

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

HOLY THEOPHANY

EPISTLE READING: This morning's Apostolic reading is from St. Paul's letter to Titus, Chapter 2, Verses 11-14m Chapter 3, Verses 4-7: TITUS, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 11-19.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 3, Verses 13-17: At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ, ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον Ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 3, ἐδάφ. 13-17: Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παραγίνεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀπὸ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ἐπὶ τὸν Ἰορδάνην πρὸς τὸν Ἰωάννην τοῦ βαπτισθῆναι ὑπ' αὐτοῦ. ὁ δὲ Ἰωάννης διεκώλυεν αὐτὸν λέγων· ἐγὼ χρειαίω ἔχω ὑπὸ σοῦ βαπτισθῆναι, καὶ σὺ ἔρχῃ πρὸς με; ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπε πρὸς αὐτόν· ἄφες ἄρτι· οὕτω γὰρ πρέπει ἡμῖν πληρῶσαι πάσαν δικαιοσύνην· τότε ἀφήσιν αὐτόν· καὶ βαπτισθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀνέβη εὐθὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ ὕδατος· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἀνεψύχθησαν αὐτῷ οἱ οὐρανοί, καὶ εἶδε τὸ Πνεῦμα τοῦ Θεοῦ καταβαῖνον ὡσεὶ περιστερὰν καὶ ἐρχόμενον ἐπ' αὐτόν· καὶ ἰδοὺ φωνὴ ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν λέγουσα· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, ἐν ᾧ εὐδόκησα.

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del Mal.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY: This class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey. It is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith. We explore Christian theology and practice by reading selections from Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover) why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact **Alexandros Kozák** at orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com. Note: The Introduction to Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month. It meets in the second-floor conference room, beginning at 9 a.m. In January, the class will meet January 13 and January 27.

THE GREAT FEAST OF THEOPHANY: Early Christians celebrated the birth of the Messiah on January 6, the Feast of Theophany, or Epiphany, as it commemorates the Baptism of Jesus. A service, known as the Blessing of the Waters, is also celebrated. Today, that service was held at the close of the doxology, just prior to the Divine Liturgy. Theophany is a celebration of renewal. May this be a time of renewal for all of mankind.

OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW-ELECTED PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS: As you recall, Parish Council elections took place on December 16. At the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy, the seven members elected, will take their oath office. They are: **George Ambadiotakis Ambus, DDS, Peter (Panagiotis) Cazanis, S. Christopher Kyriacou, John Lampros, Dean Nicolacakis, Manoli Nuris, and Nick Rally.** Immediately afterwards, they will convene, together with the eight who were elected last year, and elect officers for 2019. The eight are: **Philippos Athanasiades, Deno C. Konstantinidis, Goerge Gavros, Mike Sarikakis, Thomas A. Nuris, Esq., Paul Sogotis, Nicholas Svetcoff, and James D. Vorrises.**

PARISH VASILOPITA: Do join us in the Korinthias Hall following today's Divine Liturgy for a Vasilopita Brunch, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos. The donation of \$20 covers the cost of the brunch and also supports the many ministries of the Ladies Philoptochos

DANCE PRACTICE: Dance practice will take place today, beginning at 12 noon, and also on Saturday, January 12, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL: Basketball Practice will take place this week on Wednesday, January 9 and on Thursday, January 10, beginning at 7 p.m.

CHURCH SERVICES THIS WEEK: The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated tomorrow, January 7, at 10 a.m. The occasion is the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist. Afterwards, Father Stephen will attend the inauguration of California's Lieutenant Governor, Ambassador Elaine Kounalakis.

PARKING: For the time being, Golden State Parking, the valet company, parks our cars on Sunday mornings. We drop off and pick up our cars at the entrance. We do not go down into the garage ourselves. For this service, we've been paying \$5, essentially to cover the cost of the attendants. Meanwhile, we have signed a 6-month trial agreement with the valet company so that, as soon as it obtains the necessary permits, it can operate the parking weekdays, as well. We anticipate this service will begin February 1. When it does, we will no longer be paying to park when we come to church for Sunday services.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP: This month, you received a packet containing a Stewardship pledge card for 2019, a return envelope, and a brochure with additional information about Stewardship. Please make your support for 2019 a priority, by completing and returning your 2019 Stewardship pledge card prior to December 31st of the present year. We can't thank you enough for your continued support, nor can we stress how important your participation is, as a member of the Annunciation Cathedral family. Your Stewardship support makes possible the very existence of this parish, and its ability to offer Liturgical services, educational, & philanthropic programs.

WHAT NEXT? As you can see, we're winding down Phase 1 of construction. We have a little way to go, however, in order to complete the fountain, the gates along Valencia Street, the exterior doors, etc. This takes time, especially in this challenging building climate and, of course, money. In order to complete these tasks and begin working on Phase 2 (the interior), we will need to embark upon a renewed Capital Campaign. (More about this in the New Year). Let's stay positive and focused. Consider what you have accomplished so far. As with Moses, we hear God speaking to us: *"Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you."* (from the Septuagint: *Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἅγιάσμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). Building also takes vision, determination and faith. You are doing something extraordinary: you are building His sanctuary, a sacred space, right the heart of one of the world's premier cities. Here, the Orthodox Christian faith is poised to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation to a whole new generation of worshipers!



"The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified."