Sunday, December 24, 2023

Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord
St. Eugenia the Martyr
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Seventh (John 20:1-10)
Mode of the Week: Fourth/Tέταρτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Image</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Orthodox</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before Nativity of the Lord</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Basil</td>
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Wednesday, December 27

11:00am | Funeral for Eve McElrath (preceded by Visitation at 10:00am)

Wednesday, December 27-Saturday, December 30

Winter Youth Rally in Atlanta

Sunday, December 31

9:15am | Orthodox |
| 10:30am | Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Nativity

Memorial Service for Emmanuel Zaharakis and Kalliopi Kaneris (family of Nick and Antigone Michalakis) at the end of the Liturgy

Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House

1:30pm | Organizing of the Back Building from the Festival |

4:00pm | Byzantine Chant Class |

5:00pm | Great Vespers |

Monday, January 1

9:15am | Orthodox |
| 10:30am | Divine Liturgy of St. Basil on the Day of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas) |

Friday, January 5

1:00pm | Great Vespers |

Saturday, January 6

1:30pm | Organizing of the Back Building from the Festival |

4:00pm | Byzantine Chant Class |

5:00pm | Great Vespers |

Wednesday, January 7

9:15am | Orthodox |
| 10:30am | Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Theophany and the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist |

Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House with the Cutting of the Vasilopita sponsored by Philoptochos

12:45pm | Greek School (Adult)/Youth Dance Practice |

Upcoming Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Today, December 24</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Orthros</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:45pm</td>
<td>Greek School (Adult)</td>
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<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Great Vespers for Christmas followed by Christmas Carols</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 25</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy of St. Basil on the Feast of St. Basil the Great</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 3</td>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 5</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Royal Hours of Theophany</td>
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<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Vesperal Liturgy on the Eve of Theophany and Blessing of the Waters</td>
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<td>Orthros</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Holy Theophany (Epiphany) and Great Blessing of the Waters</td>
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<td>1:30pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 10</td>
<td>5:45pm</td>
<td>Vespers</td>
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<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library</td>
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Upcoming Epistle Readers:
(12/31) Aleca Hortman, Nadia Cazacu; (1/7) Aleca Hortman, Mike Cantrell

Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:
(12/31) Natalia Saratsiotis; (1/7) Gray Yates; (1/14) Maria McCluskey

Upcoming Ushers:
(12/25) Maria S.; (12/31) Erick+Cheryl S.; (1/1) Maria S. (1/5pm) Melanie M.; (1/5pm) Maria S.

Upcoming Video Operators:
(12/25) Gray Y.; (12/31) Gray/David N.; (1/1) Joanna P.; (1/5pm) Christina D.

Upcoming Fellowship Hosts:
(12/31) Antigone Michalakis; (1/7) Philoptochos; (1/14) Natalia Saratsiotis

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.

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

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.

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!
The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (11:1-25)

Sunday before Christmas

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon, she shall be delivered, and Shewail the father of Zechariah, and Zechariah the father of Abi‘ud, and Abi‘ud the father of Elai‘skim, and Elai‘skim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zecha‘im, and Zecha‘im the father of Shal‘el, and Shal‘el the father of Zechariah, and Zechariah the father of Elai‘ud, and Elai‘ud the father of Elia‘zar, and Eleazer the father of Mathew, and Mathew the father of Zedek, the son of the Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man, and not desiring to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought about this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she shall bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." This way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man, and not desiring to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought about this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she shall bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." But Joseph did not know her until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.
This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:
Monday (12/25—Nativity of Christ—No Fasting): Matthew 1:18-25; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:1-12
Tuesday (12/26—Synaxis of the Theotokos—No Fasting): Hebrews 11:1-4, 12-18; Matthew 1:18-25
Wednesday (12/27—St. Steven the First Martyr—No Fasting): Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-5, 47-56; Matthew 1:18-25
Friday (12/29—No Fasting): Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 2:13-23
Saturday (12/30—No Fasting): I Timothy 6:11-16; Matthew 12:23-15

Prayer Requests:
Fr. Syomeon (not supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Kassandreia, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Betty, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Hermione, Emmanuel, Marv, Kay, Helen, Nikiti, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelianos, Brian, Vassilios, Bessie, Katrena, Link, Kathy, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Bill, Mitchell, Kathy, Rinne

Prayers for those recently repose:
John (+ November 22), Panagiotis/Pete (+ November 27), Marin (+ November 27), Samuel/Bob (+ December 7), Sophia (+ December 8), Effie (+ December 17)

Prayers for expecting mothers:
Hannah K., Julia L., Muriyah S.

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

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:
Bobbie, CJ, Ethan, Jace, James, Jessica, Nate and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:
St. John of Kronstadt on the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ: “And the Word became flesh... In order to make us earthly beings into heavenly ones, in order to make sinners into saints; in order to raise us up from corruption into incorruption, from earth to heaven... from endowment to sin and to the devil... into the glorious freedom of children of God; from death... into immortality, in order to make us sons of God and to seat us together with Him upon the Throne as His royal children. O, boundless compassion of God! O, inexpressible wisdom of God! O, great wonder, astounding not only the human mind, but the angelic [mind] as well!”

Upcoming Celebrations This Week
Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
December 22: John Cacavias, Demetry Jones
December 23: Christina Danforth, Violet Christa Danforth, Gloria Anastasia Dixon, Chrisy Holland, Christina Lekas, Christine Nicholas, Christian Morris, Chrisy Zdrakas
December 25: Birthdays—Happy Birthday!
December 26: John Cacavias, December 27: George Burton, Mary Jo Burton
December 28: Anniversaries—Congratulations!
December 29: Kostas & Katerina Iakovides
December 30: Demetry & Hannah Kostakis

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

Announcements:
There will not be Orthodoxy 101 class this Wednesday or next Wednesday. Classes will reconvene on Wednesday, January 10th after the New Year.

As a reminder, the Bookstore is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00. However, the bookstore will not be open this coming week, December 27.

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, January 3rd from 11am-7pm. See flyer in email to schedule your appointment today. Also, if you are able to open the house at 2pm for the American Red Cross and stay until 4:00pm, please contact Natalia for details.

The Spring Fling will be held on March 4th from 11am-7pm. We are asking all Young Adults and Not-So Young Adults to save this date on your calendar. More information to come.

If you have not had a chance to sign up for a Sunday to host Coffee Hour in 2024, there are still several Sundays available. Please see Maria Bronisovsky on how to sign up if you are unsure.

* Please keep an eye on your email this coming week for details on how to schedule a House Blessing after we celebrate the Feast of Theophany on January 6!

Kαλά Χριστούγεννα!  Merry Christmas!