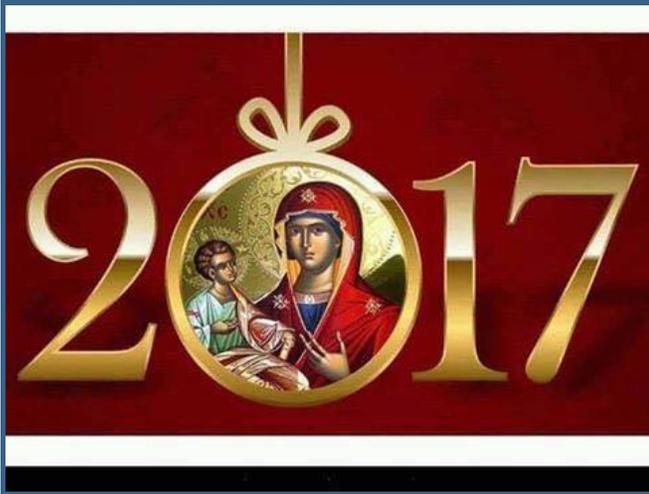


January 2017 Newsletter



Happy New
Year
2017!

Upcoming Events

- **SOYO Day of Service, March 19, 2017**
- **Basketball Tournament May 5-7, 2017 in Ottawa (more details to come)**

Social Media

Facebook: [Doecuny SOYO](#)
(add us!)

Twitter: [@DOECUNYSOYO](#)

Instagram: [@doecunysoyo](#)

Email: doecunysoyo@gmail.com

Website: www.doecunysoyo.weebly.com

A Message from Father Nikolai

"He who does something good and expects a reward is serving not God but his own will" St. Mark the Ascetic.

St. Mark reminds us of what Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer, that we are to ask for God's will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven, not our will. Our lives and our world suffer today because we try and bring about good for our benefit and according to our own will. Because

we act selfishly even in "doing good", the good we do is decreased and of no benefit to us spiritually. When we stop wanting our will to be done and seeking for God's will we will fight and argue less. When we do our good deed only because it is good and for no other reason then we will do God's will and the result will be greater peace for ourselves and the world around us.

SOYO Day of Service by Milad Hamwi

"SOYO Day of Service is just around the corner! March 19 is the official date for our annual 'call to service' - fittingly placed in the middle of the Great Fast, our time of spiritual 'spring cleaning', a time to turn our attention both inwards (toward the kingdom) & outwards (toward our neighbours). Some popular ideas for service projects include: serving at a soup kitchen, making IOCC relief kits & visiting the elderly, but don't let these ideas tie you down! Get creative with your group and choose an

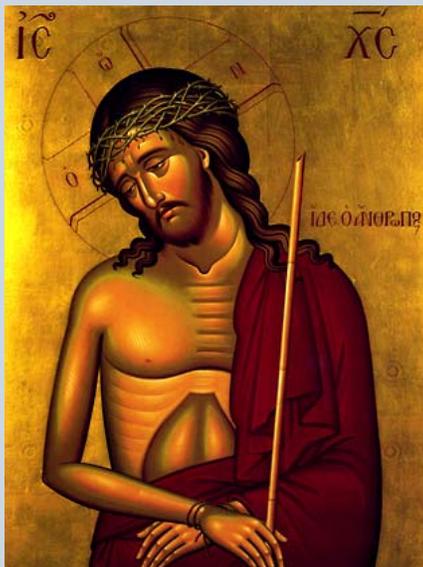
activity that you can put your hearts into!

Can't organize an activity with your group on that date? No worries! Online submissions can be made throughout the month of March, using the tag @NACSOYO & hashtag #SOYOservice - don't forget to include your parish's name for a chance to win a beautifully handwritten icon!

Can't wait to see your submissions! Spread the Word!"



The Importance of Communication by Nicholas Zakaib



Communication is essential for a good and fun SOYO. This applies to any level of SOYO, whether it is for your parish, diocese or even archdiocese! Communication can come through many ways including verbal and social media! The three essential platforms that help reach the furthest are Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. It is important to update the pages regularly, so that SOYO pops up in people's feeds more and inspires them to participate! Feel free to share any content posted on the DOECUNY social media pages! Facebook Events section is a great place to post about your SOYO events! Don't forget to give people enough time to prepare. If you notice a new teen at Church, it is absolutely essential that you take the first step, introduce yourself to them and talk to them about SOYO. Make sure to add them on

your Church's social media! Bring them to your SOYO group and introduce them to everyone. It is also important to have email groups and group chats such as WhatsApp and GroupMe groups between SOYO members and SOYO officers for rapid exchange of ideas and planning. The Church bulletin is also a great place to advertise for SOYO events. It is important that you don't rely only on social media for communication! Plan meetings on a monthly basis to touch up on things! If you ever feel unsure about something, speak to your parish priest and your local youth advisor. If your parish SOYO has social media pages, be sure to follow us on our platforms listed below. If your parish does not have any SOYO social media pages, feel free to contact us to assist you in creating some!

Our Lenten Journey Leading to Holy Week by Rouba Khouri

Hello DOECUNY Teen SOYO, Have you ever thought that although we are invited to be ready and to take part in the Resurrection of Christ at least once a week during Divine Liturgy, Great Lent is still the most elaborate way to shape our soul and body for the greatest of feasts?

Indeed, the Orthodox Church has blessed us, on top of all Lenten week services, with an intricate dominical itinerary to ascend to our ultimate destination.

As a matter of fact, as early as twelve weeks before Pascha, we have the encounters of Zacchaeus and then the Canaanite Woman who, regardless of their tumultuous past and through their exemplar faith, were sanctified by the Mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Following with the Triodion, we have the chance to further pave the way to our salvation in a three week period that is covered by four Gospel readings:

1. The Publican and the Pharisee
2. The Prodigal Son
3. The Parable of the Last Judgment
4. Forgiveness Sunday

Whether it is pride or humility, self-righteousness or sincere repentance, abusing others or helping the needy; we are given key messages on how to behave to make every one of our earthly days as part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now with the beginning of Great Lent, the Gospel of the **calling of the disciples** and the *Sunday of Orthodoxy* invite us to proclaim our Faith.

On the Second Sunday, we have living testimonies of the miracles of Faith through the **healing of the paralyzed** and that of *Saint Gregory Palamas*, a great man of prayer. Midway, we follow suit with a solid milestone which is the *Feast of the Holy Cross*, we are reminded of the **unimaginable sacrifice of Christ for our sake** and our firm belief in the Resurrection.

During the Fourth Sunday, we celebrate *Saint John of the Ladder* while we are reminded by **the healing of the man's sick son** about the three pillars of our Christian Life: faith, prayer and fasting.

On the Fifth Sunday reminiscence of our **final destination as being the Kingdom of God** is brought up through the Gospel and the unavoidable way to get there is identified as repentance through the example of *Saint Mary of Egypt*.

Ready to depart? Always!

We have already been set on this journey since our baptism but we are blessed with this yearly reminder so that whenever we may have taken the wrong exit, we may have the scriptures and the Saints to accompany us through the One Path girded with humility, prayer, faith, repentance and the care for others.

Blessed is our God now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Have a blessed Lenten period everyone!

References:

www.antiiochian.org
Father Evan Armatas, Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church