HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Sunday, January 1, 2023

The Circumcision of our Lord
+ St. Basil the Great

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Seventh (John 20:1-10)
Mode of the Week: Fourth/Tēταρτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

[Image 13x221 to 492x576]

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:
Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σῶσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκης τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a warm welcome to all worshiping with us today!

While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is reserved for Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.

Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!
My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart, understanding.
Verse: Hear this, all you nations; give ear, all you inhabitants of the world.
(Ps. 48)

The reading is from Paul’s Letter to the Colossians.
(2:8-12)

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (2:20-21, 40-52)

The Circumcision of the Lord

At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover.

And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day’s journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.” And he said to them, “How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

- **Hymn of the Circumcision of Christ (Μαρτυρία τοῦ Δαιμονορρύπου, 1st Mode):** In essence being God, most-compassionate Master, * You assumed human nature without transmutation. * Fulfilling the Law, of Your own will, * You accepted circumcision in the flesh, * to bring an end to the shadow, and to remove the passions that cover us. * Glory to Your benevolence, O Lord; * glory to Your compassion; * glory to Your inexpressible condescension, O Word. (sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn)

- **Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (To φαιδρόν, 4th Mode):** When the women Doctors of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been destroyed, Christ has risen, granting His great mercy to the world. (sung after the Small Entrance)

- **Hymn of St. Basil (Εις πάντα την γήν, 1st Mode):** Your proclamation went forth into all the earth, for it accepted the Law, of Your own will * You accepted circumcision in the flesh, assumed human nature without transmutation. * Fulfilling the nature of all that is, and you arranged the morals of society. A royal priesthood! Do not give the Father, intercede with Christ our God, to grant us His great mercy.

- **Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσε μεν, 1st Mode):** Your compassion; * glory to Your inexpressible condescension, * to bring an end to the shadow, and to remove the passions that cover us. * Glory to Your benevolence, O Lord; * glory to Your compassion; * glory to Your inexpressible condescension, O Word. (sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn)

- **The Kontakion of the Circumcision (Ο πάνα γένος Κυρίου, 3rd Mode):** As the Master over all * has undergone circumcision, * so He cuts away the sins * of human nature, and by His own will * on this day, upon the world He bestows salvation. * And on high * does the Creator's hierarch Basil * now rejoice, for he is known as * a most divine and light-bearing mystic of Christ.

Prayer Requests:

- **Prayers for those recently reposed:** Nicholas (+November 9), John (+November 13), Janice (+December 12), Cynthia (+December 25), Sharon (+December 28)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

- **Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:** Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahlotes, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

- **Nate, January 4**

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

- **St. Nikola Velimirovic (Sebrian Orthodox Bishop) (+1966) on Christ's Theophany/Baptism in the Jordan:** The Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. When John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29), and when John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation was shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself of mankind and died under them [immersion] and became alive again [the coming out of the water]; and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again, renewed, restored, regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation.

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

- **Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!**
  - January 1: Bessie Andros, Basil Elmer, Betty Maxwell, Carter Vasilis Zoumberis
  - January 3: F. Demetris Kosmatos, Sara Theofaritis
  - January 7: John Apostolou, John Cacavas, Bryan John Gordy, Sean Morris, John Santon, John Staurulakis

- **Birthdays—Happy Birthday**
  - January 4: Robert Ice, Alex Saratsiotis

- **Anniversaries—Congratulations!**
  - January 3: Fr. Theodore and Pres. Stacey Elmer

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)