



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020

Κυριακή 5η' Ιανουαρίου 2020

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ

Αποσ: Α' Κορ. 9:19-27

Ευαγγ: Λουκα 3:1-18

Sunday Before Theophany

Today's Readings

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Gospel: Luke 3:1-18



THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

In addition to her hymns, the Church possesses a traditional icon which reveals all the truths of the Epiphany to us – to draw us in, that we may experience the celebration. In the icon of the Epiphany, the Theophany of our Lord, we encounter the whole image of His baptism. In accordance with The Gospel, this is the first revelation of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

At the very top of the icon, a half circle sets forth the opening of heaven, manifesting the presence of God the Father. From the circle, rays of light shoot forth, encircling a dove, signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ. Our Lord stands in the streams of the Jordan, being baptized by John. And the Father and the Holy Spirit testify to the appearance of the Son of God in the flesh on earth in the midst of humanity for the salvation of all creation.

Central to the icon is Christ our Lord Himself, portrayed in the streams of the Jordan so we see that not just a part, but the whole of His body, is immersed in the Jordan. And we remember that baptism is burial, for as Saint Paul wrote, "we are Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

Christ, then, in the midst of the streams of Jordan, lifts His right hand to bless, purify, and sanctify the waters. Though the waters signify death and burial, they no longer signify that alone, but the image of birth to new life in Christ our Lord, who took upon Himself the sins of the world. The sting of death and the victory of the grave are gone and there need the no fear of going beneath the water, for those who are in Christ, having died with Him, shall also live with Him.

In Christ, we celebrate our renewal amidst the renewal of all creation. Our Lord is "clothed" with the nakedness of Adam, the father of all humanity. Through the sanctification of the water, we who are united with Christ in the likeness of His death are raised up clothed with the pure white robes of incorruptibility.

The icon holds yet more for us to see. John the Baptist has his right hand upon the head of Christ, a gesture which has always been part of the sacramental rite of Holy Baptism in the Church. And with his left hand, John makes a gesture of prayer – so that we may see the trembling awe which overwhelmed him at the sight of the whole divine Theophany.

And there are angels also present, awed witnesses, portrayed as usual in the presence of the Lord, their hands covered by their own robes to signify their reverence for the One whom they serve. Here they are silent, full of wonder, fear and joy.



Δευτέρα 6η Ιανουαρίου
ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ

Ώρα 8·00 π.μ.

Ώρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία καί ή
Ακολουθία του
ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΥ

τό έσπέρας Ώρα 7·00 μ.μ.

Μέγας Αρχιερατικός Έσπερινός
είς τόν

έορτάζοντα Ίερόν Ναόν του
Αγίου Ίωάννου στο Des Plaines, IL.

Τρίτη 7η Ιανουαρίου
ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ
ΤΟΥ ΒΑΠΤΙΣΤΟΥ

Ώρα 8·00 π.μ. Ώρθρος καί
Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακή 12η Ιανουαρίου
Κυριακή Μετά τών Φωτῶν

Ώρα 8·30 - 11·15 π.μ. Ώρθρος καί
Θεία Λειτουργία



Απολυτίκιον

ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ

Έν Ίορδάνη βαπτίζομένου σου Κύριε,
ή τής Τριάδος έφανέρωθη προσκύνησις,
του γάρ Γεννήτορος ή φωνή
προσεμαρτύρει σοί, άγαπητόν σε
Υιόν όνομάζουσα,
καί τό Πνεύμα έν είδει περιστεράς,
έβεβαίου του λόγου τό άσφαλές
Ό έπιφανείς Χριστέ ό Θεός, καί τόν
κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοί



ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ

Τα Αγία Θεοφάνεια είναι μία από τις αρχαιότερες εορτές της εκκλησίας μας η οποία θεσπίστηκε το 2ο αιώνα μ.Χ. και αναφέρεται στη φανέρωση της Αγίας Τριάδας κατά τη βάπτισή του Ιησού Χριστού. Η ιστορία της βάπτισής έχει ως εξής: Μετά από θεία εντολή ο Ιωάννης ο Πρόδρομος εγκατέλειψε την ερημική ζωή και ήλθε στον Ιορδάνη ποταμό όπου κήρυττε και βάπτιζε. Εκεί παρουσιάστηκε κάποια ημέρα ο Ιησούς και ζήτησε να βαπτισθεί. Ο Ιωάννης, αν και το Άγιο Πνεύμα τον είχε πληροφορήσει ποιος ήταν εκείνος που του ζητούσε να βαπτισθεί, στην αρχή αρνείται να τον βαπτίσει ισχυριζόμενος ότι ο ίδιος έχει ανάγκη να βαπτισθεί από Εκείνον. Ο Ιησούς όμως του εξήγησε ότι αυτό ήταν το θέλημα του Θεού και τον έπεισε να τον βαπτίσει. Και τότε μπροστά στα έκπληκτα μάτια των θεατών διαδραματίστηκε μία μοναδική και μεγαλειώδης σκηνή, όταν με την μορφή ενός περιστεριού κατήλθε το Άγιο Πνεύμα και κάθισε επάνω στο βαπτιζόμενο Ιησού, ενώ συγχρόνως ακούστηκε από τον ουρανό η φωνή του Θεού η οποία έλεγε: «Ούτος εστί ο Υιός μου ο αγαπητός, εν ω ευδόκησα»

Πηγη: www.saint.gr



ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ

Ο τελευταίος και μεγαλύτερος από τους προφήτες της Παλαιάς Διαθήκης. Ονομάζεται «Πρόδρομος», γιατί με το κήρυγμα και με το έργο του εσήμανε τον ερχομό του Ιησού Χριστού και «Βαπτιστής», διότι βάπτιζε τους ανθρώπους στον Ιορδάνη ποταμό και εβάπτισε και τον Ιησού Χριστό. Το βάπτισμα του Προδρόμου ήταν μία συμβολική πράξη καθαρμού εκείνων, που πήγαιναν σ' αυτόν να εξομολογηθούν, ήταν όμως και ο τύπος του βαπτίσματος του Ιησού Χριστού, γι' αυτό και ο Ιωάννης έλεγε: «Εγώ μεν εβάπτισα υμάς εν ύδατι, αυτός βαπτίσει υμάς εν Πνεύματι Αγίω» (Μάρκου α 8).

Ο Ιωάννης (εξελληνισμένος τύπος του εβραϊκού ονόματος Γιοχανάν, που σημαίνει «παρά Θεώ εύρον χάριν») γεννήθηκε με θαυμαστό τρόπο από τον ιερέα Ζαχαρία και τη γηραιά Ελισάβετ. Ήταν συγγενής του Ιησού Χριστού από την πλευρά της μητέρας του και έξι μόλις μήνες μεγαλύτερός του. Έζησε ασκητικό βίο στην έρημο και δεν δίστασε να ελέγξει απερίφραστα και κατά πρόσωπο την αδικία και την ηθική υπόσταση των ανθρώπων της εποχής του. Αυτό έγινε αιτία να συλληφθεί και να φυλακισθεί από τον τοπάρχη της Ιουδαίας Ηρώδη Αντύπα, που συζούσε παράνομα με την Ηρωδιάδα, σύζυγο του αδελφού του Ηρώδη Φιλίππου. Η Ηρωδιάδα έπεισε την κόρη της Σαλώμη να ζητήσει την «κεφαλήν του Ιωάννου επί πίνακι» (Μάρκου στ25) ως δώρο γενεθλίων και ο Ηρώδης Αντύπας για να την ευχαριστήσει διέταξε τον αποκεφαλισμό του Ιωάννη.

Πηγη: www.sansimera.gr

Stewardship Campaign 2020 – COME AND SEE!

Joyously we begin a New Year! What do we see in front of us? Is it with "20 20" vision? As we enter the year 2020, let's take this great opportunity for all of us to see things fresh and seek those dreams that we have always wished and hoped for!

The parish of Saints Constantine and Helen and our beloved Korraes School, is the place to "Come and See" as there are many new things happening every day, in addition to, the events that we know and love in the lives of its faithful who are always the center attraction and focus, under the Divine Care and protection of our Lord and the Patron Saints who have been entrusted by Him to guide our steps.

2020 is here! Do you have 20 20 vision to Come and See? Together, our family will see a beautiful year, and we pray and ask that we find a way to do our best to make a commitment to our Parish through the Stewardship 2020 campaign.

To make a One-Time Gift:

Online Giving: Via PayPal or Easy Tithe; go to www.stconstantinehelen.org

In Person: Stop into the Church Office and you may pay by Cash, Check or Credit Card;

Use the Kiosk located in the Lobby of the Church complex and pay by Credit Card

By mail: Mail your check or credit information to the Church office (do not mail cash!)

By phone: Call (708) 974-3400 and provide the necessary information

To set up Recurring Giving:

Online Giving: Set up recurring contributions via Paypal or Easy Tithe; go to www.ssch.us; (Options include monthly intervals and selection of days of giving)



“For it is giving that we receive.”

-St. Francis of Assisi



At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17)



Apolytikion of Theophany

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.



Apolytikion of Synaxis of John the Forerunner

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner; for you have proved to be even more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Having contested for the truth, you did rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Today, January 5:

G.O.A.L. Basketball

Home vs St. John the Baptist (Glenview)

1:45 p.m. 3rd/4th Grade Division

2:30 p.m. 5th/6th Grade Division

3:30 p.m. 7th/8th Grade Division

4:30 p.m. Girls Division

5:30 p.m. High School Boys Division

Monday, January 6:

Koraes Classes Resume

FEASTDAY OF THEOPHANY

8:00 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy followed by
Great Blessing of the Waters

7:00 p.m. Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church
Des Plaines, IL

7:00 p.m. GOYA

Tuesday, January 7:

**SYNAXIS (OR GATHERING) IN HONOR OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

8:00 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy

Friday, January 10:

JOY B-Ball (Week 5)

5:30 p.m. Rookies Camp

6:45 p.m. Mighty Rights

7:45 p.m. Minors

8:45 p.m. Majors

Sunday, January 12:

Sunday after Theophany

8:30 – 11:15 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy

The 59th Anniversary Celebration of the

“Cutting of the Vasilopita”

Will be held Sunday, January 12, 2020

At 6:00 p.m.

With the blessings of

His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael

The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Board

Invites you to join them for a most

Memorable evening at the parish of

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

2701 N. Sheffield – Chicago, IL

MEMORIALS

6 month Athanasios Makris

† May their memory be eternal †

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Today's Coffee Hour is hosted by the
St Helen's Philoptochos
Please Join Them

FUNERAL

The following funeral was held
Anastasios Hristakos – Friday, January 3rd
† May his memory be eternal †

SACRAMENTS

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following who have
joined their lives together and we pray that
God grant them many years of Christian
happiness and love!

Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Nina Demogerontas and Edmund Cupi

Sponsor: Stavros Demogerontas

Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Stephanie Girton and Eric Meyer

Sponsor: Connie Georgiou

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2020 Offering Envelopes are available in the
church office for those who are interested.

See you...



...Next Sunday