

ST. PROCOPIUS: LESSONS FOR OUR DAY

It is somewhat surprising to find references to martyrs and the idea of martyrdom in the marriage ceremony of the Church. There is, for instance, the hymn "O Holy Martyrs, who have fought the good fight and have received your crowns, entreat the Lord that He have mercy on our souls." And then, in the dismissal, there is the invocation of the name of the Great Martyr Procopius.

Martyrdom involves sacrifice, it involves profound love, it involves a kind of crucifixion of self. Surely such elements provide the bedrock for a truly Christian marriage. So it is no wonder that the Church invokes the name of one of the great martyrs of the faith, St. Procopius, in the ceremony.

Procopius lived in the early years of the fourth century, a time of violent persecution of Christians by the pagan emperors. He was born in Jerusalem. It is said that even in his youth he exercised great discipline of self, fasting and meditating on the things of God. In fact, his name is derived from the Greek word meaning "progress or advancement."

One time he was in Caesarea, and taken to the palace of the governor Flavian. This man sought to induce Procopius to offer sacrifice and prayer to the pagan gods, but Procopius stood firm and proclaimed his faith in ONE God, Creator of all. Flavian was angered and ordered Procopius to be taken out of the city and slain with the sword. He fell asleep in Christ about the year 303. Here we have an example of great discipline, commitment and perseverance of this warrior for Christ.

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KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Stelyios S. Muksuris, Ph.D., Protopresbyter

E-mail: doctorssm@gmail.com – Cell Phone: 412.973.7714

>>>> NEW WEBSITE: www.theotokou.org www.facebook.com/dormitionaliquippa <<<<

July 3, 2016

2nd Sunday of Matthew

St. Hyacinth of Caesarea; St. Anatolios, Patriarch of Constantinople

Orthros Gospel: Two Tone: First

EPISTLE: Rom. 2:10-16 (pg. 66) GOSPEL: Matt. 4:18-23 (pg. 66-67)

MEMORIAL – George Kakiou (20 years)

PROSFORO – Offered by Petroula Vlahos

COFFEE HOUR – Hosted by Lynne, Tula and Margie Kakiou in memory of their father, George

THERE ARE NO SPECIAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

WED. JULY 6 – Senior Citizens Meeting with Father’s Day Picnic

5:00 PM

SUMMER SCHEDULE began on Sunday, June 19; Orthros 8:30 AM / Liturgy 9:30 AM; Sundays only!

CHOIR NEWS – Sunday, June 19, was the last time the choir sang before their summer break. They will resume their regular schedule on Sunday, September 11.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS/HOSTESSES – Hosts for next Sunday, **July 10**, families of Georgia Gamra and Christopher and Angela Burnett; Hosts/hostesses for **July 17**, Kazas family; **July 24**, families of Tony & Mary Keriotis and Greg & Popie Keriotis; **July 31**, families of Ted & Christos Samaras & Ronnie and Margarita Jaber. Hosts or hostesses can add their names on the Sunday of their choosing for 2016; you can honor people for their birthdays, namedays, accomplishments, etc. Please insert your names in the dates you prefer on the boards that are on the wall in the Small Hall.

3RD ANNUAL DINNER BANQUET in memory of Gerontissa Taxiarchia, will take place on Sunday, July 24; **“Let the Children Come to Me”**. It will be hosted by Gerontissa Theophano and her Sisterhood of the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery, Saxonburg, at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Oakland, beginning with Vesper Service at 4:00 PM followed by the Dinner Banquet at 5:00 PM. More information is included in their flyer in our July Monthly Bulletin. “Please come and help build a new monastery”.

FATHER’S DAY PRAYERS – Ladies Philoptochos would like to thank all the people who participated in their Annual Father’s Day Artoklasia and Memorial Services which were held last Sunday, June 26. All the the names will be printed in the August Monthly Bulletin.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A FUN AND EXCITING AFTERNOON – Philoptochos is sponsoring a “Fall Luncheon Fashion Show” on Saturday, October 1, 2016 in our Community Center. Apparel will be exhibited from Rome Inspirations, Rochester, and Christopher & Banks, Beaver Valley Mall. A light luncheon will be served and featured will be a scarf demonstration, OPA Grecian Dancers and an exhibit table. Extra free-will donations are welcome to benefit all Philoptochos ministries as well as to help flair the cost of the events will be greatly appreciated; checks payable to Ladies Philoptochos. They are also accepting “Baskets” for free-give away door prizes; if interested, please contact Violet Rubino or Helen Valsamidis. A table will be set up during Coffee Hour on Sunday, July 24 to sell tickets; cost is \$25.00. This event is open to the public as well as our parish members. For more information, please contact Linda Hapach 724-728-1667.

THANK YOU to all those who have filled out their Stewardship Pledges for 2016. Your generosity is deeply appreciated as this is the single most important source of income for our Church. If you do not currently pledge, we encourage you to speak to Lynne Kakiou, our Financial Secretary. All pledges remain in strict confidence.

BECOME A “BULLETIN BOOSTER!” by helping to support our Monthly *Community Bulletin*. Donations are being accepted for 2016; please speak to any member of council to donate. Those who contribute \$20.00 or more will be acknowledged on our Booster pages.