September 7, 2024 in the church hall from 10 to 12 to discuss partnering with the Queen Palmer Elementary School to provide donations and possible other services. Please contact Connie Leonard at 719-660-2190 for further information or if you would like to be added to the email mailing list.

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Appeal

On Sunday, September 8 and 15, we will have a collection for our theological students from the Metropolis of Denver.

Saints of the Day

The Holy Apostle Bartholomew: *On this day we commemorate the translation of the relics of St. Bartholomew, although his main feast is celebrated on June 11. When this great apostle was crucified in Albanopolis [Derbend] in Armenia, Christians removed his body and honorably buried it in a lead sarcophagus. When numerous miracles—especially healings of the sick—occurred over the grave of the apostle, the number of Christians visiting the grave increased, so the pagans took the coffin containing the relics of Bartholomew and threw it into the sea. They also threw four more coffins into the sea. These contained the relics of four martyrs: Papias, Lucian, Gregory and Acacius. However, by God’s providence the coffins did not sink, but floated and were carried by the current: Acacius to the town of Askalon, Gregory to Calabria, Lucian to Messina, Papias to the other side of Sicily, and Bartholomew to the island of Lipara. By a miraculous revelation, Agathon, the Bishop of Lipara, foresaw the approach of Apostle Bartholomew’s relics. Accompanied by other clergy and the people, Agathon came to the seashore to receive the coffin with great joy. Immediately, many healings of the sick occurred over the relics of the holy apostle. The relics were placed in the Church of St. Bartholomew on Lipara, and reposed there until the time of Theophilus the Iconoclast. In approximately 839 A.D., the Muslims threatened Lipara, and the relics of the apostle were translated to Benevento. Thus the Lord glorified His apostle by the miraculous grace bestowed upon him, both during his life and after his death.*