

SWEET SINGER

Who can deny the tremendous impact of music in the life of the Church down through the centuries? What a great treasure is contained in the service books of the Church. One of the Church's greatest hymnologists was a Syrian Christian of the early sixth century named **ROMANOS**. This great poet and musician has been given the title "*Sweet Singer*" or "*Melodist*."



Romanos came to Constantinople as a young monk sometime about the year 490. Here he attended the divine services at the magnificent Cathedral of the Holy Wisdom. In time, he came to be a chanter and reader in this the greatest of Christian churches.

Perhaps he is best known for composing the Christmas hymn that is sung on the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord: "*Today a Virgin gives birth to One who is above all existing things . . .*" But the fame of St. Romanos does not rest solely on this hymn. He was a productive artist. He wrote and accented a thousand "*kontakia*." These verses are called by that name from the short piece of wood around which singers rolled the papyrus containing the written hymn. Some eighty of these hymns have been preserved by the Church and can be found in the service books.

The particular genius of Romanos was in his poetic and simple style. The words can be easily understood with the themes taken from the fountain of his studies. Added to this was his profound faith in Christ and Church, and his desire to serve his Lord with every talent he could muster.

Romanos has been called by some the patron saint of all who sing for the Church. Surely he has made a profound contribution to the content of divine worship and deserves to be well-known by all Christian faithful.

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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 <<<<

October 2, 2016

2nd Sunday of Luke

Sts. Cyprian & Justina; Sts. Eleutherios & Roustikos

PROSFORO – Offered by Helen Frederick

COFFEE HOUR – Hosted by Dr. Nicholas & Mrs. Andrea Passodelis

SPECIAL SERVICE

WED. OCT. 5 – Paraklesis

10:00 AM

Bible Study

11:15 AM

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

WED. OCT. 5 – Senior Citizens Meeting (*back to winter schedule*)

Greek School

1:00 PM

5:30 PM

TODAY IS NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY and we are honoring members from our choir and chanters. Honorees from the choir are Penny Mehos and Maria Gregorakis who through the many years have enhanced our choir with their beautiful soprano voices. Honorees for the chanters are Mike Vougios, who is here for every service Father Stelyios conducts and Louie D'Amico our youngest chanter who loves to chant when he is home from college. A second tray will be passed today to support the ministries of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Musicians. Please see enclosed information.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS/HOSTESSES – Next Sunday, **October 9**, Spero and Irene Maginas in memory of Helen Columbis; Sunday, **October 16**, Manuel & Irene Kaffenes and Stanley & Rena Simantiras; Sunday, **October 23**, Aleka Costianis and Petroula Vlahos; Sunday, **October 30**, Marie Poulis and Koula Digby. The only Sunday left this year is Sunday, November 13. Please volunteer and insert your name/s for that Sunday on the board that is on the wall in the Small Hall.

VASILOPITES – Senior Citizens will be taking orders, beginning today, in the Community Center following Divine Liturgy; price is \$7.00/each and deadline for orders is November 9. To place your orders, please see Marsha Geórgakis or call her at 724-375-7984. Baking will take place on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, November 14, 15 & 16. Everyone's help, women and men, will be needed to help form and bake them.

STRIP DISTRICT – Senior Citizens will be taking their annual bus trip to the Strip District on Saturday, November 5. Everyone is welcome to join them on this fun shopping day; charge is \$2.00/members and \$5.00/non-members. For lunch, they will be stopping at the Olive Garden in Robinson Township. If interested in going, please see Marsha Georgakis or call her at 724-375-7984.

SERBIAN FOOD FESTIVAL is taking place this weekend Saturday, October 8, from 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM and Sunday, October 9, from 12 Noon – 4:00 PM.

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.

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15

BRETHREN, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shown in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus's sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life for you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you in His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

GOSPEL according to Luke 6:31-36

The Lord said, "And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them, If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind and ungrateful and selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

National Church Music Sunday October 2, 2016

Today is the day parishes across our Archdiocese honor the gifts and stewardship of the church musicians of our parish – our clergy, the choir, our chanters, and those who teach the hymns of our Church to our youth. Their contributions enhance our worship and assure that the glorious treasury of our hymnography continues to edify us and future generations.



National Church Music Sunday always occurs on or the Sunday following the Feast Day of St. Romanos (October 1st), the Patron Saint of Church Musicians.

About the Icon: Saint Romanos the Melodist is the patron saint of church musicians. St. Romanos, surnamed *O Melodos* and *O Theorrheter*, was a poet of the 6th Century. The only authority for the life and date of this greatest of Greek hymn-writers is the account in the Menaion for October; his Feast day is October 1st. According to this account, he was by birth a Syrian, served as deacon in the church at Berytus, and came to Constantinople in the reign of Anastasios. It was in the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos that he received the charisma of sacred poetry. "After a religious retreat at Blachernae, he returned to his church, and one night in his sleep, saw a vision of the Theotokos, who gave him a volume of paper saying, "Take the paper and eat it." In his dream, Romanos opened his mouth and swallowed the paper. It was Christmas Day, and immediately he awakened and marveled and glorified God. Then, mounting the ambo, he began the strains of his *I Parthenos Simeron ton Iperousion Tiktei*, the same Kontakion we sing today for the Nativity! He also wrote about one thousand other feast day kontakia before he died in 510 AD.