

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPANY JANUARY 4TH, 2015



STS. RAPHAEL, NICHOLAS AND IRENE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Barnabas Powell, Proistamenos
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We are an intentional Orthodox Christian Community for North Georgia!

WORSHIP

Eighth Eothinon/Tone Plagal First

We are so very glad you have joined us today, and we pray you will be inspired and encouraged by your time with us.

The Orthodox worship service is an ancient and timeless expression of how people have loved, served and worshipped God for many centuries, but it may be a bit of a different experience for you. Please feel free to use a service book or not and simply allow the words of the service to wash over you.

The central act of our worship culminates in people receiving communion. This is a very special time for us all and we have some specific beliefs about our communion together. This is why we never impose this service on those who are not prepared or are not baptized Orthodox. This service may raise questions in your mind.

Please feel free to ask Fr. Barnabas or Fr. Paul anything you wish after the service.

At the end of the service EVERYONE is invited to come forward and receive a portion of the "blessed bread" from Fr. Barnabas. No one should leave church "hungry!"

Know you are welcome and we are glad you are here.

May God bless you and your family.

Apolytikion for St. Raphael in the First Tone

*To the offspring of Ithaca, the pride and joy of Lesvos, * monastic martyrs' glory, let us offer to Raphael our songs of praise; * for lately he appeared, and pours out cures and healings to us all. * Inexplicably he appears to elievers, both in dreams and awake, who cry: * Glory to Christ who gave you His might. * Glory to Him who gave you miracles. * Glory to Him who through you fulfills our prayerful requests.*

Apolytikion for St. Raphael in the Fourth Tone

*Because of the finding of your holy relics, wise one, * the Island of Lesvos has been filled fully with the grace, * which God richly gave to you. * You, O devout martyr Raphael, paradoxically * appeared to many people, and you grant cures and healings. * And therefore we the faithful rejoice in all your miracles.*

Apolytikion in honor of Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene

Having contended on Lesvos for the sake of Christ God, you have sanctified the island since the discovery of your sacred relics, O blessed ones; wherefore we honor you, O Godbearing Raphael, together with Nicholas and virgin Irene, as our divine protectors and intercessors with the Lord.

Service Schedule for the Week

Today, January 4th

8:45 a.m. Orthros/10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Cutting of the Vasilopita

Tuesday, January 6th

8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy for
Holy Theophany

Wednesday, January 7th

6:30 p.m. Vespers

Saturday, January 10th

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Parish Council On Duty Today -
Ushering Ministry - PC/Parishioners
Welcoming Ministry - Harriet Howell
Fellowship Ministry - Diane Walters

TODAY WE REMEMBER

Sunday Before Theophany

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal of the First Tone - Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate * with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born * for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. * For in His goodness he was pleased * to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, * and to raise up those who had died, * by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion of the Forefeast in the Fourth Tone - O Zabublon, prepare, and be ready, Nephthalim. * Jordan River, hold your course, and exultantly receive * the Master who is coming to be baptized. * Adam leap for joy with Eve the Foremother. * No longer hide yourselves, as once in Paradise; * for having seen you naked He has appeared * to clothe you in your former vesture. * The Christ has appeared, wishing to renew * the entire creation.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Tone - To the flowing streams today * of River Jordan * comes the Lord and cries aloud * to John the Baptist, and He says, * “Be not afraid to baptize me now; * for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

We Also Remember

*Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas
Righteous Syncletike of Alexandra
Apollinaria of Egypt*

Please pray for those faithful who are currently in need of our most fervent intercessions: **Andrew, Angie, Bill, Bill, Brent, Carrie, Demetra, Diane, Dina, Donna, Ela, Elaine, Elizabeth, Christina, George, Gus, Harriet, Heidi, Igli, James, Jamie, Jerry, Joe, Maria, Mary Ann, Michael, Nicky, Oni, Patsy, Paul, Peter, Presvytera Connie, Taki, Tara, Violeta, John & Sheila Consos, Katherine & Sam Yalanzon**



ATTENTION PARENTS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

**There will be no Sunday School today.
Sunday School Classes will resume on Sunday, January 11th.**

2014 Parish Council

**John Patrick, President; Harald Hagen, Vice President; Kosta Bozzuto, Secretary;
Chris Foxhall, Treasurer; David Chapman, Marie Chapman, Bill Manos,
Johnny Melts, Greg Pappas, Plutarch Vamvakias**

EPISTLE READING

The Reading is St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8



Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2.

Psalm 27.9,1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

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.

ΑΩ

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφορήσον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγωνίσμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτῆς· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

GOSPEL READING

The Reading is from The Gospel of Mark 1:1-8



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."

ΑΩ

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπ' αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἰκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE & UPCOMING EVENTS

Father Barnabas is available to hear confession every Wednesday either before or after Vespers and by appointment. Please call or email the church office to request a time to meet with Father and avail yourself to this healing divine mystery of the Church.

Father Paul is available on Sunday during Orthros to hear confession, but no later than 9:20 a.m. Please phone the church office to make an appointment.

Please call the Church office for more information (770) 781-5250.

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TODAY, January 4th

**8:45 a.m. Orthros/10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Cutting of the Vasilopita**

Monday, January 5th

**9 a.m. Project Comfort at the Blue House
7 p.m. Parish Council Meeting**

Tuesday, January 6th

**8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy for
Holy Theophany**

Wednesday, January 7th

**10 a.m. Adult Scripture Study
Take down & store Christmas Decorations
6:30 p.m. Vespers followed by Adult Education**

Saturday, January 10th

5 p.m. Great Vespers

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**Sunday, January 11th - Vasilopita Auction sponsored by Philoptochos
to benefit St. Basil's Academy**

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Saturday, January 17th, 2015 - 9 a.m. - Church Work Day

**Cleaning inside & out of buildings & grounds.
Organizing shed and storing of festival supplies, etc.
Please plan to come and help.**

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On Sunday, December 28th, a 10 year memorial was lovingly offered for George Sarandis by his wife, Dina, and his daughter, Marie Chapman, son-in-law, David Chapman, and grandchildren, Catherine & Chris Chapman.

May His Memory Be Eternal!

My apologies for the omission — vk.

THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATER: MEGAS AGIASMOS

Epiphany, one of the oldest and most important Feast days of the Orthodox Church, commemorates the manifestation of the Holy Trinity which took place at the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River. Recognizing rich meaning in this event, Orthodoxy believes that when Christ was baptized, it not only marked the beginning of its public ministry and revealed the Trinity, but also signified that the entire creation is destined to share in the glory of redemption in Christ. While Christ entered into the Jordan to be baptized, two things were happening: He was identifying Himself with the people He had come to save; and, He was identifying Himself with the whole of Creation which was represented by water. Through His baptism, the Lord revealed the value of the created world and He redirected it toward its Creator. Creation is good and it belongs to God.

The Great Blessing of Water is held on the eve of the Feast of the Epiphany and on the day itself, following the Divine Liturgy. The Blessing not only remembers the event of Our Lord's baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity but also expresses Orthodoxy's belief that creation is sanctified through Christ. The Blessing affirms that humanity and the created world, of which we are a part, were created to be filled with the sanctifying presence of God. After the solemn blessing, the Holy Water is distributed to the faithful and is used to bless homes during the Epiphany season. When the faithful drink the "Epiphany Water," we are reminded of our own baptism. When the Church blesses an individual, or object, or event with the water, we are affirming that those baptized, their surroundings, and their responsibilities are sanctified through Christ and brought into the Kingdom of the Father through the Spirit.

In addition to the Great Blessing of Water, there is a Lesser Blessing of Water service which can take place at anytime. Usually, it is celebrated when a home is blessed, on the first day of the month, the beginning of the school year, and beginning of new responsibilities

Jim & Angie Andropoulos

Sarante & Julie Athenson

Anthony & Mary Birozes

Renee Birozes

Deborah Bowen

David & Michelle Boyd

Kosta & Carolyn Bozzuto

Athena Catapano

David & Marie Chapman

Giles & Emily Christie

Rick & Jan Christy

Keith & Mary Druffner

Quay & Trissie Farr

Chris & Liz Foxhall

William & Hayley Fulbright

Bill & Margaret Gasper

Rob & Carey Gilbert

Robert & Jennifer Guano

Harald & Stamatia Hagen

Jennie Johnson

Vasilios & Mary Kaloudis

Jim Kanellos

Tasso & Laura Kefalas

David & Lynne Lucher

Archie & Florence Lytle

Harry & Tina Maheras

Bill & Margaret Manos

Bill & Audrey Marianes

Al & Helen McCart

Johnny & Becky Melts

Bill & Mary Milam

Matt & Athena Miller

Nikolaos Moissiadis

Nick & Teddie Panos

Constantinos & Evelyn Pantazopoulos

Gregory Pappas

Gus Pappas

John & Evon Patrick

Michele Perry

Mihai & Heidi Popa

Fr. Barnabas & Pres. Connie Powell

Pam Powers

Marina Raymond

James Smith

Estelle Sofikitis

Dennis & Laura Sparks

James Stockdill

Steven & Thalia Thompson

Plutarch & Tina Vamvakias

Len Vanerstrom

Rusty & Christine Waldron