

ETERNITY

How long is eternity? Pondering such a concept can, indeed, give us a headache! A simple dictionary definition of the word describes it as “infinite time” or “time without a beginning or ending.” When we think of eternity in the framework of our faith, however, we focus in on 2 specific areas: eternal life in heaven or eternal damnation in hell. There is no question at all concerning where we WANT to spend eternity. The question is: How do we earn a spot in that wonderful place “where there is no longer sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting?”

Like everything else, the answer lies in the Scriptures. Christ frequently spoke of eternal life and He was quite specific as to how it can be attained. When a certain lawyer approached Him and questioned what he needed to do to inherit it, Christ told him that he must “...love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27) On another occasion when questioned in a similar manner, the Lord urged His interrogator to “keep the commandments” and to “sell what you own and give it to the poor.” Still another time, He reminded Nicodemus that “...God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life.” (John 3:15) To gain eternal life, Jesus also told His followers that they must “eat His Flesh” and “drink His Blood” - a clear reference to the reception of Holy Communion.

To sum all this up, we can confidently say that if we love God, if we follow His Divine Laws, if we care for the needs of others and live a sacramental life, we, too, will be numbered among the saints in God’s heavenly kingdom for all of eternity. Apostle Paul tells us “...eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered the heart of man the thing which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Parish Christmas Card

If you wish to be listed on our Parish Christmas Card, please print your name below and return to the church office by December 4th. Please consider including a donation to offset the cost of printing and postage for the card. *Mahalo!*

Please print. Your name will appear as written here.

Ss Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



November 4, 2018
5th Sunday of Luke

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November 4, 2018

5th Sunday of Luke

Commemoration of: Ioannikios the Great; Nikandros, Bishop of Myra;
Porphyrios the Mime

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Angelike thinamis (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 6
When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and those who guarded it became still as dead, and standing by Your grave was Mary seeking Your most pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin (woman), bestowing the gift of life. You who have risen from the dead, Lord glory to You.

Tes ton thakrion su roes (St. Ioannikios) Tone 8
With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Ioannikios, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

Tu Stavru Su (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8
Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind.

Kontakion

Prostasia ton Hristianon Tone 2
O protection of Christians that can not be put to shame, mediation to the Creator immovable. Do not over look, the pleading voices of those in sin, but be in time as a kind one to our help, who in faith cry out to You: Hasten to intercede and be quick to beseech. You who always protect, Theotokos, those who honor You.

Epistle Reading Ephesians 2:4-10
BRETHREN, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Gospel Reading Luke 16:19-31
The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus,

full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

Activities & Announcements

- ✂ **37th Annual Greek Festival**– Thank you to all our volunteers who helped make our Festival a success!
- ✂ The **2018 Holiday Baking Order Form** is available in the social hall

Today

5th Sunday of Luke; Fall General Assembly

This Week

THU, 11/8– Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.; Parish Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.
FRI, 11/9– St. Nektarios the Wonderworker: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.; Learn Byzantine Chant 1:30 to 3 p.m.
SAT, 11/10– Great Vespers 5:30 p.m.
SUN, 11/11– 8th Sunday of Luke; Festival Thank You Luncheon; Philoptochos Meeting 12 p.m.;

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*