



PARISH BULLETIN

HOLY ARCHANGHEL MICHAEL'S ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**Twenty-Seventh Sunday after
Pentecost**

Resurrectional Apolytikion. First Mode.

When the stone was sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. For which cause the powers of heaven cried out to Thee, O Life-giver: Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

Seasonal Kontakion. Mode 3.

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the angels and the shepherds now glorify Him who is willing to be gazed on as a Young Child Who before the ages is God.

Prokeimenon. Mode 3.

Luke 1: 46-48

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Verse: For he has regarded the humility of his servant.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the

heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



The Gospel According to Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath,

said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Word of the week – Reflection St. Philothea of Arges (Dec. 7th)

St. Philothea was born in the Bulgarian capital of Trnovo. Her mother died when she was still young, and her father remarried. One of St. Philothea's tasks was to bring her father his food as he worked in the fields. Each day, she would give some of it to poor children. When her father found out, he became enraged and struck her with an axe. Although he was immediately repentant, his daughter died from the wound.

Her father was unable to move her body, so he confessed his sin and begged assistance from the Archbishop of Trnovo. The archbishop and his priests were likewise unable to move the body. Realizing the martyr did not want to remain in her native

country, the archbishop began listing monasteries and churches. When he reached the name of the Monastery of Curtea de Argeș, St. Philothea's body became light. Her relics were taken by clerical procession to that monastery, where they remain today, effecting miraculous cures.

From OrthodoxWiki.com

Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos (Dec. 9th)

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

From OCA.org

St. Spyridon the Wonderworker (Dec. 12th)

Spyridon was born in the village of Ashia (askia - "without shade"), Cyprus (270 AD) and died in Trimythous,

Cyprus (348 AD). He was a peasant farmer and shepherd and was not educated. Spyridon was married and had a daughter, Irene. After his wife died, he and his daughter both entered into monasticism. He later became the Bishop of Trimythous (during the reign of Constantine the Great) and continued in piety for which he was greatly known.

During the Maximilian persecutions (295 AD) he was arrested and exiled. In 325 AD, he was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea where he astonished many with his simple explanations of the Orthodox Faith. Though not well-educated, he surprised everyone at the Council of Nicea by converting a famous philosopher to Orthodoxy from Arianism. He explained the unity and diversity of the Trinity by holding up a brick, then commonly thought to be a combination of the elements fire, earth and water; as he spoke, fire blazed from the top of the brick while water gushed out underneath. There too, at Nicea, he met St. Nicholas of Myra, with whom he formed a lasting friendship.

Through simplicity and deep devotion to God, he worked miracles throughout his life and became known as a great wonder-worker, calling forth rain in the midst of drought, casting out demons with a single word, healing the sick and even raising people from the dead, in addition to having the gift of prescience.



Liturgical Schedule for this week

Sunday <i>December 6</i>	7:00 pm	Vespers – St. Philothea of Arges
Monday <i>December 7</i>	5:30 am	Divine Liturgy – St. Philothea of Arges
Wednesday <i>December 9</i>	5:30 am	Divine Liturgy – Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos
	6:00 pm	Paraklesis
Friday <i>December 11</i>	6:00 pm	Vespers – St. Spyridon
Saturday <i>December 12</i>	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy (St. Spyridon) & Memorial Vespers
	5:00 pm	
Sunday <i>December 13</i>	9:00 am	Matins
	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy – St. Herman of Alaska

Announcements:

- **Happy name day** to Nick Thomo and Nicholas Goulas (St. Nicholas – Dec. 6th), Anna Tanka (St. Anna – Dec. 9th), and Spiro Thomo, Spiro Kelly, and Spiro Kelly (St. Spyridon – Dec. 12th).
- **Happy birthday** to Maria Rapsomanikis (Dec. 4th), Matthew Dowling (Dec. 10th) and Maria Mironidis (Dec. 7).
- **Nativity Fast:** Please see the calendar for the fasting rules.
- **Bible study on Revelations:** Thursday at 7pm. Please contact Fr. John for the Zoom link.
- **School snack drive:** Please bring individually-wrapped snacks for the local schools; please no nuts or fruits.

