

Why Ask the Saints? Jesus Is the Sole Mediator Between Us and the Father

By Abbot Tryphon

Most Protestant churches strongly reject all saintly intercession, citing passages such as 1 Timothy 2:1-5, which says that Jesus is the sole mediator between God and man, as well as Deuteronomy 18:10-11 which seems to forbid invoking departed souls. They also point to the fact that there are no examples in the Bible of living humans praying to dead humans — Jesus Christ being the lone exception, because He is alive and resurrected, and because He is both human and Divine.



Y e t
the Bible
i n d e e d
directs us
to invoke
those in
heaven and
ask them
t o p r a y
with us. In
P s a l m s
1 0 3 , w e
pray,

“Bless
the Lord, O

you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word! Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will!” (Psalms 103:20-21). And in Psalms 148 we pray, “Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his host!” (Psalms 148:1-2).

Not only do those in heaven pray with us, they also pray for us. In the book of Revelation, we read:

“[An] angel came and stood at the altar [in heaven] with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne; and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God” (Rev. 8:3-4). And those in heaven who offer to God our prayers aren’t just angels, but humans as well. John sees that “the twenty-four elders [the leaders of the people of God in heaven] fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints” (Rev. 5:8).

The simple fact is, as this passage shows: The saints in heaven offer to God the prayers of the saints on earth.

Yes, we have Christ as the only intercessor before the Throne, but that never stopped any of our Protestant brethren from asked fellow believers from praying for them. We ask the friends of God to pray for us all the time, when we ask for the prayers of our friends and fellow believers. Asking those who’ve gone on before us is possible because they are alive in Christ, and offer their prayers to Christ just as do we. We all, both those in heaven and those still upon this earth, pray before the same “sole mediator between God and man”,

Jesus Christ. It is Christ through whom we approach the Throne of the Father.

Finally, why would we not want to ask for the prayers of those who have already won their place in Paradise, and are already standing before the Throne of God, worshipping the Holy Trinity?

Part of the problem for Protestants to accept the veneration of the saints stems from their reliance on an approach to doctrine and practice as being Bible only based. Proof texts is thus the norm for most protestant debate on the interpretation of any given passage.

By the same token, the unity of worship and doctrine found within the Orthodox Church is the fact we’ve based both our way of worship AND our doctrinal teachings on Holy Tradition and Scripture. Since the Bible comes out of the living oral Tradition of the Church, the scriptures can only be properly interpreted from within the life of the Church. Our unity is based on what has always been taught.

The Orthodox Church proclaims as dogma that which has been taught everywhere and at all times. The Church is catholic because that which she teaches and the way she worships is not only from Apostolic times, but was everywhere taught and practiced in Apostolic times. She is catholic (universal) because she is the same now as she was from the earliest times in her history. Her Holy Tradition is relied upon when interpreting the Bible, because it is from her Tradition from which the Bible emerged.

Another point to think about is how we (from our Protestant upbringing) interpret the concept of Christ as the ‘sole mediator between God and man.’ The Protestant idea assumes that ‘mediator’ means ‘intercessor’. But, there is a more profound meaning, not merely an intercessor but the reconciliation of God and man in the reality of the hypostatic union of God and man in the person of Jesus Christ. That is, I think, the real meaning of ‘mediator’. Confer the meaning of the Latin source of the word, *mediare*: ‘place in the middle’, according to the Pocket Oxford English Dictionary.

Doesn’t that make clear that the Protestant interpretation is missing the real point? Once we understand that, then the whole argument against the intercession of the saints has no reality.



The Very Rev. Fr. Tryphon, Abbot of All-Merciful Saviour Monastery on Vashon Island in the Puget Sound near Seattle, Washington, provides meaningful support and authoritative guidance for a profitable spiritual life in today's world.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT begins on Wednesday, November 5th. On that evening at 6:00 pm the SACRAMENT OF UNCTION will be celebrated.



ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Dear Saint Sophia Parishioner:

We invite you to attend this year's **Fall General Parish Assembly** meeting which will be held in the McIntyre Hall on **Sunday, November 12, 2017** following the Divine Liturgy. We will be discussing the church events of the past year, and several other important topics.

The agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

- Call to Order by Parish Council President, Bryant Mattson
- Opening prayer by Father Michael
- Nomination and election of Chairman of the General Assembly
- Chairman's appointment of the Secretary of the General Assembly
- Approval of the minutes from the fall General Assembly meeting held May 21st, 2017
- Father Michael's remarks
- Remarks from Parish Council President
- Treasurers Report – Georgia Sentkowski
- Festival Report- Bryant Mattson
- Stewardship Report – Christos Christoforou
- Approval of Budget for 2018
- Audit Committee Report for Year 2016
- Nomination of Audit Committee to Audit year 2017
- Nominations for 3 Parish Council positions, for years 2018-2019
- Nomination of Election Committee
- Nomination for delegates for the Metropolis of San Francisco Clergy Laity (to be held at St. Nicholas Ranch in California, January 29-30, 2018)
- Nomination of delegates to attend the 2018 Archdiocese Clergy Laity (location and dates TBD)
- Old Business
- New Business
- Closing prayer by Father Michael

Sincerely,

Fr. Michael Tervo
Proïstamenos

Mr. Bryant Mattson
Parish Council President

ARTICLE II – Section I: Quorum reads as follows:

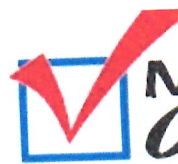
The presence of one-third (1/3) of the members in good standing according to these By-Laws shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article V- Section I: Voting Rights reads as follows:

A family which is shown by the Parish records to be enrolled and current in their stewardship, having made a pledge and submitted at least one payment towards that commitment for the current year, shall have the right to vote.

A new family of the Parish becomes a member-in-good-standing and eligible to vote upon declaring their stewardship commitment and making an initial payment toward the commitment at least three (3) months prior to exercising the right to vote.

It is most important that all members of St. Sophia attend this meeting so please be sure to mark the date on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 12, 2017 following Divine Liturgy.



Mark Your Calendar

Dates to Remember

- Nov. 11th GOYA Field Trip to All Merciful Saviour Monastery; Women's Retreat in Arlington
- Nov. 12th Parish Fall General Assembly, after Liturgy
- Wed. Nov. 15th Holy Unction Service, 6:00 pm
- Thurs. Nov. 23rd Liturgy on Thanksgiving Day, 8:00 am
- Sat. Dec. 9th Philoptochos Tea & Ornament Exchange, 11:00 am
- Sun. Dec. 10th OCMC Missionary Bill Black
- Sat. Dec. 16th Open House at Tervo Home
- Sun. Dec. 24th Great Vespers for Christmas Eve, 5:30 pm
- Mon. Dec. 25th Christmas Day, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am
- Sat. Jan. 6th Epiphany; Fr. Michael begins blessings homes and businesses.
- Sun. Jan. 7th, 2018 Philoptochos Vasilopita Auction, after Liturgy; Diving for the Cross at Marine Park, 12:30 pm
- Mon-Tues. Jan. 29-30 Metropolis Clergy Laity
- Mon. Feb. 19th Great Lent Begins
- Sun. April 1st Palm Sunday
- Sun. April 9th Great and Holy Pascha, Easter



Warm Jacket and Shoe Drive

Please search your closets for new and/or gently used jackets and shoes that you and/or your children no longer wear and donate them to the **Lighthouse Mission** before the cold weather hits.

A donation box can be found in the fellowship hall.
Contact: Kim Weil

A friendly reminder: If you have done so already, as the end of the year approaches, please make sure your parish stewardship commitment is up to date. Thank you!

September 15, 2017

To Fr. Michael Jerro and all of
St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church,

Words truly cannot express how very grateful I am for the wonderful Greek Festival that is produced each year by St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church. I extend to you my wholehearted thanks, however, those are feeble words compared to my feelings.

The amount of effort, the giving of time and resources by your church is beyond amazing. My hope is that you can see and hear just how much the festival means to all who attend. For me, I literally cannot thank you enough. Not only do those four days delight my taste buds and fill my stomach, the genuine hospitality and most delightful conviviality fill my soul with joy!

I sincerely hope you all have a most wonderful St. Sophia Parish Feast Day.

With utmost gratitude,
Andrea Olson

ORTHODOX WOMEN'S

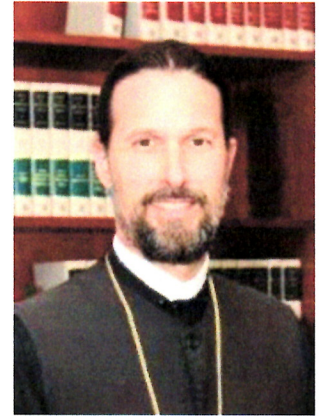
SPIRITUAL RETREAT

The Voice in my Head
"Developing a Christian
Conscience"

Saturday,

November 11th, 2017

Time: 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.



The Antiochian Women of the Pacific Northwest Deanery announces the 3rd annual Autumn Antiochian Women's Retreat. The V. Rev. Fr. Josiah Trenham, pastor of St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church in Riverside, CA will be our guest speaker. The retreat will begin at 8:30 a.m. with Third Hour prayers and end at 2:30 p.m. Questions? If you would like to go, please call Presvytera Elizabeth at (360) 398-3768. We will depart from St. Sophia at 7:15 am.

St. Andrew Orthodox Church

230 E Burke Ave Arlington, WA

The Fall Parish General Assembly
will take place on Sunday, November 12th, following the Liturgy.

Parish Council Nominations and Elections: If you would like to nominate someone or run for the parish council yourself, please see Fr. Michael for a nominations form before the nominations are made at the General Assembly on November 12th. All candidates must meet eligibility requirements and attend a parish council seminar led by Fr. Michael to be eligible to serve. There are three council positions open for 2018-2019.

Parish Council Elections will take place on Sunday, December 9th. Absentee ballots are available upon request for eligible voters at the church office. All absentee ballots must be received by 2:00 pm on December 9th.

Sr. GOYA Field Trip to All Merciful Saviour Monastery on Vashon Island. Grades 6-12. Sat., November 11th. Depart from the Church parking lot at 8:00 am. On the way back we will stop in Seattle for dinner. Return around 8:30 pm. Please rsvp to Fr. Michael. Two more adult chaperones needed.

THEOLOGY 101 CLASS: A new adult class will meet most Sundays at 12:00 pm. During these 45 minute sessions we will learn about the Orthodox Faith. For more information, see Fr. Michael

Bible Study will meet next on Wed. Nov. 8th at 11:00 am.

The St. Sophia Youth Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday, December 17th.

Voices are needed to praise and worship Our God! Come sing with us in the choir! Rehearsals take place on alternate Sundays after coffee hour. See Pres Elizabeth for questions.



New Coffee Hour Ministry Policy

Based on feedback from many who have faithfully sponsored coffee hours over the years, at the July Philoptochos meeting it was decided that at future coffee hours sponsors should **provide only cookies and/or fruit offerings**. Other duties will be to set up the tables and chairs, turn on the coffee, clean up afterwards, take out the trash, put things away and finally to lock up the fellowship hall.

Coffee Hour Ministry

Thank you for finding a substitute and notifying Fr. Michael if you are not able to provide for coffee hour on your scheduled day. If you would like to volunteer to offer a coffee hour reception in conjunction with a Memorial Service, please let Fr. Michael know that as well.

- Nov. 5 Voula Parks, Loree Foote, Jaimee Twining
- Nov. 12 Project Mexico Team: Brooksana Raney, Sue Moyer, Mason Clegg
- * Nov. 19 Ibtissam Mansour, Angelina Moussi
- * Nov. 26 Salome Wolters, Evelyn Lallas, Tula Trames

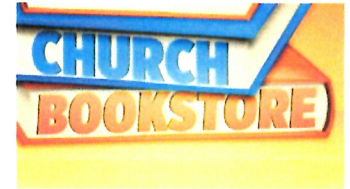
- * Dec. 3 Jane Costello, Amber Owen
- * Dec. 10 Dorine Boulos, Marie Boulos
- * Dec. 17 Francine Tsoulouhas, Kathy Tsoulouhas
- * Dec. 24 Tervo Family
- Dec. 31 Effie Bachelor, Elizabeth Morgan
 - * Advent Fast... No meat please

Prosporo Baking Ministry

- Nov. 5 Tasia Tsoulouhas (4)
- Nov. 12 Tervo Family (4)
- Nov. 19 Tammy Stavropoulos (4)
- Nov. 26 Brooksana Raney (4)

- Dec. 3 Adrienne Hunter (5)
- Dec. 10 Christos Christoforou (5)
- Dec. 17 Sue Moyer (5)
- Dec. 24 BAKER NEEDED (4)
- Dec. 31 BAKER NEEDED (4)

BOOKSTORE NEWS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER



THE BOOKSTORE HAS MOVED!

The location of our parish bookstore as moved from 'DOWN BELOW' to 'UP ABOVE'; we are now located in a wonderful space that used to be called a closet.

BOOKS: a great variety and some special titles that would make gift giving very special and also for your own education.

ICONS: There is a good assortment of icons at this time and if there is a special one that you want, we would be happy to order with a two week delivery time.

INCENSE: There are floaters for oil and charcoal and various incense flavors.

CHRISTMAS

- 1) Christmas cards
- 2) Christmas balls with Orthodox design
- 3) Orthodox Christmas CD's

There are many more wonderful things to discover in our new bookstore. Looking forward to seeing you and helping you find what you want.

Those of us in our parish bookstore wish you a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.



His Grace Bishop Apostolos and local clergy from Seattle and Vancouver celebrated the Great Vespers for St. Sophia. From left to right: Fr. Daniel Triant (St. Demetrios), Fr. Costa Economos (St. George, Vancouver), Fr. Michael, Fr. Photios Dumont (St. Demetrios), His Grace, Fr. Timoleon Prattas (Ss. Nicholas & Dimitros, E. Vancouver), Fr. Dean Kouldukis (Assumption, Seattle)

NEW PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER...

Thank you to **Dino Monioudis** who has answered the call to join the St. Sophia Parish Council to fill the vacancy made up Dena Lien's recent move to Texas. God bless you Dino and the Holy work of the parish council!!

A "THANK YOU" FROM PRESVYTERA...

Presvytera Elizabeth is grateful to the St. Sophia parish for sending her to the National Presvyteras conference. A refreshing time was had by 60 Presvyteras from across the country. Here they are at St. Basil's church, San Juan Capistrano, California.



Liturgical & Events Calendar

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
Bellingham, Washington

NOVEMBER 2017

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

1

2

3

4

Fr. Michael attends Clergy Conference in Wash. D.C. Oct. 30-Nov. 4

5:30 Readers
Vespers

5th Sunday 5
of Luke
8:45 am Orthros
10 am **Divine Liturgy**
11:15 Sunday School
11:30 Coffee Fellowship
12:15 Theology 101

Archangels Gabriel and Michael
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy
11 am Bible Study

St. Nektarios
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

10 **8:00 am GOYA Field¹¹**
Trip to All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island

Women's Retreat @ St. Andrew, Arlington

5:30 Readers Vespers

6pm Vespers

8th Sunday 12
of Luke
8:45 am Orthros
10 am **Divine Liturgy**
11:15 Sunday School
11:30 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Philoptochos Bake Sale

St. John Chrysostom
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 Divine Liturgy

Washington Orthodox Clergy Assoc.

ADVENT FAST BEGINS

11 am Bible Study

6 pm Sacrament of Holy Unction

4:30 Confessions
5:30 Great Vespers

9th Sunday 19
of Luke
8:45 am Orthros
10 am **Divine Liturgy**
11:15 Sunday School
11:30 Coffee Fellowship
12:15 Theology 101

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

THANKSGIVING

Office Closed

NOTE EARLY LITURGY START TIME...

8:00 am Divine Liturgy

St. Katherine
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

5:30 Great Vespers

13th Sunday of Luke

8:45 am Orthros
10 am **Divine Liturgy**

11:30 Coffee Fellowship

11 am Bible Study

6 pm **Divine Liturgy for St. Andrew @ St. Andrew Church in Arlington**

Liturgical & Events Calendar

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
Bellingham, Washington

DECEMBER 2017

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

1

2

14th Sunday of Luke 3
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Sunday School
11:30 Coffee Fellowship
12:15 Theology 101

St. Barbara
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

St. Nicholas
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy
11 am Bible Study

6 pm Vespers

8 Conception of the Theotokos 9
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy
11-2 Philoptochos
Christmas Tea & Ornament Exchange

4:30 Confessions
5:30 Great Vespers

10th Sunday of Luke 10
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
Visit of OCMC
Missionary
11:15 Sunday School
11:30 Coffee Fellowship
12:15 Theology 101

Washington
Orthodox Clergy
Assoc.

11 am Bible Study

6 pm Vespers

St. Eleftherios
8:45 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

2-4:00 pm Tervo Family Open House

4:30 Confessions
5:30 Great Vespers

11th Sunday of Luke 17
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Sunday School
11:30 Coffee Fellowship
12:00 **Youth Christmas Pageant**

11 am Bible Study

6 pm Vespers

9:30 am Royal Hours for the Nativity

4:30 Confessions
5:30 Great Vespers

Sunday Before the Nativity 24
8:45 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:30 Coffee Fellowship

6:30 pm Great Vespers

HOLY NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

8:30 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy

31

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

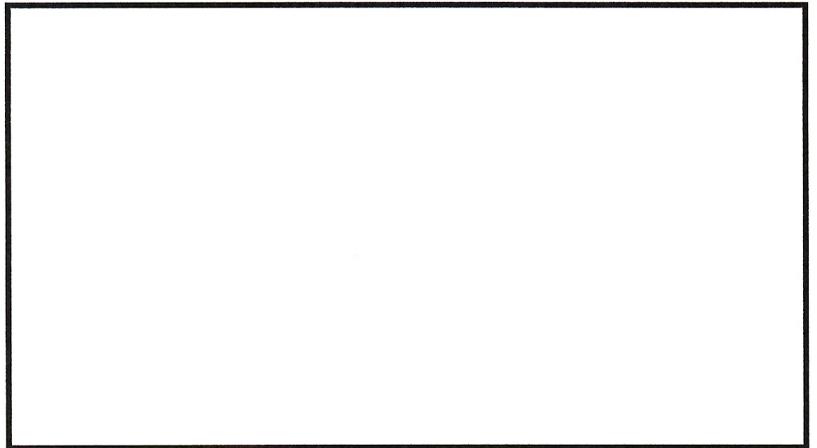
510 E. Sunset Dr. Bellingham, WA 98225

NOVEMBER
2017
MONTHLY BULLETIN

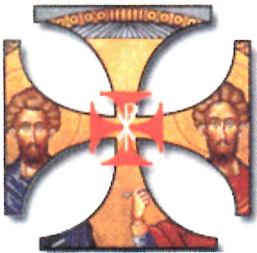
THEOLOGY 101

CLASS for ADULTS

In this class we study the theology and history of the Orthodox Church. It meets most Sundays at 12:00 pm. During these 45 minute sessions we will learn about the Orthodox Faith. For more information, see Fr. Michael.



PHILOPTOCHOS



PHILOPTOCHOS MEANS “FRIENDS OF THE POOR”

The Philoptochos annual commitment for October is the **National Emergency Fund**. This fund enables the Philoptochos Society to immediately respond to those in need in

times of national or international crisis.

SAVE THE DATES:

Annual Bake Sale: Nov. 19th, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Christmas Tea: Saturday December 9th

At the Christmas Tea there will be a visit from and OCMC missionary from Kenya, Dr. Bill Black.

Sunday, January 7th Vasilopita Auction to raise funds for St. Basil Academy. Please bake your own vasilopita and bring to the McIntyre Fellowship hall by 10:00 am on that day.

New St. Sophia Philoptochos email:

saintsophia.philoptochos@gmail.com

Our **St. Sophia Philoptochos** is raising funds to help local, national, and international people and programs, and we want to tell you more about it! To help meet local needs, we are collecting gently used coats, hats, and gloves for those in need for the cold weather that is already here. We are also collecting new socks that we will distribute to homeless people through an Opportunity Council outreach program. For both of these, look for the plastic tubs in the hall to donate. Contact Kim Weil for more information: 360-393-9956 or kimlakewhatcom@comcast.net.

Come hungry and ready to buy delicious baked goods at the annual Philoptochos bake sale on Sunday, November 19th after Liturgy. Philoptochos is holding the bake sale as a fundraiser for one of our many recipients such as our December national ministry--UNICEF and the General Medical Fund. This fund provides financial resources for people in Orthodoxy with medical expenses they cannot meet. We will also continue to provide Fr. Michael with grocery gift cards for local people in need.

Please look at our new Philoptochos announcement board in the fellowship hall. We will be keeping you posted on who and what we're helping through our donations and our good works. Also look for some new Philoptochos fundraising events in the coming months! For more information or to get involved, contact Jane Costello, Philoptochos president, 360-739-3463.