

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018

SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET, BAPTIST, AND FORERUNNER, JOHN

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Book of Acts, Chapter 19, Verses 1-8. 'Ο Απόστολος: Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 19, ἐδάφ. 1-8.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 1, Verses 29-34: At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 29-34: Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, βλέπει ὁ Ἰωάννης τὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐρχόμενον πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ λέγει· ἴδε ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ ὁ αἴρων τὴν ἁμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου. οὗτός ἐστι περὶ οὗ ἐγὼ εἶπον· ὀπίσω μου ἔρχεται ἀνὴρ ὃς ἐμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. καγὼ οὐκ ᾔδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῇ τῷ Ἰσραὴλ, διὰ τοῦτο ἦλθον ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ ὕδατι βαπτίζων. καὶ ἐμαρτύρησεν Ἰωάννης λέγων ὅτι θεάμαί το Πνεῦμα καταβαῖνον ὡς περιστερὰν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ, καὶ ἔμεινεν ἐπ' αὐτόν. καγὼ οὐκ ᾔδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ὁ πέμψας με βαπτίζειν ἐν ὕδατι, ἐκεῖνός μοι εἶπεν· ἐφ' ὃν ἂν ἴδῃς τὸ Πνεῦμα καταβαῖνον καὶ μένον ἐπ' αὐτόν, οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ βαπτίζων ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ. καγὼ ἐώρακα καὶ μεμαρτύρηκα ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Six (Plagal 2):

When the angelic powers appeared at your tomb, those who guarded You became as though dead. And, standing by your sepulcher was Mary, seeking your pure and sacred body. You did vanquish Hades and, uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin bestowing the gift of life. From the dead You arose, O Lord: we give glory to You.

Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνημῆμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἀχραντὸν σου Σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωροῦμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

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: (*Sundays, 9.a.m., upstairs*). 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 (rather than every Sunday). The schedule for this month and next is: January 7, 14, February 4, 11.

VASILOPITA AND VASILOPITA BRUNCH TODAY: We hope you are planning to join us as we celebrate with our Annunciation family at our 2018 Vasilopita Brunch. The lunch, sponsored by the Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos, is taking place following this morning's Divine Liturgy. The donation of \$20 per person (\$10 for children), will benefit St. Basil's Academy. Members of the Ladies Philoptochos have been hard at work preparing the Vasilopita breads for your enjoyment. Let's support the efforts of Philoptochos, as they lead the way in ministering to the poor and so many other philanthropic endeavors.

TODAY IS KNOWN AS "SYNAXIS" OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST: As yesterday was the great feast of Theophany, or Epiphany—the day when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River—today honors the memory of the one who baptized Christ. It is called a "synaxis." A synaxis is an assembly for liturgical purposes, like Vespers, or like the Divine Liturgy. The practice developed in Constantinople, where the clergy and faithful would gather together on a specific feast day at a church dedicated to the saint of that day. So, in Constantinople, all clergy and faithful would gather at a church dedicated to St. John the Baptist. A synaxis occurs on the day following a major feast day, as today, since yesterday was Theophany (or Epiphany).

STEWARDSHIP AND YOU: On December 3rd, the Cathedral officially launched its 2018 Stewardship Campaign. We cannot stress how important it is for everyone, age 18 and above, who considers the Cathedral to be your home parish, to support its ministries through Stewardship. For, we are a family, and a family needs all its members doing their part, in order for it to be a happy, functioning family. In an effort to properly acknowledge and thank you for your support, we will list the names of all Stewards in our February *Herald*. In case you've misplaced your card or if you wish additional cards for family members, these, as well as information about our Stewardship program, may be found at the *pangari*. They are in an envelope marked "Stewardship." We also invite you to direct any questions you may have concerning our Stewardship program, to Father Stephen or a member of the Parish Council Stewardship Team. Let's make 2018 a banner year for Stewardship for the Cathedral. Together, we can do it!

DANCE PRACTICE TODAY: Dance practice today will begin at 3 p.m., following the Vasilopita Brunch.

FOLK DANCE AND CHORAL FESTIVAL, OR FDF: FDF normally takes place in February, during President's Day weekend. This year, however, it is taking place one month earlier. It begins this Thursday, January 11, with opening ceremonies and concludes on Sunday, January 14, with a grand banquet. Furthermore, it is taking place in San Francisco, at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. We invite you to check with FDF, www.yourfdf.org, for a schedule of events and pricing.

YOUNG ADULT DANCE PRACTICE: Young Adult dance practice will not take place this Tuesday, January 9, beginning at 7 p.m.

NO BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK: There is no basketball practice this week, due to FDF.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/GREEK SCHOOL AND THE REFURBISHED CLASSROOMS: We remind students that teaching materials (books, etc.) only are permitted in the classrooms: no balls, food, etc. Classrooms (tables and chairs; whiteboards, etc.) are to be left in the same condition as they were found.

CLOSER AND CLOSER: We're in the home stretch. As you can see, we are nearing **completion of the exterior**. We are waiting for our conditional use permit, which will enable us to secure a third-party operator to run the parking. Tentatively, we've been given February 1, 2018 for utilization of our parking. As for the **interior**: we hope to locate a contractor by the end of 2017 for the upper interior wall installation. However, in order for us to continue, we need your prayers and your continued financial support. First, we have outstanding pledges, to the tune of \$550,000. May we ask you to make good on your Building Fund pledges by the end of 2017? This will enable us to continue rebuilding. If you have not yet contributed, won't you consider making your gift this calendar year, before December 31, as your gift is fully tax deductible, to the extent allowed by law? More importantly, you will experience the joy of giving (and to such a historic undertaking!), helping make firm our presence as a Greek Orthodox house of worship in the *heart of our Great City*. In this way, we will be answering the call by God to Moses, when he said *"Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you."* **(from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἅγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν). (Exodus 25:8).** When everything is completed, we will be able to consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God. More than likely, this will take place to coincide with our 100th anniversary, in 2021. We're in the home stretch, Annunciation!



"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."