HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Sunday, January 7, 2024
Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
Continuation of the Feast of Theophany
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Ninth (John 20:19-31)
Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Second/Πλ. του Δευτέρου

**Upcoming Schedule**

**Today, January 7**
9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Theophany and the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House with the Cutting of the Vasilopita sponsored by Philoptochos

12:45pm Greek School (Adult)

**Wednesday, January 10**
5:30pm Great Vespers
6:30pm Choir Practice in the Church
6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library

**Sunday, January 14**
9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Leave-taking of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Sunday-School for the Youth following Holy Communion
40-Day Memorial for Bob Dunbar at the end of the Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House

12:45pm Greek School (Youth)/Adult Bible Study

**Monday, January 15**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—OFFICE CLOSED

**Wednesday, January 17**
5:00pm 9th Hour and Divine Liturgy on the Feast of St. Anthony the Great
6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library

**Saturday, January 20**
4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
5:00pm Great Vespers

**Sunday, January 21**
9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 12th Sunday of Luke
Sunday-School for the Youth following Holy Communion
40-Day Memorial for Eve McElrath at the end of the Liturgy
Blessing of the New Parish Council
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House

12:45pm Greek School (Adult)

1:00pm Parish Council Meeting

**Wednesday, January 24**
5:30pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian
6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library

**Saturday, January 27**
4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
5:00pm Great Vespers

**Sunday, January 28**
9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 15th Sunday of Luke
Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
Fellowship, Youth Greek School, Adult Bible Study after Liturgy

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (1/14) George Saratsiotis, Richard Stewart; (1/21) Pete Tsamolias / Cheryl Schwartzkopf

**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (1/14) Maria McCluskey; (1/21) Assistant Treasurer; (1/28) Secretary

**Upcoming Video Operators:** (1/14) David Z; (1/21) Gray Y, David N; (1/28) Cristina L; (1/30) Cristina L

**Fellowship Hosts:** (1/14) Natalia Saratsiotis; (1/21) Cristina Lekas; (1/28) Danai Esquivel; (2/4) Parish Council

**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, γίνεται ὁ Ἱερόσαμα παράδειγμα καὶ ἡ ἱματία σου παραδίδεται τοῖς ἡγεμόνοις τοῦ σώματος, ἵνα ἔχουσιν νόημα καὶ εἰρήνην και σωτηρίαν.

**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. John (1:29-34)

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, βλέπει ὁ Ἰωάννης τὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐρχόμενον πρὸς αὐτόν καὶ λέγει: Ἰδε ὁ ἄμνος τοῦ Θεοῦ ὁ αἱρὼν τὴν ἁμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου. οὗτός ἐστι περί οὗ ἐγὼ ἐπίσω· ὁ πίστευσεν ἀνήρ δὲ ἐμπροσθέν ὑμῖν γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. κάγω οὐκ ἤδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῇ τῷ Ἰσραήλ, διά τοῦτο ἦλθον ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ Πνεῦμα καταβαίνειν ὡς περιστεράν εἰς οὐρανοῦ, καὶ ἐμπνευσάθην ἐπ' αὐτόν. κἀγὼ οὐκ ἤδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ὁ πέμψας με βαπτίζειν ἐν ὦδιτι, ἐκείνος ἦν ἐπεν· ἐφ' ὅν ἂν ἤδειν τὸ Πνεῦμα καταβαίνειν καὶ μένον ἐπ' αὐτόν, οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ βαπτίζων εἰς Πνεῦματι Ἁγίῳ, κάγω ἐωρακαί καὶ μεμαρτύρηκα ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ.

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. And 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."
Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

• Synaxis in honor of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John the Baptist, and Baptism

In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Saviour. From the Orthros service in honor of St. John the Baptist:

Theophany of the Second Mode:
(Paragraph 248)

• Hymn of St. John the Baptist (Ev Logðø̂n, First Mode):

As you were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the heavenly forerunner was excited, the joy of all creation was revealed, the Spirit of God was fulfilled, and the Church was united. For the heavenly forerunner was sanctified by baptism, and he was the forerunner of the salvation of the world. Let us all with one voice magnify the forerunner of the coming of the Lord and of the Faith. For he was a poor and simple man, but a convinced Christian.

Though the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (pg. 8 in the Small Book/pg. 37 in the Hymnal):

• Hymn of Theophany (Ev Logðø̂n, First Mode):

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the Virgin was Mary, who was seated. Your immaculate body, Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. In the Jordan, the Voice of the Father was heard: 

Prayers for those recently reposed:
Panagiotis/Pete (+November 27), Maran (+November 27), Samuel/Rob (+December 7), Sophia (+December 7), Ethelia (+December 17)

Prayers for expecting mothers:
(Sunday of the Second Mode and after the Resurrectional Hymn, Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 118)

• Hymn of St. John the Baptist (Mv{wn ðësΔων, Second Mode):

The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffer the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy.

• Hymn of the Holy Cross (Giaoâø Kipð, First Mode):

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who hate evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

• The Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ (Eιναγμός του νομονομον, Second Mode):

You appeared today to us * on earth, O Master, * and Your light was signed on us * who cry aloud to You and say * with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 28b)

This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (1/7—Synaxis of St. John the Baptist—No Fasting): Acts 9:1-18; John 1:29-34
Monday (1/8—No Fasting): Romans 6:3-11; John 2:2-23
Tuesday (1/9—No Fasting): II Timothy 2:1-10; Mark 9:30-40
Wednesday (1/10—Strict Fasting): Ephesians 4:17-33; Luke 1:29-32
Friday (1/12—Strict Fasting): Acts 18:22-28; John 1:19-15
Saturday (1/13—No Fasting): Ephesians 6:10-17; Matthew 4:11-15

Prayer Requests:
Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Pr. Xenia (C2), Michael, Diko, Georgia, Pavlos, Betty, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jeaninne, Dawn, Kenneth, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelanos, Brian, Vassilios, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Kathy, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Rhett, Connie, Mike, and Lynn.

Upcoming Celebrations This Week
Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years! January 7: John Apostolou, John Cacavias, Bryan John Gordy, Sean Morris, John Santis, John Stavroulakis

*Birthdays—Happy Birthday! January 8: Holly Economopoulos

*Anniversaries—Congratulations! None in the Records

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

Announcements:
*Please see the email that was sent on how to schedule a House Blessing. Dates/times are arranged by area (Macon, W, etc.)
*If you need help, please contact Fr. Theodore.
*Orthodoxy 101 will take place this Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in the Church Library after Vespers. The topic will be Euchologion. What has been revealed to us about life after death? If it is the rule of the dead, then Hades is an immeasurable. Is there a link to Hades? Is there hope? Is there a way to free our loved ones from Hades? How? Is there an afterlife? These are questions that many people ask for help with. If you need help, please contact Fr. Theodore.

*As a reminder, the Bookstore is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 6:00.

*The Spring Fling will be held on March 9th from 11am-7pm. We are asking all Young Adults and Not-So-Young Adults to save the date for this year’s event. More information, please contact Fr. Theodore.

*Also, the dates for the 17th Annual Central Georgia Greek Festival have been set: October 25-27, 2022. Please see this date on your calendar.

*If you have not had a chance to sign up for a Sunday to host a House Blessing, please see the email that was sent on how to schedule it.

*Choir Members: Choir Practice, this Wednesday, January 10 in the Church at 6:30pm!

*Not-So-Young-Adults: please see the dates for upcoming events on Sunday, Jan 14 (hike after Church) and Saturday, Feb 4 (Cantrell 5k).