



Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - Synaxis of John the Baptist

### *This Morning's Readings*

#### *Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8*

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

#### *The Gospel according to John 1:29-34*

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."

## *This Morning's Hymns*

O Christ the angelic powers appeared at your tomb; the guards were as dead and Mary stood by your grave seeking Your sacred body. You destroyed Hades yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin and through her bestowed life; glory to You Who has risen from the dead.

Ἄγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπήνησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωὴν, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Most blessed are You, O Christ our God, Who by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, made the fishermen wise and through them, illumined the world and to You the Universe was ever drawn. O Lord, glory to you.

Εὐλογητός εἶ Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας φιλόνητος, δόξα σοι.

Oh Christ God, when You were baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father did come forth to testify, calling You His Beloved Son; and the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Thou Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, Oh Lord Glory to You.

Ἐπιφανέντος σου ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ Σωτήρ, καὶ βαπτισθέντος σου ὑπὸ Προδρόμου Χριστέ, ἠγαπημένος Υἱὸς ἐμαρτυρήθης ὅθεν καὶ συνάναρχος, τῷ Πατρὶ πεφανέρωσαι. Πνεῦμα δὲ τὸ Ἅγιον, ἐπὶ σὲ κατεγίνετο, ἐν ᾧ καὶ φωτισθέντες βοῶμεν· Δόξα Θεῷ τῷ ἐν Τριάδι.

### **WELCOME!**

Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church is reserved for those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Gifts by having arrived at a respectful time in the service, and having recently confessed and kept the appointed fasts. If you are not prepared to receive the Holy Gifts we invite you to instead receive the blessed bread from Fr. Apostolos at the conclusion of the liturgy.

## *Announcements*

### **JANUARY EPISTLE READING SCHEDULE**

If your child or grandchild has not read the Epistle and would like to, feel free to contact Presvytera Denise and she will put them on the list.

**January 7th-Eva Vardalos, January 14th-Matthew Dye, January 21st-Susie Papadopoulos, and January 28th-Eleni Papadopoulos.**

### **PHILOPTOCHOS VASILOPITA CUTTING**

Father Apostolos will be cutting the Vasilopita in church and distributing one piece to each ministry. Following Divine Liturgy come prepared to bid on your favorite Vasilopita at our traditional silent auction at the James A. Speros Community Center.

### **SOUP AND SALAD LUNCH TODAY**

Join us in the James A. Speros Community Center today for our annual soup and salad luncheon. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10 each. Please come and support our dancers as they prepare for next weekend's Faith Dance Festival (FDF) in San Francisco, CA.

### **SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY 28th**

This year Philoptochos' annual Valentine's Brunch will come early on Sunday, January 28th. Ticket sales begin today, make your reservations early since no tickets will be sold at the door. A delicious meal will be prepared for us by our own chef, John Mitchell. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids ages 6-12. There will also be a 50/50 raffle with half of the prize money going to the winner and the other half going to Philoptochos. This is Philoptochos only major fundraiser of the year so please join us and support our chapter.

### **VISIT ST. NECTARIOS BOOKSTORE TODAY**

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond is open every Sunday following Divine Liturgy. For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact Patsy Harris at 480-239-5270 or [patsy@stnectariosphx.org](mailto:patsy@stnectariosphx.org). Also visit our online store at [www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org](http://www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org).

### **ANNUAL CALENDARS**

Our Annual Church calendars for 2018 have arrived. They will be mailed this week along with a pocket calendar and a 2018 Bible guide. Be on the lookout for yours!

### **FESTIVAL WINTER WISH LIST**

We are always looking for blue and white Christmas lights. Checking out those after Christmas sales and pick up a few boxes to donate. You can drop them off in the marked collection box placed in the Narthex on Sunday. Thank you for your generosity!

*This Week at Holy Trinity Cathedral*

Today Sunday 1/7 <b>SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST</b>	<b>8:00am -- Matins</b> <b>9:30am -- Liturgy</b> Vasilopita Cutting & Auction Dance Soup & Salad Luncheon	Dance Practice following Luncheon
Monday 1/8	HTA Back <b>9:30am - Jim Delis Funeral</b> (St. Anthony's Monastery ; Florence, AZ)	
Tuesday 1/9		6:00pm - Dance Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 1/10		5:00pm-7:00pm - Greek School 6:00pm - HTA Board Meeting
Thursday 1/11	FDF	
Friday 1/12	FDF	
Saturday 1/13	FDF	
Sunday 1/14 <b>SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY</b>	<b>8:00am -- Matins</b> <b>9:30am -- Liturgy</b> FDF No Sunday School	

**MEMORIAL TODAY**

**Mary Ann Chiros - 40 Days-- Offered by The Keyser Family.**

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral**  
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**Parish Council Officers:**  
**Connie Contes -President, Sandy Meris -Vice President,**  
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**Andi Furlis, Joe Goard, Tony Nicoluzakis,**  
**Socrates Papadopoulos**



# Ορεκτικό

*An appetizer before the main course*

*The 13<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas*

*January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

The Old (1780) English Christmas Carol "The 12 Days of Christmas" describes the festivities enjoyed between Christmas morning and Holy Epiphany, the wisdom of which Presbytera and I learned as young parents in stretching out the gifting season as we watched our young ones buried under a tidal wave of presents from grandparents, aunts and uncles. The 12 Day celebration also enabled us to relish the Christmas season to its fullest and not become too hasty to take down the lights and tree.

I was mindful of these family memories this week as I was straightening out the pew backs and preparing the Altar for the Epiphany celebration which commenced this Friday. Once again, it seemed that the season of the Nativity went rocketing by but I was filled with joy as I thanked God for the beautiful Divine Services we celebrated together, the wondrous Christmas Pageant offered by our parish children, the beautiful contributions of our chanters and choir, and the generosity expressed within our Holy Trinity family.

But now that even Epiphany has come and gone it is time to pack away the finery of the season and set our eyes on the days ahead. This New Year will indeed go blazing by since the Triodion period of preparation for Great Lent appears the last Sunday of this month and Lent itself begins the 19th of February! Our annual Faith Dance Fellowship and Metropolis Clergy Laity Congress will both be held this month and Holy Week appears April 1st! How might we remain grounded in this year's greatly accelerated Church calendar?

Perhaps the real question is how we might better learn to live in the moment. A close friend and I were chatting recently about his feeling 'out of phase' as anxieties about the future clouded his appreciation for the present and I offered to my friend the hard-won insight I have grown to understand of the power of daily gratitude. With Christmas goodies already replaced by Valentine's and even St. Patrick's Day wares on retail shelves, we encounter many visual cues which can unsettle us.

But seeking out those often overlooked blessings throughout the day and offering little words of praise and gratitude to God helps pull us back into the moment. Pausing to enjoy the songbirds' call, to smell the succulent citrus blossoms, to share a sunrise or sunset with our spouse, can cultivate within us a *Eucharistic* view of life and deepen our awareness of the many gifts God provides for us.

Each new day is pregnant with the possibility of encountering God in prayer and in the many Eucharistic moments shared within our families and circles of friends. My prayer is that we can seize many more of these daily opportunities in this New Year and experience the timelessness of God in the grace He pours out on each of us through the simple gift of gratitude. A blessed New Year to us all!

*Fr. Apostolos*