Sunday, December 31, 2023

Leave-taking of Christmas
Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, James/Iakovos
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eighth (John 20:11-18)
Mode of the Week: Plagal of the First/Πλ. του Πρώτου

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!
Epistle Reading

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. 
Verse: To You, O Lord, I cry; O my God. (Psalm 27)

The reading is from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy. (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Mark (1:1-8)

Sunday before Theophany

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
Today our Holy Orthodox Church conmemorates:

+ Joseph the Betrothed of our Lady the Holy Theotokos, and the Brother of the Lord; David the Prophet and King

On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the twenty-sixth of this month, we make commemoration of Saints Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin, the Prophet and King; and James, the Brother of the Lord. When there is no Sunday within this period, we celebrate this commemoration on the 56th.

Saint Joseph (whose name means “one who increases”) was the son of Jacob, and the son-in-law — and hence, as it were, the son of Eli (who was also called Eleazar or E-liakim), who was the father of Mary the Virgin (Matt. 1:16; Luke 3:23). He was of the tribe of Judah, of the family of David, an inhabitant of Nazareth, a carpenter by trade, and advanced in years. By God’s good will, he was betrothed to the Virgin, that he might minister to the greatness of the dispensation in the flesh by protecting her, providing for her, and being known as her husband so that she, being a virgin, would not suffer reproach by protecting her, providing for her, and being known as her minister to the great mystery of God’s dispensation in the flesh.

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, * so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. * You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You Annunicate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph.

The Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 198)

• Hymn of the Ancestors (Epistrophi Isaou Agiow, Plagal of the First Mode):

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, * so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. * You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You Annunicate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph.

Prayers for those recently reposed:

John (+November 22), Panagiotis/Pete (+November 27), Marin (+November 27), Samuel/Bob (+December 7), Sophia (+December 7), Efthalia (+December 17)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Hanna, Myruffy S.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahiotes, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

John 20:11-18; John 15:1-5; Colossians 3:12-14; Matthew 3:18-20

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Basil the Great: defending the truth of the Holy Spirit: “Through the Holy Spirit our coming to restoration, our ascension into the kingdom of heaven, our return to the adoption of sons, our liberty to call God our Father, our being made partakers of the grace of Christ, our being called children of light, our sharing in eternal glory, as a result, our being brought into a state of all “fulness of blessing,” both in this world and in the world to come, of all the good gifts that are in store for us, by promise hereof, through faith, beholding the reflection of their grace as though they were already present, we await the full enjoyment.”

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days — Chronia Polia, Many Years!


Birthdays — Happy Birthday!

January 2: Demetri Kostakis January 3: Lukas Esquivel, Cristina Lekas January 4: Robert Ice, Alex Saratsiotis

Anniversaries — Congratulations!

January 3: Fr. Theodore & Presvytera Stacy Ehmer

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

Announcements:

* Next Sunday, January 7, Philoptochos will be sponsoring the Cutting of the Vasilopita. All donations will go to Saint Basil Academy, the home for children in need. Thank you in advance for your donation.

* Please see the associated email on how to schedule a House Blessing after we celebrate the Feast of Theophany this coming week on Saturday, January 6: Donation for the Catholic Church (please see the email to schedule your appointment today to give.

* There will not be Orthodoxy 101 this 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.

* Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, January 3rd at 7pm in the Parish House. We encourage you to give.

* 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 Bronisevsky on how to sign up if you are unsure.

Калд Prototroponi! Happy New Year!