



## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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Rev. Protopresbyter Angelo C. Pappas, Interim Parish Priest

**Sunday, January 6th, 2019**

**Holy Theophany**

**Commemorating: The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**

**Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7**

TITUS, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

**Gospel Reading: The Gospel According to Matthew 3:13-17**

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan 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."

### **The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (January 6)**

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

**Thank You to the Following Stewards of St. John's Parish:**

Parish Council Member on Duty: Ted Kesoglou/ Mike Gavrillis

Prosforon brought by: Sandy Sarandos

Coffee Hour by: Ladies of Philoptochos

Today's Second Tray will benefit the Building Fund

**Tone: Festal**

**Gospel: Festal**

## Schedule of Services and Community Events

**Sunday, January 6th**

- Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am – Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
- Sunday School and Greek School are cancelled. Students are urged to attend the Blessing of the Waters Service at the Beach
- Blessing of the Water at the Beach: 12:30
- Vesper Service: 5:00 pm
- Feast Day of St. John the Baptist Name Day Dinner and Vasilopita Auction following Vesper Service

**Monday, January 7th:** Feast Day of St. John the Baptist

- Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am Coffee Hour to follow –Please bring something to share.
- Parish Council Meeting: 6:00 pm

**Tuesday, January 8th:**

- 2019 Festival Meeting 6:00 pm: Come help plan for success!

**Wednesday, January 9th:**

- AHEPA Meeting: 5:30 pm

**Thursday, January 10th:**

- Philoptochos Board Meeting 10:00 am: In Community Hall

**Saturday, January 12th:**

- JOY/HOPE party at Rockin' Jump 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

## Community News and Events

**TODAY AT 12:30 PM: Blessing of the Waters:** This is a combined service with the St. Nicholas parish. We will gather on the beach at or around 45th Avenue North. There is public parking available from 44<sup>th</sup> thru 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Please try to attend.

**Special Parish General Assembly Meeting - Sunday, January 13th 5:00 pm:** Important topics to be discussed concerning our parish. Please plan to attend.

**St. John Choir Practice: Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm.** Contact the office if interested.

**Holy Unction Service – Sunday, January 20th following Divine Liturgy**

**Icons:** Icons are available for sale in the Narthex cabinet. Contact a Philoptochos member if interested.

**HOPE & JOY:** An e-tool Remind has been set up for the HOPE/JOY ministry. Remind is a communication tool that helps advisors reach parents regarding upcoming events and important reminders. To join, parents need to text @joyandh to 81010. A trip to Rockin' Jump has been planned for our HOPE/JOY children on January 12th from 12pm to 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 per jumper and Rockin' Jump socks would need to be purchased unless the child already owns a pair. HOPE & JOY Contacts are: Elena Castanes [elenacastanes@gmail.com](mailto:elenacastanes@gmail.com) (843) 995-0373 and Dr. Vasilios Pournaras [drvasilios@aol.com](mailto:drvasilios@aol.com), Cell (843) 283-3012.

**MORE than MEALS:** If you know of someone in our parish who has had surgery, is alone or could just use a hot meal please contact Virginia Theodore at 843-390-4004 or the church office. Next Cooking Day is January 15th at 10:00 am in the church kitchen.

**Stewardship:** Please ensure your 2018 stewardship commitment has been met. Stewardship forms for 2019 were mailed to all parish members. Please return as soon as possible. Additional forms are available at the pangari.

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** January 27, 2019.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** will be available in the church office after 1/21/19.

**BOWLING:** Anyone interested in bowling, give Steve Parachis a call at (443)616-130.

**HOUSE AND OR BUSINESS BLESSING:** Please contact the church office to arrange your day. 843-448-3773.

If you would like to follow along with the liturgy service,  
you may do so on your tablet or smart phone at the following link:  
<http://www.agesinitiatives.com/dcs/public/dcs/dcs.html>

#### A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

Please understand that Holy Communion is a sign of unity of our faith.  
Only Orthodox Christians that have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting,  
and periodic confession are permitted to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.  
We are glad to have you worshipping with us today. Please join us for fellowship  
immediately following the Liturgy in the Fellowship Hall coffee room.